

What are metapackages

Metapackages are used to install many packages at one time, created as a list of dependencies on other packages. Kali Linux uses these in a few ways. One way is allowing users to decide how many packages out of the total Kali list they would like to install. Need just enough to use Linux? Want enough to conduct Pentests? Perhaps nearly every package available in Kali?

To install a metapackage, we are going to first update the system. While not mandatory, this step is highly recommended to make sure the metapackages can be installed without any unexpected side-effects. The procedure to update Kali is documented in details on the page [Updating Kali](#), but in short, it boils down to two commands:

```
kali@kali:~$ sudo apt update
kali@kali:~$
kali@kali:~$ sudo apt full-upgrade -y
kali@kali:~$
```

The step above might take a while, depending on how many packages need to be updated. After it's complete, installing a metapackage (`kali-linux-default` in this example) is simply a matter of running one command:

```
kali@kali:~$ sudo apt install -y kali-linux-default
kali@kali:~$
```

Alternatively we can use `kali-tweaks` to install metapackage groups for us. We first run the following command:

```
kali@kali:~$ kali-tweaks
```

From here we will navigate into the "Metapackages" tab. Now we just select which metapackages we want and then we can't hit "Apply" then "OK" and finally supply our password.

System

- `kali-linux-core`: Base Kali Linux System – core items that are always included
- `kali-linux-headless`: Default install that doesn't require GUI
- `kali-linux-default`: "Default" desktop (amd64/i386) images include these tools
- `kali-linux-arm`: All tools suitable for ARM devices
- `kali-linux-nethunter`: Tools used as part of Kali NetHunter