



10 Best Linux Command-Line Tools

Aaron Kili | Last Updated: November 9, 2023 | Read Time: 4 mins | [Linux Commands](#) | [5 Comments](#)

In this article, we will share a few command-line programs that you can use in a Linux terminal. By the end of this article, you will learn about some free, open-source, and exciting, text-based tools to help you do more with boredom on the command line.

Table of Contents



1. Wikit – Show Wikipedia Summaries
2. Googler – Google from the Linux Terminal
3. Browsh – Text-based Linux Browser
4. Lolcat – Show Rainbow of Colors
5. Boxes – Draw ASCII Art Boxes
6. Figlet and Toilet – Create ASCII Text Banners
7. Trash-cli – Trashcan for Terminal
8. No More Secrets – Show Data Decryption Screen
9. Chafa – Terminal Graphics
10. CMatrix – “The Matrix” Screensaver

You can use your default package manager to install these command-line programs in your Linux system.

```
$ sudo apt install program-name      [On Debian, Ubuntu and Mint]
$ sudo yum install program-name      [On RHEL/CentOS/Fedora and Rocky/AlmaLinux]
$ sudo emerge -a program-name        [On Gentoo Linux]
$ sudo apk add program-name          [On Alpine Linux]
$ sudo pacman -S program-name        [On Arch Linux]
$ sudo zypper install program-name    [On OpenSUSE]
```

1. Wikit – Show Wikipedia Summaries

[Wikit](#) is a command line utility to search Wikipedia in Linux. It basically displays Wikipedia summaries from the command line.

Once you have it installed, simply provide the search term as an argument (for example `wikit linux`).

```
$ wikit linux
```

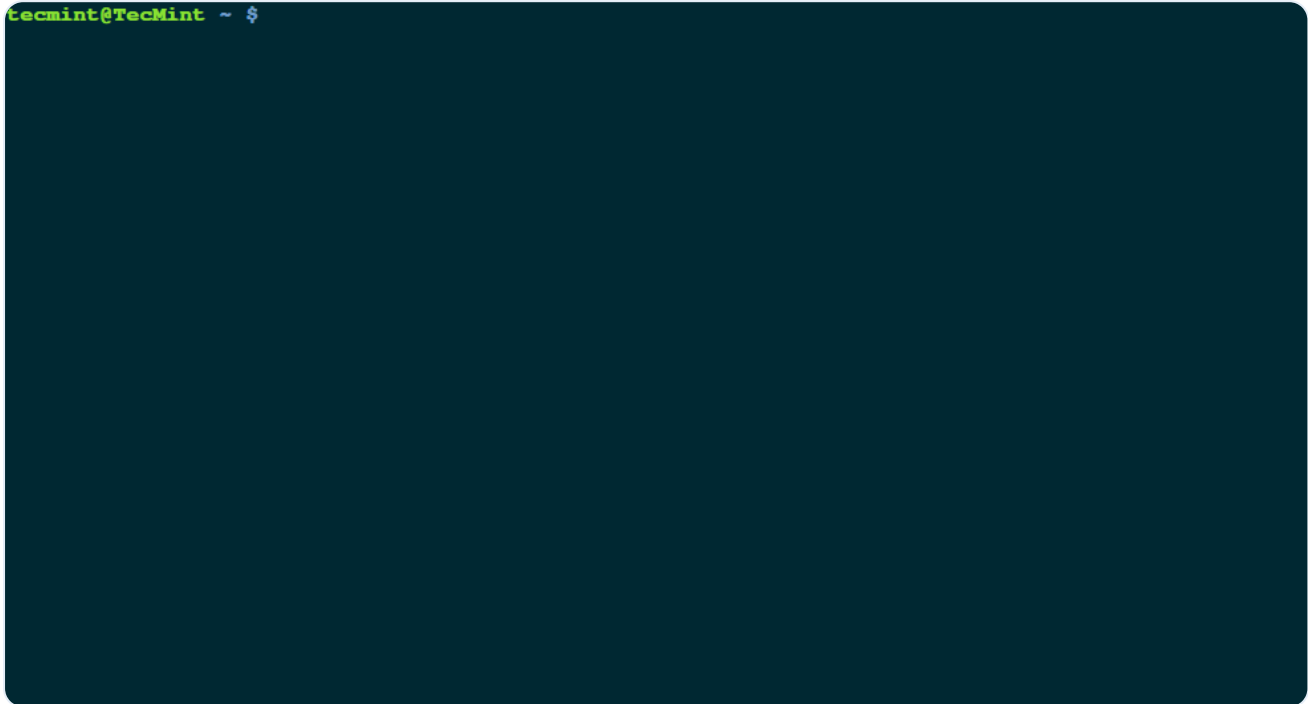
```
aaronkilik@tecmint ~ $ wikit Linux
Linux (pronounced /'lɪnəks/ LIN-əks or, less frequently, /'laɪnəks/ LYN-əks) is a
Unix-like computer operating system assembled under the model of free and open-source
software development and distribution. The defining component of Linux is the Linux
kernel, an operating system kernel first released on September 17, 1991 by Linus
Torvalds. The Free Software Foundation uses the name GNU/Linux to describe the operating
system, which has led to some controversy. Linux was originally developed for personal
computers based on the Intel x86 architecture, but has since been ported to more
platforms than any other operating system. Because of the dominance of the Linux
kernel-based Android OS on smartphones, Linux has the largest installed base of all
general-purpose operating systems. Linux is also the leading operating system on
servers and other big iron systems such as mainframe computers, and is used on 99.6%
of the TOP500 supercomputers. It is used by around 2.3% of desktop computers. The
Chromebook, which runs the Linux kernel-based ChromeOS, dominates the US K-12 education
market and represents nearly 20% of the sub-$300 notebook sales in the US. Linux
also runs on embedded systems - devices whose operating system is typically built
into the firmware and is highly tailored to the system. This includes TiVo and similar
DVR devices, network routers, facility automation controls, televisions, video game
consoles and smartwatches. Many smartphones and tablet computers run Android and
other Linux derivatives. The development of Linux is one of the most prominent examples
of free and open-source software collaboration. The underlying source code may be
used, modified and distributed—commercially or non-commercially—by anyone under
the terms of its respective licenses, such as the GNU General Public License. Typically,
Linux is packaged in a form known as a Linux distribution (or distro for short) for
both desktop and server use. Some of the most popular and mainstream Linux distributions
are Arch Linux, CentOS, Debian, Fedora, Gentoo Linux, Linux Mint, Mageia, openSUSE
and Ubuntu, together with commercial distributions such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux
and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. Distributions include the Linux kernel, supporting
utilities and libraries, many of which are provided by the GNU Project, and usually
a large amount of application software to fulfil the distribution's intended use.
Desktop Linux distributions include a windowing system, such as X11, Mir or a Wayland
implementation, and an accompanying desktop environment such as GNOME or the KDE
Software Compilation; some distributions may also include a less resource-intensive
desktop, such as LXDE or Xfce. Distributions intended to run on servers may omit
all graphical environments from the standard install, and instead include other software
to set up and operate a solution stack such as LAMP. Because Linux is freely redistributable,
anyone may create a distribution for any intended use.
aaronkilik@tecmint ~ $
```

Wikipedia Command Line View

2. Googler – Google from the Linux Terminal

[Googler](#) is a full-featured Python-based command line tool for accessing Google (Web & News) and Google Site Search within the Linux terminal. It is fast and clean with custom colors and no ads, stray URLs, or clutter included. It supports navigation of search result pages from omniprompt.

In addition, it supports fetching the number of results in a go, users can start at the nth result, and support the limiting of search by attributes such as duration, country/domain specific search (default: .com), and language preference.



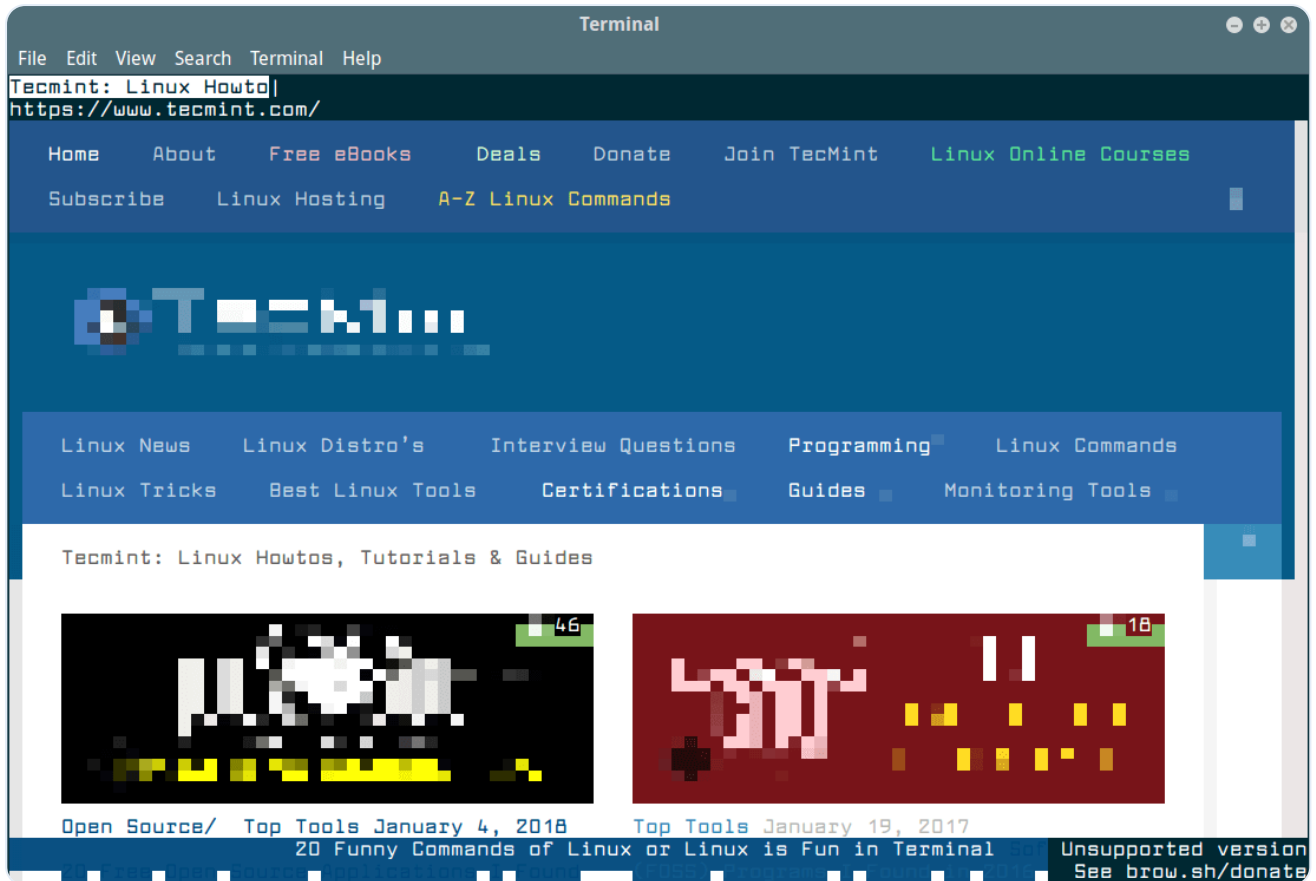
Google Search from Linux Terminal

3. Browsh – Text-based Linux Browser

[Browsh](#) is a small, modern text-based browser that plays videos and renders anything that a modern browser can, in TTY terminal environments.

It supports HTML5, CSS3, JS, video as well as WebGL. It is a bandwidth-saver, designed to run on a remote server and accessed via [SSH/Mosh](#) or the in-browser HTML service so as to notably reduce bandwidth.

It is practically useful when you don't have a good Internet connection.



Browsh Web Browsing

4. Lolcat – Show Rainbow of Colors

[Lolcat](#) is a command-line program to output a rainbow of colors in the Linux terminal. It concatenates the output of a command in a similar way as the [cat command](#) and adds rainbow coloring to the final output.

To use lolcat, simply pipe the output of any command to lolcat.


```
$ trash-list
```

```
2017-05-05 10:30:48 /home/tecmint/file1
2017-05-10 13:40:41 /home/tecmint/file2
2017-05-12 22:30:49 /home/tecmint/file3
2017-05-12 22:50:48 /home/tecmint/test
```



```
$ trash-list | grep file
```

```
2017-05-05 10:30:48 /home/tecmint/file1
2017-05-10 13:40:41 /home/tecmint/file2
2017-05-12 22:30:49 /home/tecmint/file3
```

Trash-cli: Manage 'Trash' from Linux Commandline

Manage 'Trash' from Linux Command Line

```
$ date
```

```
Mon May 15 20:26:52 EAT 2017
```

```
$ trash-list
```

```
2017-05-12 13:51:12 /home/tecmint/new.txt
2017-05-11 10:41:30 /home/tecmint/old.txt
2017-04-05 20:43:54 /home/tecmint/oldest.txt
```

```
$ trash-empty 7
```

```
$ trash-list
```

```
2017-05-12 13:51:12 /home/tecmint/new.txt
2017-05-11 10:41:30 /home/tecmint/old.txt
```

```
$ trash-empty 1
```

```
$ trash-list
```

```
2017-05-12 13:51:12 /home/tecmint/new.txt
```

Trash-cli – A Trashcan Tool

8. No More Secrets – Show Data Decryption Screen

[No More Secrets](#) is a text-based program that recreates the famous data decryption effect seen in the 1992 movie Sneakers. It provides a command-line utility called nms, that you can use in a similar way as lolcat – simply pipe the out of another command to nms, and see the magic.



[Chafa](#) is another cool, fast, and highly configurable terminal program that provides terminal graphics for the 21st century.

Chafa supports alpha transparency and multiple color modes (including Truecolor, 256-color, 16-color, and simple FG/BG.) and color spaces, combining selectable ranges of Unicode characters to produce the desired output.

It is suitable for terminal graphics, ANSI art composition as well as even black and white print.

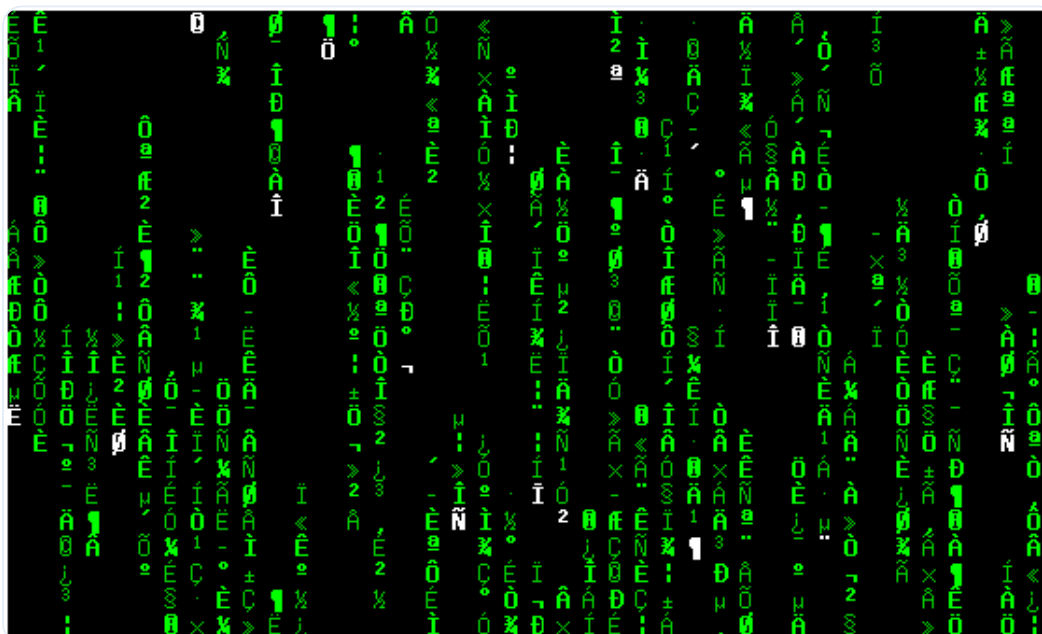


Chafa – Converts to ANSI Unicode Character

10. CMatrix – “The Matrix” Screensaver

[CMatrix](#) is a simple command-line utility that shows a scrolling ‘Matrix-like screen in a Linux terminal.

It displays random text flying in and out in a terminal, in a similar way as seen in the popular Sci-fi movie “The Matrix”. It can scroll lines all at the same rate or asynchronously and at a user-defined speed. One downside of Cmatrix is that it is very CPU intensive.



The Matrix in Linux Terminal

Here you have seen a few cool command-line tools, but there is plenty more to explore. If you want to know more about such cool or funny Linux command-line tools, you can check out our guides here:

You might also like:

- [20 Funny Commands for Your Linux Terminal](#)
- [6 Interesting Funny Commands for Your Linux Terminal](#)
- [10 Mysterious Commands for Your Linux Terminal](#)
- [51 Useful Lesser Known Linux Commands](#)

That's all! Do you spend a lot of time on the command line? What are some of the cool command-line tools or utilities you use on the terminal? Let us know via the feedback form below.

Hey TecMint readers,

Exciting news! Every month, our top blog commenters will have the chance to win fantastic rewards, like free Linux eBooks such as RHCE, RHCSA, LFCS, Learn Linux, and Awk, each worth \$20!

Learn [more about the contest](#) and stand a chance to win by [sharing your thoughts below!](#)

GIVEAWAY!

Win eBooks



www.tecmint.com

PREVIOUS ARTICLE:

[10 Best Ubuntu-Based Linux Distributions](#)

NEXT ARTICLE:

[Conky – A System Monitor Tool for Linux Desktop](#)



Aaron Kili

Aaron Kili is a Linux and F.O.S.S enthusiast, an upcoming Linux SysAdmin, web developer, and currently a content creator for TecMint who loves working with computers and strongly believes in sharing knowledge.

Each tutorial at TecMint is created by a team of experienced Linux system administrators so that it meets our high-quality standards.

Join the [TecMint Weekly Newsletter](#) (More Than 156,129 Linux Enthusiasts Have Subscribed)

Was this article helpful? Please [add a comment](#) or [buy me a coffee](#) to show your appreciation.

Related Posts

perform a trial run with no changes made

```
tecmint@TecMint ~ $ rsync -av --dry-run --update testing/* tecmint@192.168.102:/home/tecmint/
tecmint@192.168.102's password:
sending incremental file list
do.awk
script.awk
second.awk

sent 126 bytes  received 25 bytes  43.14 bytes/sec
total size is 479  speedup is 3.17 (DRY RUN)
tecmint@TecMint ~ $
```

skip newer files on the

Remote Server

Rsync – Sync New or Changed Files in Linux

How to Sync New and Changed Files Using 'rsync' Command

```
tecmint@tecmint ~/testing $ find . -type f \( -name "*.txt" -o -
name "*.sh" -o -name "*.c" \)
./emails.txt
./script-1.sh
./header.c
./examples.txt
./script.sh
./expenses.txt
```

Find Multiple Filenames (File Extensions) Using 'find' Command in Linux

How to Search Files by Name or Extension Using find Command



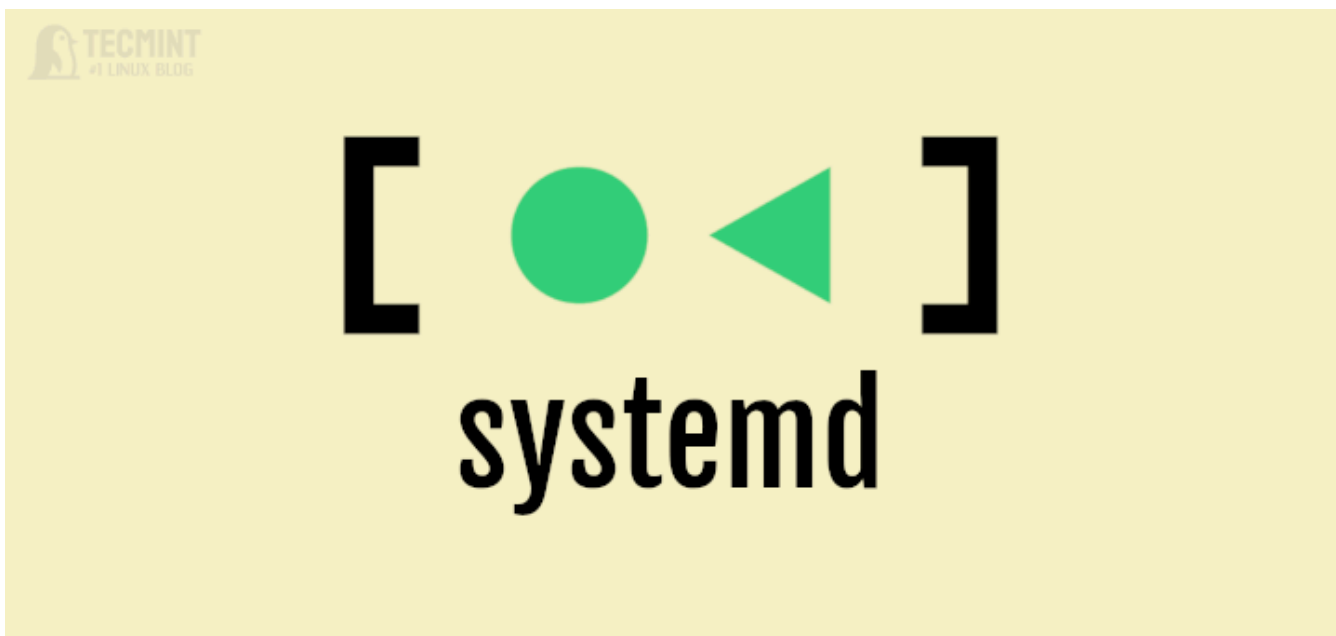
10 Lesser Known Linux Commands – Part 2



11 Lesser Known Useful Linux Commands



26 Security Hardening Tips for Modern Linux Servers



How to Remove Systemd Services on Linux

 **5 Comments**

[Leave a Reply](#)

dragonmouth

June 14, 2023 at 12:14 am

Really?!

We are well into the 21st century, why use silly 19th century programs?

[Reply](#)

Roy

October 9, 2021 at 1:35 pm

I think that "ponysay" fits with this collection (available on Ubuntu but not on CentOS).

[Reply](#)

Marty

February 2, 2019 at 8:59 pm

Great stuff here keep it going.

[Reply](#)



Aaron Kili

February 4, 2019 at 9:07 pm

@Marty

Thanks for the useful feedback.

[Reply](#)**Daniel Tripp**

February 2, 2019 at 12:09 pm

Given up trying to install on Bionic, not in repos and the deb files are for Debian or Cosmic – nothing for bionic, not desperate enough to compile from source.

[Reply](#)

Got Something to Say? Join the Discussion...

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. We appreciate your decision to leave a comment and value your contribution to the discussion. It's important to note that we moderate all comments in accordance with our [comment policy](#) to ensure a respectful and constructive conversation.

Rest assured that your email address will remain private and will not be published or shared with anyone. We prioritize the privacy and security of our users.

☐ Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

Post Comment

Do You Enjoy My Blog?

Support from readers like YOU keeps this blog running. Buying me a cup of coffee is a simple and affordable way to show your appreciation and help keep the posts coming!

Buy Me a Coffee

Linux Commands and Tools

[How to Search Files by Name or Extension Using find Command](#)

[How to Get Hardware Information with Dmidecode Command on Linux](#)

[Trash-cli – A Trashcan Tool to Manage ‘Trash’ from Linux Command Line](#)

[How to Create Hard and Symbolic Links in Linux](#)

[How to Count Word Occurrences in a Text File](#)

[Exodus – Safely Copy Linux Binaries From One Linux System to Another](#)

Linux Server Monitoring Tools

6 Key Performance Metrics to Monitor in Linux Servers – Part 1

[How to Monitor Website and Application with Uptime Kuma](#)

[Amplify – NGINX Monitoring Made Easy](#)

[How to Install Tripwire IDS \(Intrusion Detection System\) on Linux](#)

[How to Install Zabbix on RHEL/CentOS and Debian/Ubuntu – Part 1](#)

[pyDash – A Web Based Linux Performance Monitoring Tool](#)

Learn Linux Tricks & Tips

[How to Keep 'sudo' Password Timeout Session Longer in Linux](#)

[fdupes – A Command Line Tool to Find and Delete Duplicate Files in Linux](#)

[How to Set Static IP Address and Configure Network in Linux](#)

[5 Ways to Find a 'Binary Command' Description and Location on File System](#)

[2 Ways to Re-run Last Executed Commands in Linux](#)

[How to List Files Installed From a RPM or DEB Package in Linux](#)

Best Linux Tools

[3 Best Cloud-Based Music Apps for Linux](#)

[8 Useful GUI Email Clients for Linux Desktop](#)

[5 Best Open-Source School Management Software for Linux](#)

[The 8 Best Free Anti-Virus Programs for Linux](#)

[5 Best Skype Alternatives for Linux Desktop](#)

[16 Best Markdown Editors for Linux](#)

Tecmint: Linux Howtos, Tutorials & Guides © 2024. All Rights Reserved.

The material in this site cannot be republished either online or offline, without our permission.

Hosting Sponsored by : [Linode Cloud Hosting](#)