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How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry

This How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry explains in simple steps how you can mount your google drive to Raspberry.

(Updated 25.03.2023)

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Background

This How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry assumes that you have both, a properly running Raspberry that is on Debian Linux, as well as a Google account. If this is not the case, than you should setup first your Raspberry and secondly create a Google account.

There are various software in order to mount a Google Drive on Raspberry. In this How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry we select:

- rclone, because this seems to be actively maintained and provides the necessary functionality
- All other software, on a typical Debian installation, should be there already.

How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry

Install rclone

First, we install rclone. To do so, we leverage on the below command that installs the pre-compiled Debian package:

```
sudo apt-get install rclone
```

Get A Google Drive Client ID

With your favourite browser you connect in the first step to the Google Developer Console. Once arrived, you like to login with your Google Account. Once logged in:

- Select on top of the Google Developer Console "**Project**" -> "**NEW PROJECT**"
- Give the new project a name, e.g. -> "**rclone raspi access**"
- Once you created your project, you select on the left hand site "**Enabled APIs and services**"
- On top you will find a search filed. Type into the search field "**Drive**". This will provide you with a result including something looking like this:
- Select "**Google Drive API**"
- Click on "**Enable**"
- Once enabled, click on the left hand site "**Credentials**"
- You like to read the warning provided and search the internet if you have questions to it. Once you fine, you click on "**CONFIGURE CONSET SCREEN**"
- Select "**External**", but before hitting "CREATE" you like to Learn more about user type if you not sure what this is about. If you clear with this, than you click on "**CREATE**"
- Google will kick off a 4 step process. Now drive thru this 4 step process:
  - Application Name: for example "**rclone raspi access**"
  - User support email: **YourPreferredEmailAddress@YourDomain.com**
  - If you like, you add an App logo
  - All other fields are not mandatory and we leave it out in this How To

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> Select "**./auth/drive**"
  - Click "**SAVE AND CONTINUE**"
- Next step in Test Users. Read carefully the instructions. In this how to we do not add anything, but simply click on "**SAVE AND CONTINUE**".
- Google summaries the configuration and in this how to we hit "**BACK TO DASHBOARD**"
- In the Dashboard click on "**Credentials**", and on top select "**+ CREATE CREDENTIALS**" -> "**OAuth client ID**"
  - Application type: "**Desktop**"
  - Name: "**Your Favourite Name**"
  - Hit "**CREATE**"
  - You now will be provided with "**Your Client ID**" and "**Your Client Secret**". Store this in a save place, e.g. KeePass or similar. Finally, click OK.

OAuth client created

The client ID and secret can always be accessed from Credentials in APIs & Services

ⓘ OAuth access is restricted to the test users listed on your OAuth consent screen
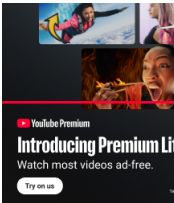
Your Client ID

Your Client Secret

⬇ DOWNLOAD JSON

OK

How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry – OAuth

Lets get to the next step now, which is to configure rclone. For this we will need the Client ID and the Client Secret.

Configure rclone

Next step in this How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry is to configure rclone with the specifics needed to connect the Google drive to your Raspberry. On your Raspi command line you type

```
rclone config
```

Rclone will start a menu. Select the following options:

- New Remote (n), say **"n"** and give it the name "**GoogleDrive**"
- Select "**18**" (drive) for Google Drive "**drive**"
- For "client_id": <**ENTER YOUR CLIENT ID**>
- For "client_secret": <**ENTER YOUR SECRET**>
- Scope: Select "**1**" for Full Access
- root_folder_id> ID of root folder: Leave it blank
- Edit advanced config? (y/n) --> say "**n**" for no
- Remote config? -> say "**n**" for no

Now you will be requested to click a link that looks like the below and to "Enter Your verification code" from this link.

```
Please go to the following link:
https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth?
access_type=offline&amp;client_id=X&amp;redirect_uri=XXXX
```

- Configure this as a team drive -> Say "**n**" for No
- Following this, store the created drive as default by "y" for yes and press "**q**" for Quit config.

With this you are set now. Lets go to the next step.

Test the Configuration

Lets test now if the How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry so far worked properly. To do so, lets send a simple command that should list everything stored in your Google Drive directory:

Most likely you have no files because you in the above maybe only created a new drive. If you leverage on something existing, then you get a list of files on your google drive.

Now you check if you are able to mount GoogleDrive into your system:
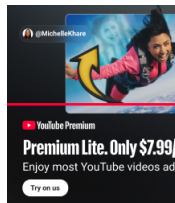
```
cd ~
mkdir -p mnt/GoogleDrive
rclone mount GoogleDrive: $HOME/mnt/GoogleDrive
```

Once done, you should open a second terminal. Type in this seconded terminal:
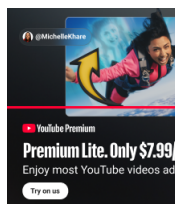
```
ls -la $HOME/mnt/GoogleDrive
```

Again, the Raspberry terminal should show directories and files stored on the Google Drive.

Mount Google Drive at Startup

Next step in the How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry is to mount Google Drive at Startup we create a Systemd configuration. This works as the following:

```
sudo vi /etc/systemd/system/rclone@GoogleDrive.service
```

Include into the below into your rclone@GoogleDrive.service file , BUT, exchange values with the right one's for fitting your configuration. Typically and if you followed the above, this should not be required and you can simply copy and paste.

```
# service to mount Google Drive by rclone
# Place the file into /etc/systemd/user/ following how to
guidance on https://www.myhowto.blog
# Once the file was placed, reload the systemctl deamon by
typing systemctl --user daemon-reload
# To start the service type: systemctl --user start
rclone@GoogleDrive
# To stop the service type:: systemctl --user stop
rclone@GoogleDrive
# To restart the service type: systemctl --user restart
rclone@GoogleDrive
# To check the service status type: systemctl --user status
rclone@GoogleDrive
[Unit]
Description=rclone: Remote FUSE filesystem for cloud storage
config %i
Documentation=man:rclone(1)
[Service]
Type=notify
ExecStartPre=/bin/mkdir -p %h/mnt/%i
ExecStart= \
  /usr/bin/rclone mount \
    --fast-list \
    --vfs-cache-mode writes \
    --vfs-cache-max-size 100M \
    %i: %h/mnt/%i
[Install]
WantedBy=default.target
```
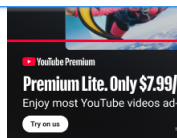
Next is to enable the new service. This can be done by the following commands:

```
systemctl --user enable rclone@GoogleDrive
systemctl --user daemon-reload
systemctl --user start rclone@GoogleDrive
```

To check whether everything is running well, type:

The output most likely will be something towards this:

```
systemctl --user status rclone@GoogleDrive
<span style="color: #00ff00;">●
</span>rclone@GoogleDrive.service - rclone: Remote FUSE
filesystem for cloud storage config GoogleDrive
    Loaded: loaded
(/etc/xdg/systemd/user/rclone@GoogleDrive.service; enabled;
vendor preset: enabled)
    Active: active (running) since Mon 2022-06-06 18:01:50
CEST; 28s ago
      Docs: man:rclone(1)
   Process: 4958 ExecStartPre=/bin/mkdir -p
/home/YourUserName/mnt/GoogleDrive (code=exited,
status=0/SUCCESS)
  Main PID: 4959 (rclone)
     Tasks: 9 (limit: 4915)
       CPU: 713ms
    CGroup: /user.slice/user-
1000.slice/user@1000.service/app.slice/app-
rclone.slice/rclone@GoogleDrive.service
            └─4959 /usr/bin/rclone mount --fast-list --vfs-
cache-mode writes --vfs-cache-max-size 100M GoogleDrive: /ho&gt;

Jun 06 18:01:49 OpenHAB systemd[721]: Starting rclone: Remote
FUSE filesystem for cloud storage config GoogleDrive...
Jun 06 18:01:50 OpenHAB systemd[721]: Started rclone: Remote
FUSE filesystem for cloud storage config GoogleDrive.
```

Learn more

Replay

Test whether you can access your data on Google Drive. To do so, we leverage on ls and check whether your Raspberry can see what's on your GoogleDrive:

```
ls -la $HOME/mnt/GoogleDrive
```

Finally and before we conclude the How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry we reboot the system by leveraging on the below command and do the above checks again. Enjoy having GoogleDrive mapped to your Raspberry!

```
sudo reboot
```

Additional Information

Some background information to the How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry.

To mount google drive with a **Service Account**, follow this How To that was written for OpenHABian but that should work on any Debian and probably on many other Linux distributions.

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Background information on rclone. Check out the official rclone website.

The google developer console can be found here: Google Developer Console

The Raspberry I used for this configuration is a Raspberry Pi 4+ 8GB.

This is it! I hope you enjoyed the How To Mount Google Drive on Raspberry. Please link this page to other websites, recommend it to others and share it with your friends! Thanks so much!

Tags: Google Drive   rclone

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