

MD Support PDF

APT sucks, use Nala instead!

Mdsupportforall.blogspot.com/2022/03/apt-sucks-use-nala-instead.html



APT Documentation

What is APT ??

apt is a command-line utility for installing, updating, removing, and otherwise managing deb packages on Ubuntu, Debian, and related Linux distributions. It combines the most frequently used commands from the apt-get and apt-cache tools with different default values of some options.

apt is designed for interactive use. Prefer using apt-get and apt-cache in your shell scripts as they are backward compatible between the different versions and have more options and features.

Most of the apt commands must be run as a user with sudo privileges.

This guide serves as a guick reference for the apt commands.

Updating package index (apt update)

The APT package index is basically a database that holds records of available packages from the repositories enabled in your system.

To update the package index run the command below. This will pull the latest changes from the APT repositories:

sudo apt update

Always update the package index before upgrading or installing new packages.

Upgrading packages (apt upgrade)

Regularly updating your Linux system is one of the most important aspects of overall system security.

To upgrade the installed packages to their latest versions run:

sudo apt upgrade

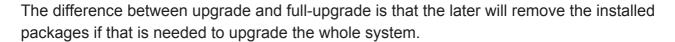
The command doesn't upgrade packages that require removal of installed packages.

If you want to upgrade a single package, pass the package name:

sudo apt upgrade package_name

It is always a good idea to configure automatic security updates .

Full Upgrading (apt full-upgrade)



sudo apt full-upgrade

Be extra careful when using this command.

Installing packages (apt install)

Installing packages is as simple as running the following command:

sudo apt install package_name

If you want to install multiple packages with one command, specify them as a spaceseparated list:

sudo apt install package1 package2

To install local deb files provide the full path to file. Otherwise, the command will try to retrieve and install the package from the APT repositories.

sudo apt install /full/path/file.deb

Removing Packages (apt remove)

To remove an installed package type the following:

sudo apt remove package name

You can also specify multiple packages, separated by spaces:

sudo apt remove package1 package2

The remove command will uninstall the given packages, but it may leave some configuration files behind. If you want to remove the package including all configuration files, use purge instead of remove:

sudo apt purge package_name

Remove Unused Packages (apt autoremove)

Whenever a new package that depends on other packages is installed on the system, the package dependencies will be installed too. When the package is removed, the dependencies will stay on the system. This leftover packages are no longer used by anything else and can be removed.

To remove the unneeded dependencies use the following command:

sudo apt autoremove

Listing Packages (apt list)

The list command allows you to list the available, installed and, upgradeable packages.

To list all available packages use the following command:

sudo apt list

The command will print a list of all packages, including information about the versions and architecture of the package. To find out whether a specific package is installed, you can filter the output with the grep command.

sudo apt list | grep package_name

	To	list	only	the	installed	packages	type:
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sudo apt list --installed

Getting a list of the upgradeable packages may be useful before actually upgrading the packages:

sudo apt list --upgradeable

Searching Packages (apt search)

This command allows you to search for a given package in the list of the available packages:

sudo apt search package_name

If found, the command will return the packages which name matches the search term.

Package Information (apt show)

The information about the package dependencies, installation size, the package source, and so on might be useful before removing or installing a new package.

To retrieve information about a given package, use the show command:

sudo apt show package name

Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/j45zgix9fpM



Nala Documentation

What is Nala ??

Nala is a **front-end** for libapt-pkg. Specifically we interface using the python-apt api.

Especially for newer users it can be hard to understand what apt is trying to do when installing or upgrading.

We aim to solve this by not showing some redundant messages, formatting the packages better, and using color to

show specifically what will happen with a package during **install**, **removal**, or an **upgrade**.

usage: nala [--options] <command>

commands:

install install packages

remove remove packages

purge purge packages

update update package list and upgrade the system

upgrade alias for update

fetch fetches fast mirrors to speed up downloads

show show package details

history show transaction history

clean clears out the local repository of retrieved package files

```
usage: nala [--options] <command>
commands:
   install
                           install packages
                           remove packages
   remove
                           purge packages
    purge
   update
                           update package list and upgrade the system
                           alias for update
   upgrade
                           fetches fast mirrors to speed up downloads
    fetch
    show
                           show package details
                           search package names and descriptions
    search
                           show transaction history
    history
    clean
                           clears out the local repository of retrieved package files
```

optional arguments:

-h, --help show this help message and exit

-y, --assume-yes assume 'yes' to all prompts and run non-interactively

-d, --download-only package files are only retrieved, not unpacked or installed

-v, --verbose logs extra information for debugging

--no-update skips updating the package list

--no-autoremove stops nala from autoremoving packages

--remove-essential allows the removal of essential packages

--raw-dpkg skips all formatting and you get raw dpkg output

--update updates the package list

--debug logs extra information for debugging

--version show program's version number and exit

```
optional arguments:
 -h, --help
                          show this help message and exit
 -y, --assume-yes
                          assume 'yes' to all prompts and run non-interactively
 -d, --download-only
                          package files are only retrieved, not unpacked or installed
 -v, --verbose
                          disable scrolling text and print extra information
 -f, --fix-broken
                          attempts to fix broken packages
 --no-update
                          skips updating the package list
 --no-install-recommends stops the installation of recommended packages
                          installs suggested packages
 --install-suggests
                          stops nala from autoremoving packages
 --no-autoremove
 --remove-essential
                          allows the removal of essential packages
                          skips all formatting and you get raw dpkg output
 --raw-dpkg
                          updates the package list
 --update
 --debug
                          logs extra information for debugging
 --version
                          show program's version number and exit
  -license
                          reads the licenses of software compiled in and then reads the GPLv3
```

Steps to install:

git clone https://gitlab.com/volian/nala

cd nala

python3 ./setup.py build

sudo python3 ./setup.py install

It also has a apt repo:

echo "deb [arch=amd64,arm64,armhf] http://deb.volian.org/volian/ scar main" | sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/volian-archive-scar-unstable.list

wget -qO - https://deb.volian.org/volian/scar.key | sudo tee /etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/volian-archive-scar-unstable.gpg > /dev/null

sudo apt update && sudo apt install nala