Apt Cheat Sheet

Apt is a powerful package manager that allows you to add and remove programs on your Linux system easily. It works by installing packages from software repositories, which are collections of software made available online. This makes it easy to find and download any open-source program compatible with your distribution (for example, Ubuntu or Debian). What's more, apt makes it easy for developers to create and share their packages - if they have the skills!

If you're just starting with Linux, learning about Apt can be a great way to get comfortable using your system's terminal (the command line interface). Get familiar with apt using the cheat sheet below.

For a quick reference guide, head down at the end of the article to download a PDF copy of this cheat sheet.

Apt cheat sheet

Updating the list of available packages

Command	Action
apt-get update	Keeps you upto date with possible package updates mostly security updates

Installing packages

Command	Action
apt-get install	Gets your desired package installed
apt-get install pkg1-	Removes pkg1
Apt-get install pkg1 pkg2+	Remove pkg1 and install pkg2
apt-get -t dist install pkg	Installs pkg from distribution dist
apt-get install pkg=version	Install a specific version of a package
apt-get -h	Gives you the help text

Remove packages

Command	Action
apt-get remove	Removes a package from your system but leaving the configuration files intact.
apt-get --purge	Remove a package completely

Search

Command	Action
apt show bar	Lists intall status and metadata of package bar
apt search bar	Searches for package bar in repository
apt-file search file	Searches for a filename in all packages
apt-file update	Updates the database of files all packages contain
apt-file --list bar	Lists all files included in package bar
dpkg -L package	Lists all files installed from package
dpkg -S file	Searches for a file name in installed packages

Upgrading packages

Command	Action
apt-get upgrade	upgrade packages within the same distribution
apt-get upgrade dist-upgrade	Upgrade packages within the same distribution as well upgrade to a new distribution
apt-get -u upgrade	Show complete list of packages that will be upgraded.

Upgrading to a new release

Command	Action
apt-get -u dist-upgrade	Upgrades packages and installs new packages

Removing unused package files: apt-get clean and autoclean

Command	Action
apt-get clean	Removes everything except lock files
apt-get autoclean	Removes only packages files that can no longer be downloaded (old files).

If there is an issue with the cheat sheet, let us know in the comments and we will update it immediately.

Ending ...

Apt is a powerful package manager that allows you to easily add and remove programs on your Linux system. Whether you are new to Linux or an experienced user, knowing how to use Apt can be beneficial for managing your system and keeping it up-to-date with the latest packages. Some

get upgrade, which upgrades existing packages within your system. Additionally, there are several options for removing unwanted packages from your system using the apt command, such as apt-get remove and apt-purge. Finally, you can also use APT with `dselect` for more advanced package management tasks. (Lesson for another day).

I hope this was helpful. If it was, support us by subscribing to geekbits.

Thank you!