TIPS AND TRICKS

Keyboard Shortcuts

Show desktop:
Super+D (Windows key + D)

Switch Workspaces:
Ctrl+Alt+Right
Ctrl+Alt+Left

Launch Menu:
Super L, or Super R
(Super L and Super R are alternate names for the Windows keys near Ctrl.)

Launch Terminal:
Ctrl+Alt+T

Lock Screen:
Ctrl+Alt+L

Open Home Folder:
Super+E

Shut Down:
Ctrl+Alt+End

Want to set up your own keyboard shortcuts? You can!
Menu -> Keyboard -> Shortcuts

Simple Terminal Commands

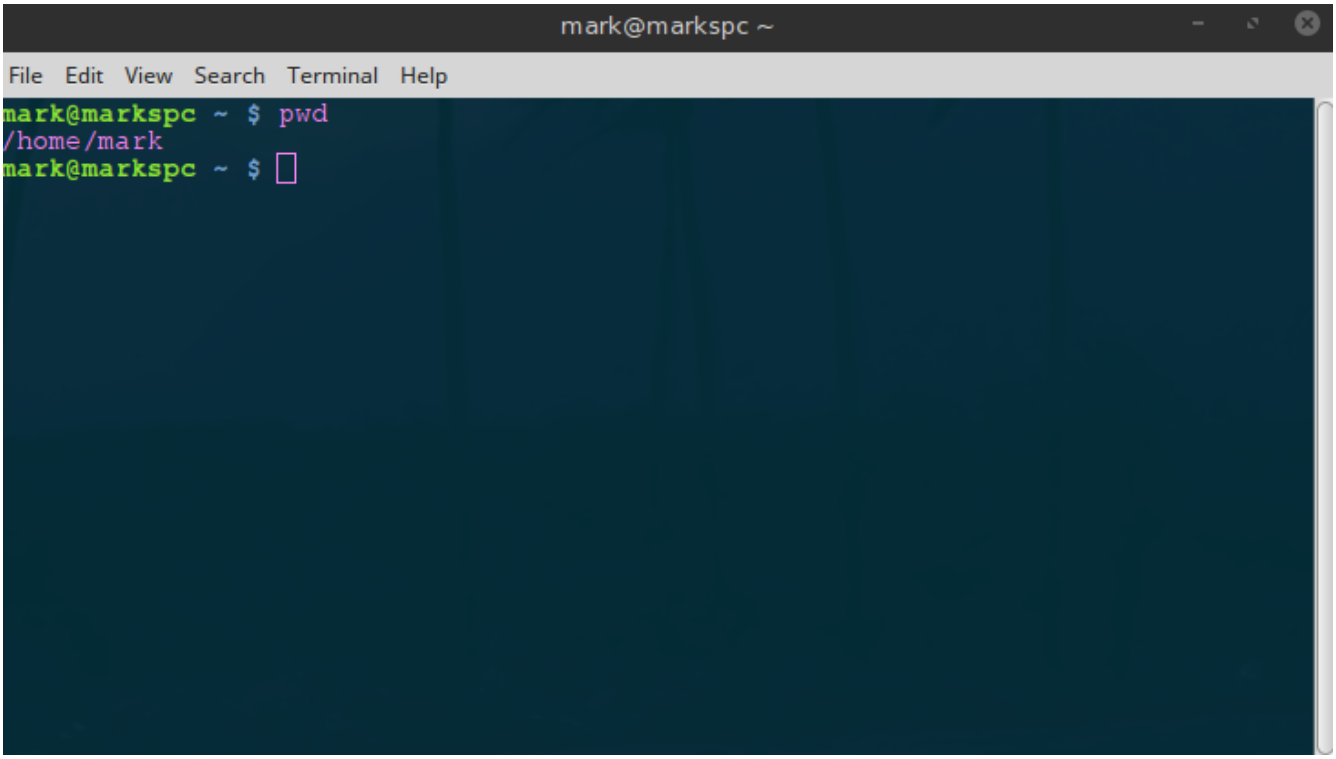
A word on the terminal:
The command line has a somewhat notorious reputation among Linux beginners. Don’t worry; you generally won’t need to use the terminal to work with Linux Mint if you don’t want to. After all, Linux Mint comes with plenty of user-friendly tools with graphical interfaces, such as the Update Manager, Software Manager, and Driver Manager. Your desktop has been designed to make it as easy as possible to complete common system tasks without complicated terminal commands.

Nonetheless, it’s fun and useful to learn a few basic commands. In fact, once you get comfortable using the command line, you’ll find that it’s often the quickest and easiest way to accomplish many common tasks!

pwd

Shows where you are in the system's directory tree (pwd stands for "print working directory").

Try it: Open a new terminal with Ctrl+Alt+T and then type pwd and press enter. You should see that your current working directory is /home/your_username.



ls
Lists the current directory's contents.

Try it: From /home/username, type ls and press enter. You should see a listing of all the files and directories that are in your Home folder. Do you see the default directories Downloads, Pictures, Videos, Documents, and Desktop?

ls -a
Lists all of the current directory's contents, including hidden files and directories.

cd
Changes directories (cd stands for "change directory"). Follow cd with the directory path you wish to navigate to. For example, from /home/username use the command: cd Documents. Now type pwd. You should see that you're now in your Documents folder, /home/username/Documents

cd ~
This is a shortcut to change directories to your Home folder.

cd ..
This is a shortcut to move up exactly one level from the current directory to its parent directory.

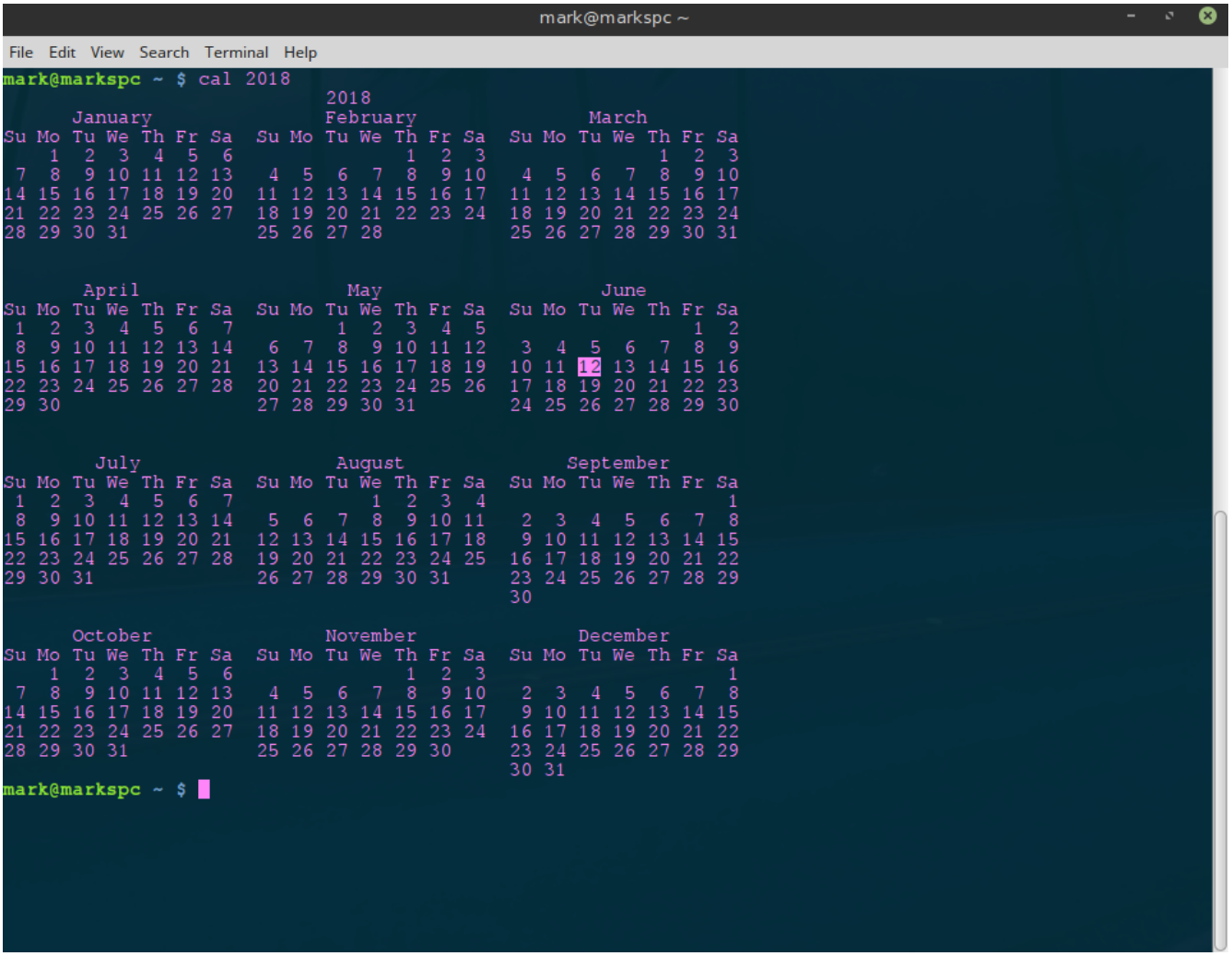
Try it: Launch a terminal with Ctrl+Alt+T. List all the contents of your current working directory with the command ls. Choose any directory, and then use the command cd to move into that directory. Now use the command ls again to see what's inside the directory. Go as deep down the directory tree as you can with subsequent cd and ls commands, and then climb back up with directory tree with the command **cd ..** or **cd ~**

By combining just the simple commands **pwd**, **cd**, and **ls**, you can navigate all across your system via the terminal. It's not that hard after all!

date
Outputs the current time and date.

cal
Outputs a simple calendar of the current month.

cal 2018
Outputs a calendar of the year 2018.



man
This command stands for “manual page.” If you just type man and press enter in the terminal, the text, “What manual page do you want?” will be output.

To see the manual page for a particular command, type man command_name. For example, man ls will show you the manual page for the command ls.

Tip: Not every command has a manual page available. For example, type man cd and press enter. The terminal will output “No manual entry for cd.” If no manual page is available, try one of the following commands instead: **info command_name**, or **whatis command_name**.

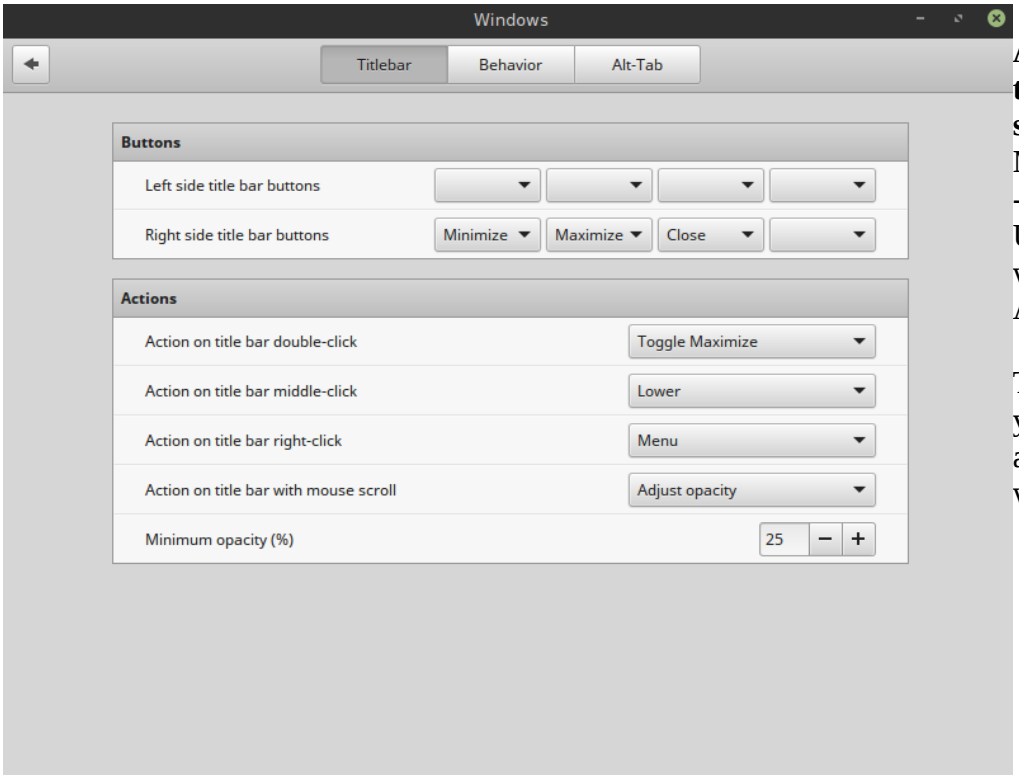
history
This command will show you a history list of commands entered into the terminal. This is handy if you can’t recall a command you need to use.

Tip: Press the up key to see the last command you entered into the terminal. Press the up key again to see the command you used before that. Press the down key to cycle back down the list of commands. You can keep pressing up to cycle through your most recently used commands.

man bash
For the bold and adventurous, this accesses the manual page for bash, which is the command line shell itself that Linux Mint uses. The shell's name, bash, is an acronym for *Bourne-again shell*.

If you would like additional guidance on learning the Linux comand line, there are many free resources available online to explore. “The Linux Command Line by William Shotts” is one such recommended free book: http://linuxcommand.org/tlcl.php

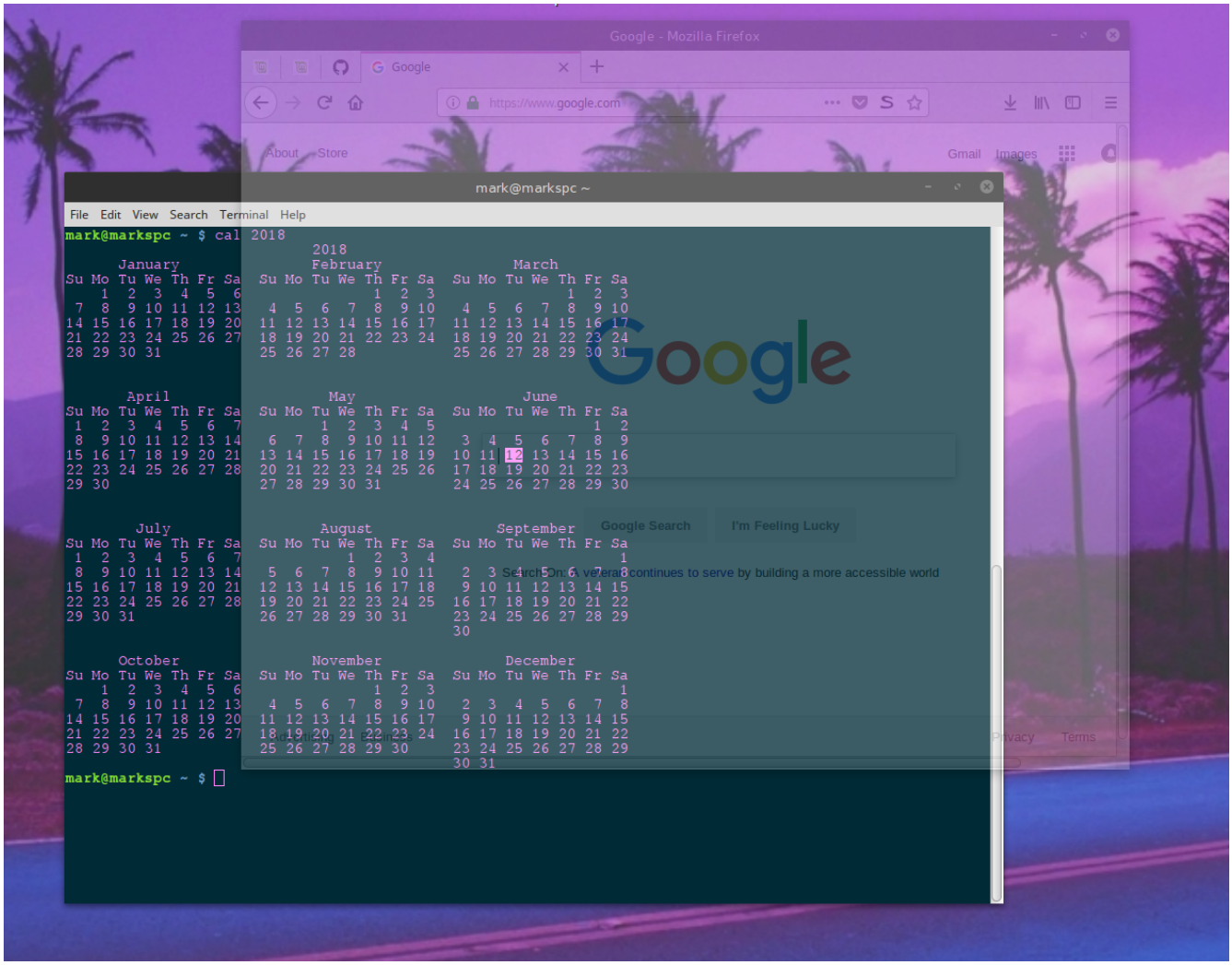
Desktop Customization



Adjust window transparency by scrollwheel
Menu -> System Settings -> Windows -> Titlebar
Update Action on title bar with mouse scroll to: Adjust opacity

This will allow you to use your mouse scrollwheel on a title bar to adjust the windows opacity.

Try it out; simply hover your mouse over the title bar of any window, and scroll your wheel down to lighten the window.



Get window previews with Alt-Tab
Menu -> System Settings -> Windows -> Alt-Tab
Update Alt-Tab switcher style to: Icons and window preview

You might be used to switching between windows on your desktop with Alt-Tab. This setting adjustment will give you helpful window previews as you cycle through your Alt-Tab list, instead of only showing icons.

Add Help launcher to panel bar
Menu -> Accessories -> Help
Right click on Help and select add to panel.
You can add any other program to the panel in the same manner.

Change Menu icon and text

Right click on the Menu icon and select Configure.
Change Use a custom icon to: ON
Select the image file you want to use as a your Menu icon.
You can change the Text field to whatever you want. For example, START, GO, MENU, or whatever else. Here's an example using the classic Playstation logo and the text START.

Add Cinnamon Spices (Desklets, Applets, and Extensions) to your desktop
Modify your Cinnamon desktop environment and extend its features with Cinnamon Spices. This is a large part of what makes using Linux Mint so fun.

Cinnamon supports the following types of spices: themes, applets, desklets and extensions.

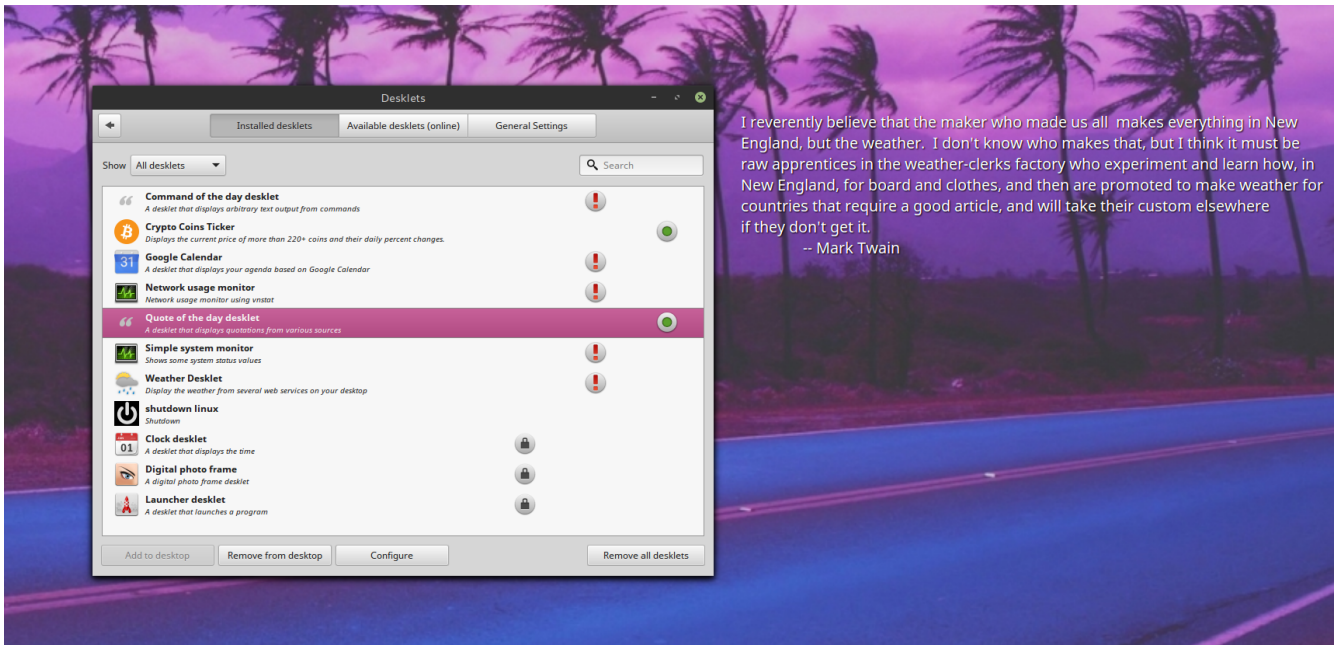
You can add Themes, Desklets, Applets, or Extensions from the Menu:
Menu -> Preferences -> Themes
Menu -> Preferences -> Desklets (Alternatively, right click your desktop and select Add Desklets)
Menu -> Preferences -> Applets
Menu -> Preferences -> Extensions

Browse addons for your Cinnamon desktop online here: https://cinnamon-spices.linuxmint.com/

Desklet Example - Quote of the Day:
Want to get a quote of the day directly on your desktop? Just add the Desklet!

Right click your desktop and select Add Desklets. Change tabs to Available desklets (online). Search for Quote of the day desklet. Check the checkbox next to it, and then click the button to Install.

Now from the Installed desklets tab, right click Quote of the day desklet and select Add to desktop.



There are other great Desklets, Applets, and Extensions available thanks to the wonderful community behind Linux Mint. Do some exploring, and have fun spicing up your desktop environment with Cinnamon Spices!

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make Windows the default operating system to boot in the Grub menu?

When you first install Linux Mint alongside another operating system, it will place itself first as the default option in your boot menu.

Perhaps you want Windows (or another OS) to be the default operating system in the boot menu instead of Linux Mint. You can achieve this as follows:

First determine on which line of Grub's boot menu is Windows (it's often on line number 5, but not always). This line number is important to know, so write it down or remember it. To find the number, launch a terminal window. Type in the terminal: `gksudo xed /etc/default/grub`
Press enter. Find the default boot line (nearly at the beginning). It should currently read
`GRUB_DEFAULT=0`

Grub starts counting at 0, so 0 refers to the first line in the boot menu (likely Linux Mint). Keep this in mind when making a change! For example, if Windows is at line 5 in your Grub menu, you have to change the grub default value from 0 to 4 to make Windows the default boot option:
`GRUB_DEFAULT=4`

Save and close the configuration file.

Finally, apply the change by regenerating the Grub menu with the following command:
`sudo update-grub`

Tip: Want to give yourself more time before Grub automatically selects your boot option? Follow the same instructions as above, but this time look for the line reading `GRUB_TIMEOUT=10`

Change the value 10 to 20 (or more) to give yourself more time when booting up your computer. Again, save and close the configuration file, and then apply the update with the command `sudo update-grub`

Why is my system time different between Windows and Linux Mint?
If you're dual-booting Linux Mint and Windows, you may find that changing time in one system affects the other and that the two systems can't display the same time. This happens because Linux Mint 18 interprets the hardware clock or real time clock (RTC) in universal time by default, while Windows maintains the clock in local time. You can fix the discrepancy by keeping RTC in local time in Linux Mint (the same as in Windows). Run the following command in the terminal:
`timedatectl set-local-rtc 1 --adjust-system-clock`