

# Ubuntu apt software cleanup commands

The Ubuntu Linux distribution provides an abstracted command set for the traditional Debian apt-get command, simply named apt. Advanced Package Tool, or APT, is a free software user interface that works with core libraries to handle the installation and removal of software on Debian, Ubuntu and other Linux distributions. These commands can be run together, such as `sudo apt autoremove` && `sudo apt autoclean`.

## autoremove

The **autoremove** option is used to remove packages that were automatically installed to satisfy dependencies for other software, and are now no longer needed as dependencies changed or the package(s) needing them were removed. This option also removes older (not booted) kernels. It is recommended to run the “autoremove” command after the uninstallation of packages.

Usage:

```
$ sudo apt autoremove
```

## autoclean

Similar to clean, **autoclean** clears out the local repository of retrieved package files. The difference is that it only removes package files that can no longer be downloaded, and are largely useless. This allows a cache to be maintained over a long period without it growing out of control. The configuration option `APT::Clean-Installed` will prevent installed packages from being erased if it is set to off.

Usage:

```
$ sudo apt autoremove
```

## autopurge

This option is similar to autoremove, but **autopurge** also removes configuration files. This is a shortcut for `autoremove --purge`.

Usage (2 options):

```
$ sudo apt autopurge  
$ sudo apt autoremove --purge
```

## clean

This option cleans the system cache by removing unnecessary .deb package files from the local repository “/var/cache/apt/archives”. These files are no longer required and only take the extra space on the system. It removes everything but the lock file.

Usage:

```
$ sudo apt clean
```