

## How do I install Sublime Text 2/3?



I installed Sublime Text 2 on 12.04 as per this [tutorial](#).

However I don't have adequate permissions when launching the program from the Unity launcher. For example I cannot install packages, or if I add a folder to the sidebar when I close Sublime and reopen, the folder is no longer listed. If I run `sudo sublime` in the terminal all changes remain after closing.

I've tried chown-ing the Sublime Text 2 folder in `usr/lib` `sudo chown -R mylogin:mylogin /usr/lib/"Sublime Text 2"` but this seemed to have no effect.

software-installation

edited Jun 20 '14 at 19:03



Jared Burrows

6,576 1 10 16

asked Aug 6 '12 at 18:27



Michael Gruber

1,986 3 9 8

10 Answers

### Install via the Package Manager(apt-get):

Simply add to your packages:

#### For Sublime-Text-2:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:webupd8team/sublime-text-2
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install sublime-text
```

#### For Sublime-Text-3:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:webupd8team/sublime-text-3
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install sublime-text-installer
```

### Run Sublime-Text on terminal

```
subl
```

### Install Manually via Terminal:

#### Download from the Sublime Site:

##### 32-bit:

```
wget http://c758482.r82.cf2.rackcdn.com/Sublime\ Text\ 2.0.2.tar.bz2
tar vxjf Sublime\ Text\ 2.0.2.tar.bz2
```

##### 64-bit:

```
wget http://c758482.r82.cf2.rackcdn.com/Sublime\ Text\ 2.0.2\ x64.tar.bz2
tar vxjf Sublime\ Text\ 2.0.2\ x64.tar.bz2
```

#### For Both:

```
sudo mv Sublime\ Text\ 2 /opt/
sudo ln -s /opt/Sublime\ Text\ 2/sublime_text /usr/bin/sublime
```

Source: <http://www.tecmint.com/install-sublime-text-editor-in-linux/>

### Install Manually via Script:

Check out this nice script on Github("Install Sublime Text on Fedora.") that you can run, just make sure to edit the "\*.tar.bz2" in the script to download the latest version of Sublime Text!

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
# Usage: {script} [ OPTIONS ] TARGET BUILD
#
# TARGET      Default target is "/usr/local".
# BUILD       If not defined tries to get the build into the Sublime Text 3
#             website.
#
```

```

# OPTIONS
#
# -h, --help Displays this help message.
#
# Report bugs to Henrique Moody <henriquemoody@gmail.com>
#

set -e

if [[ "${1}" = '-h' ]] || [[ "${1}" = '--help' ]]; then
    sed -E 's/^#\s?(.*)\1/g' "${0}" |
        sed -nE '/^Usage/,/^Report/p' |
        sed "s/{script}/{basename "${0}"/}g"
    exit
fi

declare URL
declare URL_FORMAT="http://c758482.r82.cf2.rackcdn.com
/sublime_text_3_build_%d_x%d.tar.bz2"
declare TARGET="${1:-/usr/local}"
declare BUILD="${2}"
declare BITS

if [[ -z "${BUILD}" ]]; then
    BUILD=$(
        curl -Ls http://www.sublimetext.com/3 |
        grep '<h2>Build' |
        head -n1 |
        sed -E 's#<h2>Build ([0-9]+)</h2>\1#g'
    )
fi

if [[ "$(uname -m)" = "x86_64" ]]; then
    BITS=64
else
    BITS=32
fi

URL=$(printf "${URL_FORMAT}" "${BUILD}" "${BITS}")

read -p "Do you really want to install Sublime Text 3 (Build ${BUILD}, x${BITS})
on \"${TARGET}\"? [Y/n]: " CONFIRM
CONFIRM=$(echo "${CONFIRM}" | tr [a-z] [A-Z])
if [[ "${CONFIRM}" = 'N' ]] || [[ "${CONFIRM}" = 'NO' ]]; then
    echo "Aborted!"
    exit
fi

echo "Downloading Sublime Text 3"
curl -L "${URL}" | tar -xJC ${TARGET}

echo "Creating shortcut file"
cat ${TARGET}/sublime_text_3/sublime_text.desktop |
    sed "s#/opt#${TARGET}#g" |
    cat > "/usr/share/applications/sublime_text.desktop"

echo "Creating binary file"
cat > ${TARGET}/bin/subl <<SCRIPT
#!/bin/sh
if [ "${1}" == "--help" ]; then
    ${TARGET}/sublime_text_3/sublime_text --help
else
    ${TARGET}/sublime_text_3/sublime_text \${@} > /dev/null 2>&1 &
fi
SCRIPT

echo "Finish!"

```

Source: <https://gist.github.com/henriquemoody/3288681>

This helped me and I hope it helps everyone else as well!

edited Oct 12 '16 at 20:06



Kleo Bercero  
130 9

answered Dec 10 '12 at 18:22



Jared Burrows  
6,576 1 10 16

5 how can I launch sublime text 2 via the terminal? – Vader Jan 25 '14 at 3:46

@Vader [askubuntu.com/questions/354311/...](http://askubuntu.com/questions/354311/...) – Jared Burrows Jan 25 '14 at 20:11

4 Thx. Worked perfectly in Ubuntu 14.04 to install sublime 3. – Marcin Feb 28 '15 at 9:33

1 Also, to use sublime as your default text editor instead of gedit, you should edit: `/usr/share/applications/defaults.list` by putting subl instead gedit. – Boubakr NOUR Mar 9 '15 at 19:53

1 worked perfectly in ubuntu 14.04 using the second method `ppa:webupd8team/sublime-text-3` – suhail May 4 '15 at 6:15

Basically, your problem is that you're **using a wrong article** :) If it was on an SE site I would down-vote it.

Manually copying stuff which does not come from Ubuntu repositories into `/usr` is **WRONG**. This directory is managed by Ubuntu's package manager and messing with it is going to cause you trouble at some point or another - for example, the next time you upgrade your system Sublime will likely be removed without a trace.

Running the program as root is even wronger, especially in the case of SublimeText which has its own package manager which basically downloads stuff from Internet and lets it run on your computer. A simple typo in a plugin could destroy all data on your machine.

A proper solution, if you want to install the program system-wide, would be to find/build a .deb file and install it - this way package manager would be aware of the package. Webupd8 maintains a [PPA for SublimeText2](#), so you can just use that.

However, there's a much lazier solution which I am personally using - just unpack SublimeText somewhere in your home directory, create a `bin` directory in your home directory and symlink `sublime_text` executable into that directory:

```
mkdir ~/bin
ln -s ~/wherever/sublime/is/sublime_text ~/bin
```

After which you'll be able to run Sublime Text by typing `sublime_text` in the console, from any directory. This does not require root privileges at all and the editor runs just fine.

The article also does some shell integration, such as registering `sublime_text` as a default editor and adding an icon, and I was too lazy to do that - however, I'm sure that it can be done without messing with system-wide settings.

This does not explain, however, the problems with permissions you're having - SublimeText stores all its settings in your home folder anyway, so even if you installed it system-wide it should not have problems. What probably happened is that you started it the first time with superuser privileges (i.e. from the sudo shell), so the editor's config directory (in `~/.config/sublime-text-2`) is owned by `root` now. You need to do something like

```
sudo chown -R yourusername:yourusername /home/yourusername/.config/sublime-text-2
```

to fix this.

edited Feb 5 '15 at 21:13

answered Aug 6 '12 at 21:49

 **Sergey**  
30.5k 5 73 89

Could you fully explain the bit about creating a bin directory and symlinking it? – [hellocatfood](#) Feb 5 '15 at 17:45

@hellocatfood: I've expanded my answer a bit – [Sergey](#) Feb 5 '15 at 21:14

Here is how to solve this.

1) undo all the steps in the linked webpage in reverse order.

1a) if you didn't save a copy of your original defaults.list then open a terminal and run

```
sudo cp /usr/share/applications/defaults.list /usr/share/applications
/defaults.list.bak && cat /usr/share/applications/defaults.list.bak | sed
"s/sublime\.desktop/gedit.desktop/g" | sudo tee /usr/share/applications
/defaults.list
```

2) get the version of sublime you want and extract it to the current directory.

3) in bash `cd` to the directory where you extracted sublime

4) `mv Sublime\ Text\ 2 ~/.local`

4a) if you want to be able to run sublime from the command line then run `mkdir -p ~/bin` && `ln -s ~/.local/Sublime\ Text\ 2/sublime_text ~/bin/sublime`. The default `.bashrc` will add `~/bin` to your `$PATH` the next time your shell launches.

5) Make a file called `sublime.desktop` in `~/.local/share/applications/` and paste the following inside.

```
[Desktop Entry]
Version=1.0
Name=Sublime Text 2
# Only KDE 4 seems to use GenericName, so we reuse the KDE strings.
# From Ubuntu's language-pack-kde-XX-base packages, version 9.04-20090413.
GenericName=Text Editor
```

```
Exec=~/.local/Sublime\ Text\ 2/sublime_text
Terminal=false
Icon=~/.local/Sublime\ Text\ 2/Icon/48x48/sublime_text.png
Type=Application
Categories=TextEditor;IDE;Development
X-Ayatana-Desktop-Shortcuts=NewWindow
```

```
[NewWindow Shortcut Group]
Name=New Window
Exec=~/.local/Sublime\ Text\ 2/sublime_text -n
TargetEnvironment=Unity
```

6) `test -e ~/.local/share/applications/defaults.list -a 1$(grep -sc \[Default Applications\] ~/.local/share/applications/defaults.list) != 10 || echo "[Default Applications]" >> ~/.local/share/applications/defaults.list; grep gedit.desktop /usr/share/applications/defaults.list | sed "s/gedit\.desktop/sublime.desktop/g" >> ~/.local/share/applications/defaults.list`

7) done.

It should now be installed locally in your home directory and you should have no more issues with permissions.

edited Mar 3 '13 at 5:12

answered Aug 6 '12 at 21:54



Alex L.

2,269 10 18

The OP would probably have to delete/chown `~/ .config/sublime-text-2` directory as that's what is causing the problem. Anyway, thanks for the detailed instructions. – [Sergey](#) Aug 7 '12 at 2:07

- 2 Please make a new "How do I install Sublime" question with answer, it would be a nice contribution so that people can do it right instead of following blog posts we can't fix! – [Jorge Castro](#) Aug 7 '12 at 14:48

@Sergey Yeah that would probably also work. A big issue with the linked directions though is that they ask you to install something to your `/usr/lib` manually, which is never good. – [Alex L.](#) Aug 7 '12 at 14:49

I think [@Alex L.](#) is completely right. I recommend never editing your `/usr` fs, add-on commercial software should be installed in either `/opt` for multi-user or `~/opt` for single user (see [Linux Filesystem Hierarchy](#) especially `/opt` and `/home`). Here are just a few more additions to make it *really nice*.

1. You don't have to move your app to `./local` or `/local`; I usually just leave them in `~/opt` (*n.b.*: the tilde is your home directory or `$HOME`).

```
user@machine:~$ cd ~/Downloads
user@machine:~/Downloads$ cd wget http://c758482.r82.cf2.rackcdn.com
/Sublime%20Text%202.0.1.tar.bz2
user@machine:~/Downloads$ cd ..
user@machine:~$ tar -C ~/opt -xf "~/Downloads/Sublime Text 2"
```

2. Make a symlink to `sublime_text` in `~/bin`, but call it `sublime`; see step 4a in [Alex L.'s answer](#) above.

```
user@machine:~$ ln -s ~/opt/Sublime\ Text\ 2/sublime_text ~/bin/sublime
```

3. Same as [Alex L.'s](#) step 5, make a file called `sublime.desktop` in `~/ .local/share/applications/` but add `%f` after `sublime` in the `Exec` field so that you can open it from Nautilus, as described in [this post](#). Also don't escape spaces for the `Icon` field and use the full path, no tilde. Replace `<user>` with your username.

```
[Desktop Entry]
Version=1.0
Name=Sublime Text 2
GenericName=Text Editor
Exec=/home/<user>/bin/sublime %f
Terminal=false
Icon=/home/<user>/Sublime Text 2/Icon/48x48/sublime_text.png
Type=Application
Categories=Development;IDE;TextEditor
X-Ayatana-Desktop-Shortcuts=NewWindow

[NewWindow Shortcut Group]
Name=New Window
Exec=/home/<user>/bin/sublime -n
TargetEnvironment=Unity
```

4. You shouldn't have to log off, but if it doesn't show up in your dash, right away maybe you do. Then look for a file to open in Nautilus, right-click and select *Open With Other Application ...* then *Show other applications* button at the bottom, find **Sublime Text 2** in the list, select it and hit *Select*. Your file should open in Sublime Text 2, and from now on for files of that type you will see Sublime Text 2 already listed as an option. You can also set it as the default from Nautilus by right-clicking, selecting *Properties* then *Open With* and finally *Set as default* button after highlighting **Sublime Text 2**. Of course you could have used *Add* to select **Sublime Text 2** to open the file type from the *Properties* window as well.

edited Feb 5 '15 at 17:15

answered Nov 9 '12 at 9:36



Mark Mikofski

702 6 15

- 1 Without the full path for the `Exec` key the desktop file will not work in all situations. (though it is true that it will work most of the time). – [Alex L.](#) Nov 13 '12 at 16:40

Thanks [Alex L.](#)! Very **good** to know! I'm super happy with my sublime-text-2 setup now, and so far everything is working great. Very disappointed that people are being misled by [this post](#) :(. However now it seems that there is a ppa provided by [WebUpd8](#) that users can install via apt-get :). – [Mark Mikofski](#) Nov 13 '12 at 17:54

You can also also download the Debian package for your particular architecture from [the sublime website](#)

and then run the following;

```
cd download_path
sudo dpkg -i package.deb
```

for example if my download for a 64 bit architecture is in the `Downloads` directory and is

called `sublime-text_build-3080_amd64.deb` then I will run

```
cd ~/Downloads
sudo dpkg -i sublime-text_build-3080_amd64.deb
```

In my case it was sublime text 3, you can get for your sublime text 2 also

edited Mar 24 '15 at 9:34

answered Mar 24 '15 at 8:39



Leonard Kakande

41 4

I recently made this for your convenience: <https://github.com/TCattd/sublime-text-linux-installer>

A Sublime Text 2 and Sublime Text 3 bash script installer. Just download one of the scripts, ST2 or ST3.

For ST2 is: **st2install**

Put it in your home folder. Then form a terminal (and in the same home folder) run:

```
sudo bash st2install
```

That will take care of all.

You can upgrade with that very same script too, in case a new ST2 version pop out. Same apply for installing/upgrading ST3.

And both versions, using those installers, can live together without conflicts.

Hope it helps ;)

edited Feb 22 '14 at 15:16

answered Feb 21 '13 at 13:45



TCattd

76 4

Type the following commands in the terminal, for Sublime Text 2 :

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:webupd8team/sublime-text-2
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install sublime-text
```

For Sublime Text 3 :

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:webupd8team/sublime-text-3
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install sublime-text-installer
```

answered Jan 7 '15 at 15:26



Nidhin Mohammad

21 1

I had the same problem and followed the above provided solutions without success. What did it for me was the following [solution](#).

Essentially:

1. Close all of your sublime app instances
2. Open up the sublime desktop file

```
sudo gedit /usr/share/applications/sublime-text-2.desktop
```

3. Edit the file by replacing

```
Exec=/usr/bin/subl %F
```

with

```
Exec=env UBUNTU_MENUPROXY=0 /usr/bin/subl %F
```

4. Delete sublime profile configuration folders

```
rm -fR ~/.config/sublime-text-2
```

5. Start sublime from the top menu or shortcut

edited Aug 26 '16 at 7:36



Shashanth

213 2 19

answered Mar 24 '14 at 18:16



Mauricio

21 2

While other answers are very interesting, this one really resolved the issue for me. – [Ladislav Mrnka](#) Apr 14 '14 at 13:04

1. Download the deb package from the [official site](#).
2. Install the package by `$sudo dpkg -i path_to_the_file.deb`
3. Start the program from `/opt/sublime_text/sublime_text`

edited Aug 26 '16 at 8:14

Shashanth  
213 2 19

answered Jun 6 '16 at 10:37

q4w56  
129 4

Maybe there has simply something gone wrong during the installation. I'm using Sublime Text 2 on 12.04 and it doesn't need sudo. I suggest you type `sudo apt-get purge sublime-text` in a terminal (depends on which version you've installed. Use the tab key after having typed the line until "subl" twice - each installed version will be displayed). This will completely remove the installation. After that, go to the homepage of sublime text and make sure you download the .deb package. Browse the package in Nautilus (home folder), right-click on the .deb-package and choose "open with Software Center". In the Software Center, click install and follow the instructions. After that you should be able to launch the application without sudo.

answered Aug 6 '12 at 20:56

speter  
368 2 17

1 The instructions he followed don't use deb packages – [Jorge Castro](#) Aug 6 '12 at 21:03

**protected** by [heemayl](#) Aug 4 '15 at 18:15

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