



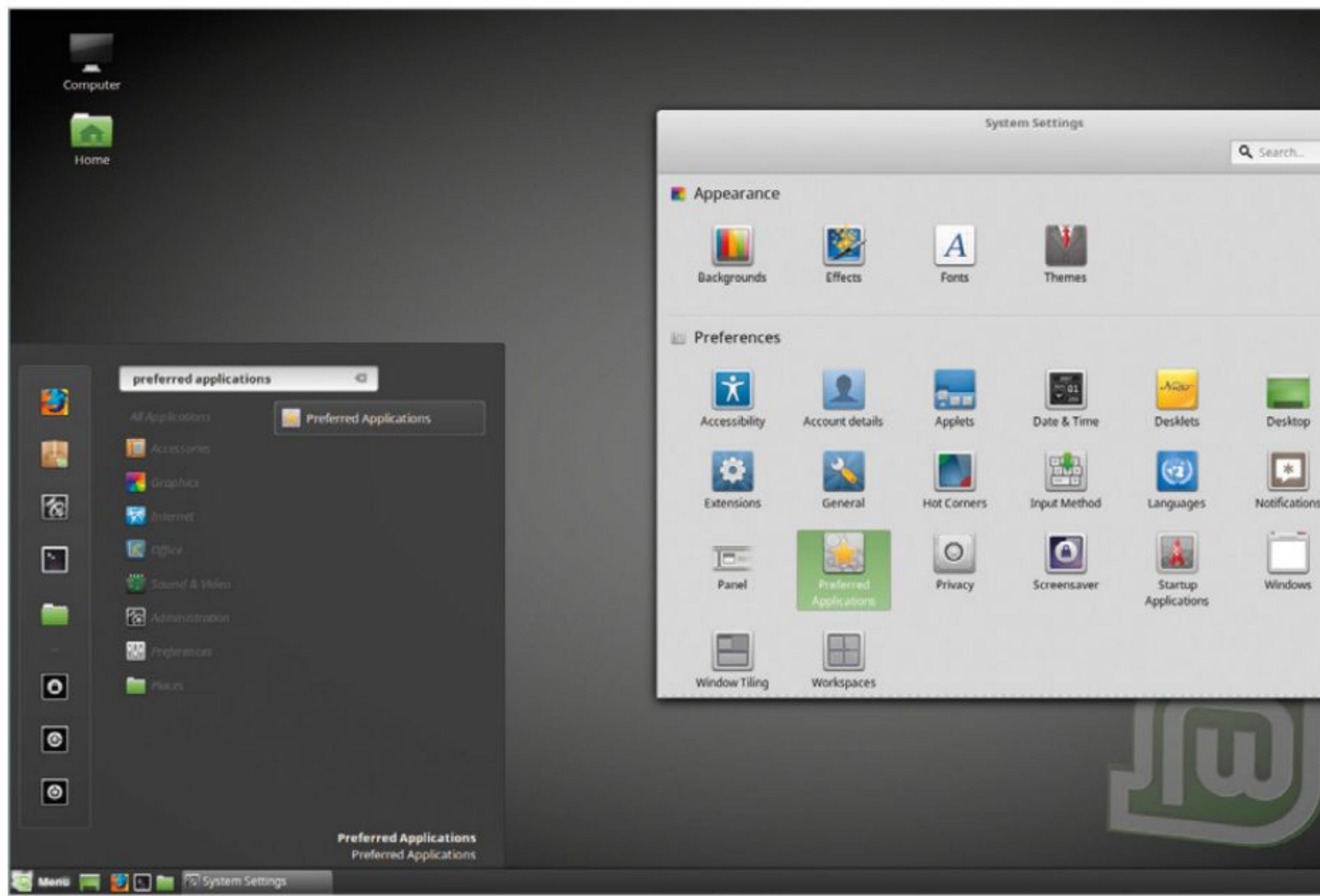
# Change Preferred Applications

Linux Mint's preinstalled apps work perfectly well with the file types they're associated with, however there may come a time when you'd prefer to use another app to open and use a file with.

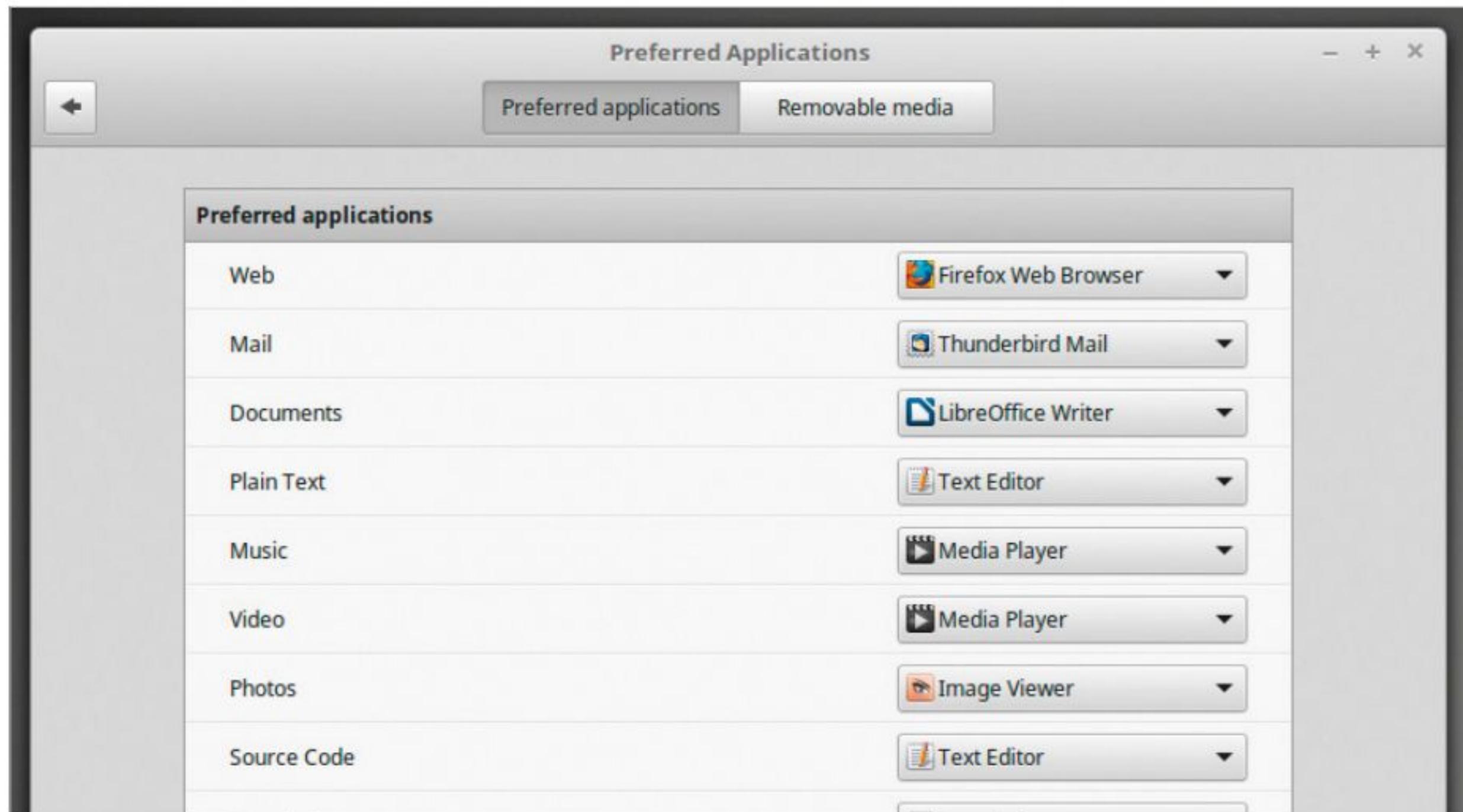
## MAKING CHANGES

For this particular exercise we are using the default, installed apps that come with Linux Mint. Naturally, if you have installed another app to cope with a certain type of file, then you can apply the same process.

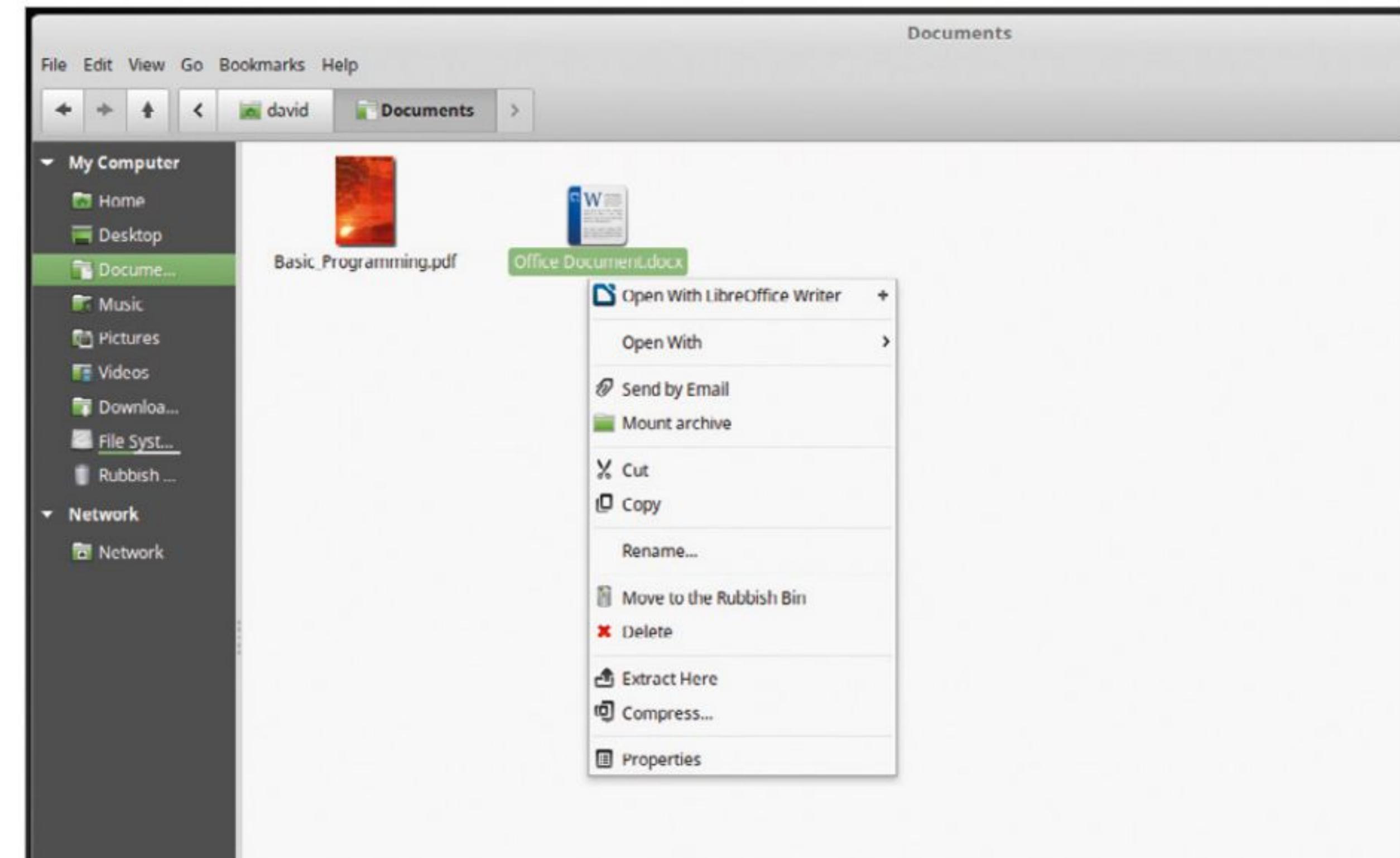
**STEP 1** You need to get to the Preferred Applications console window. This can be done either by clicking on the Mint Menu and entering preferred applications into the search bar, then clicking on the returned result, or you can right-click the Panel > System Settings > Preferred Applications, found under the Preferences section.



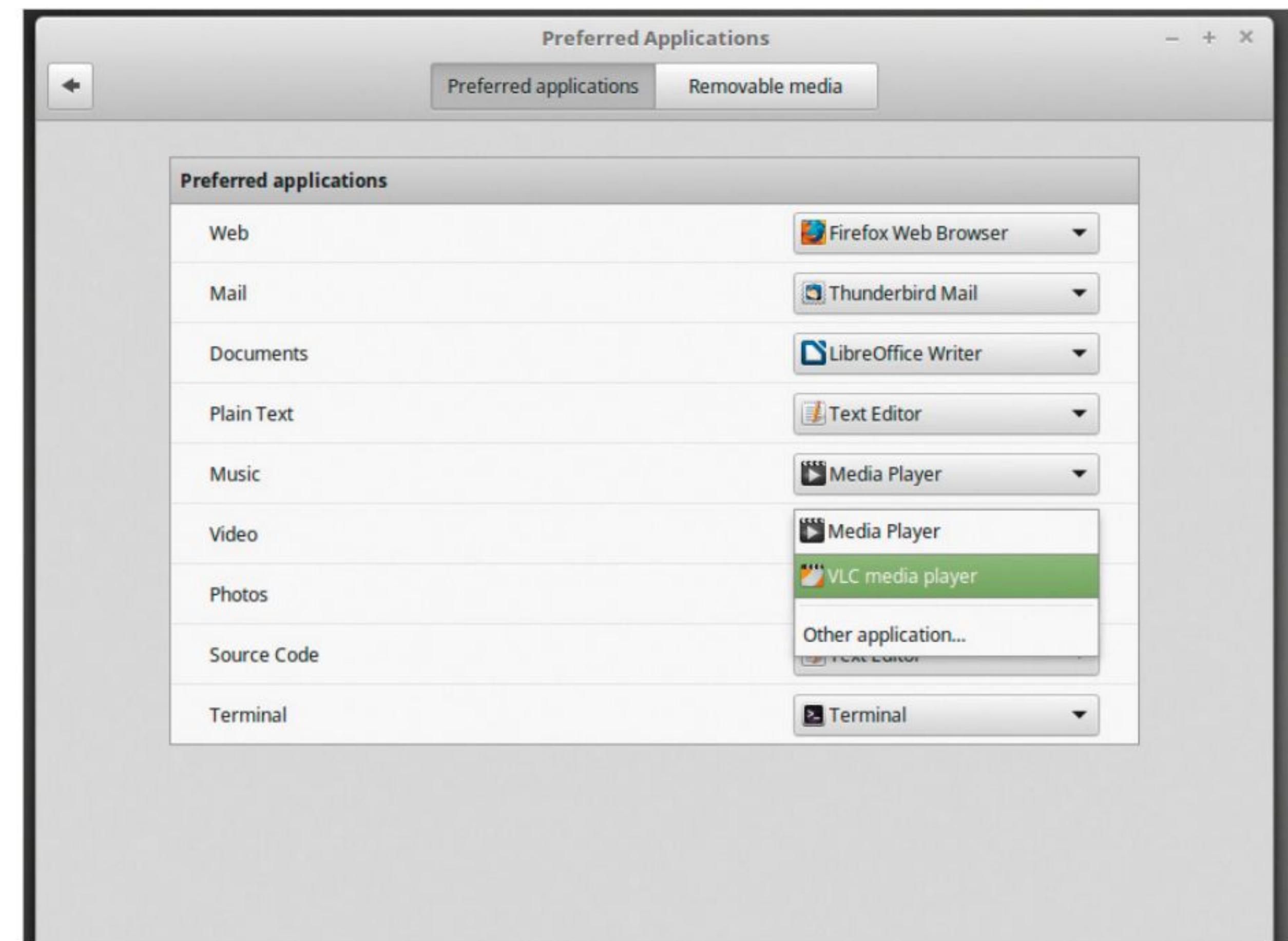
**STEP 2** The Preferred Applications console window contains most of the common instances you come across when using Linux Mint. For example, documents, are by default opened and edited with LibreOffice Writer, web-based content by Firefox and photos by Image Viewer.



**STEP 3** Double-clicking on any of these category file types, such as a Word document, will auto-launch the predefined application: LibreOffice Writer in this example.

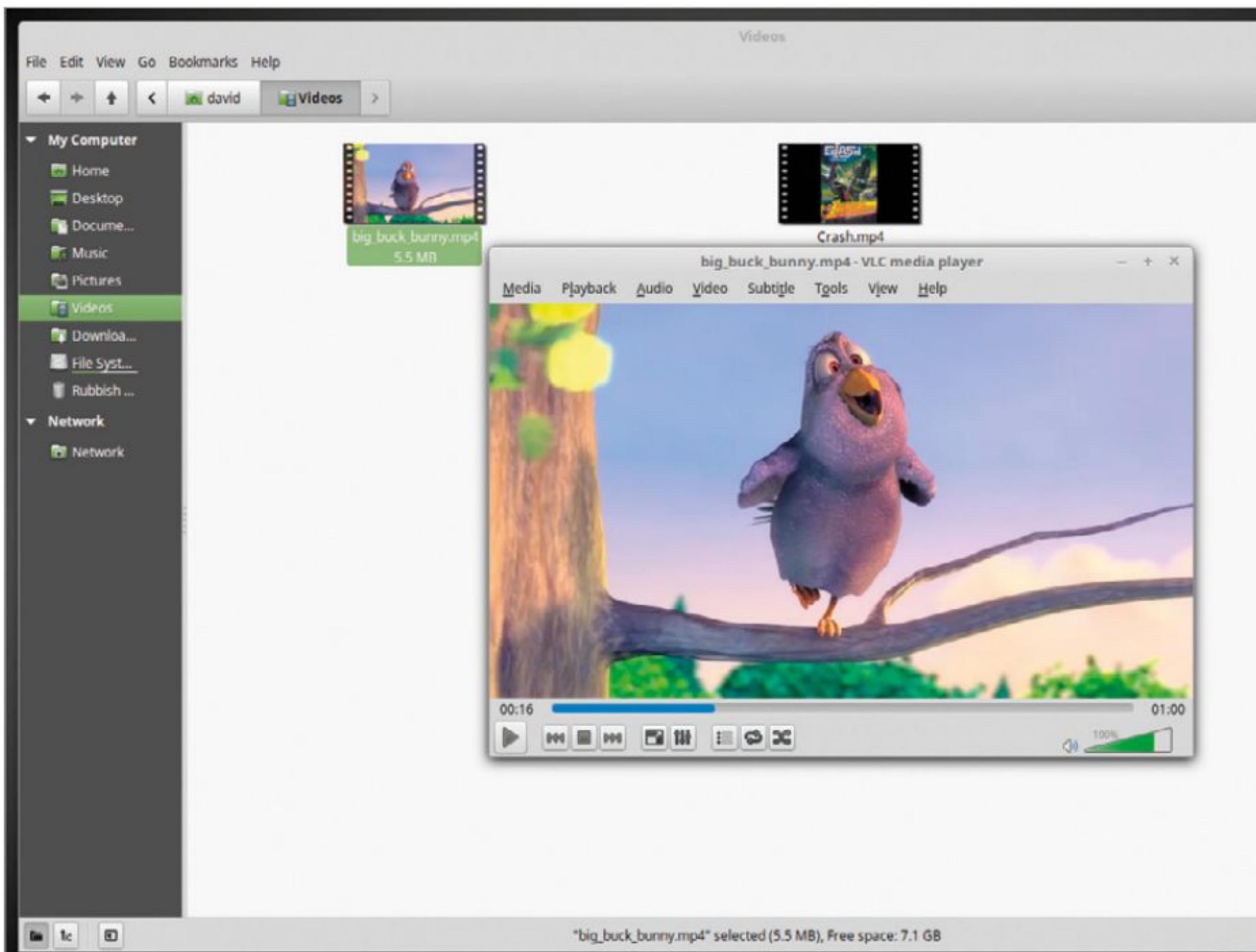


**STEP 4** If you want to change the predefined application for a certain file type, then simply find the file type from the list to the left and use the drop-down box to the right to pick the new application with which to launch it. For example, for Video click the box to pick VLC.

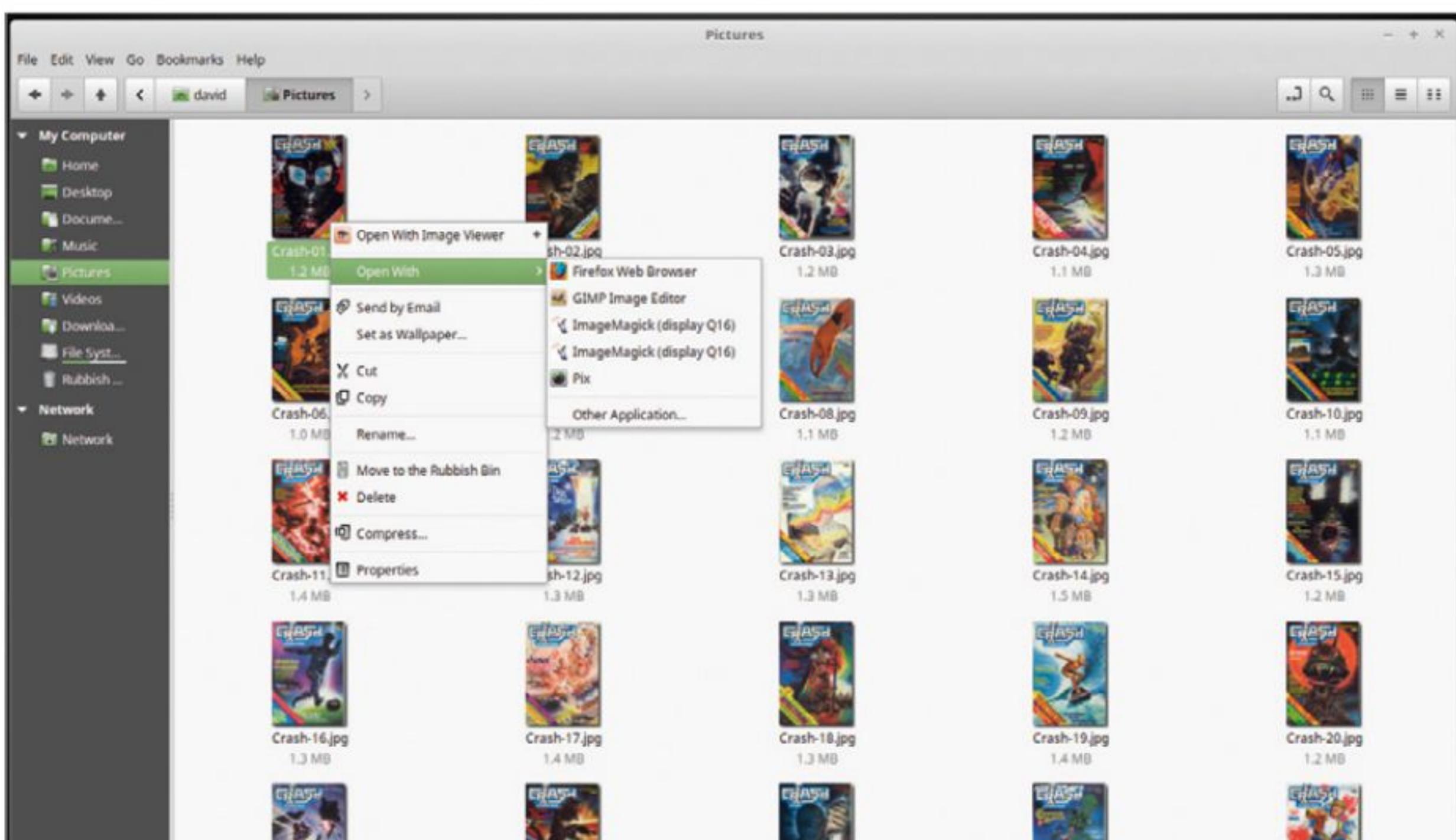


**STEP 5**

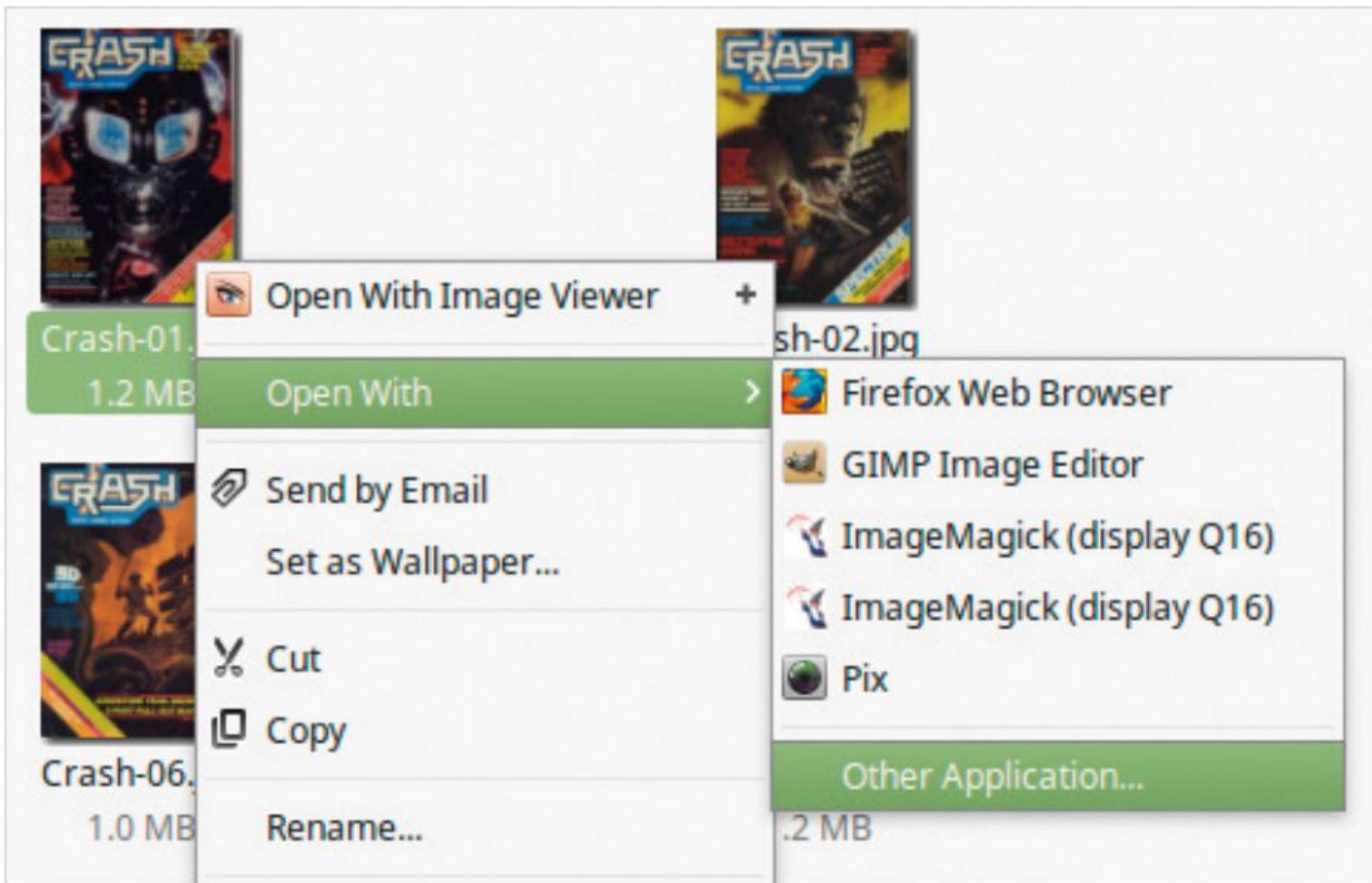
If you now double-click any video file type in Linux Mint, VLC will launch instead of the previously defined default application.

**STEP 6**

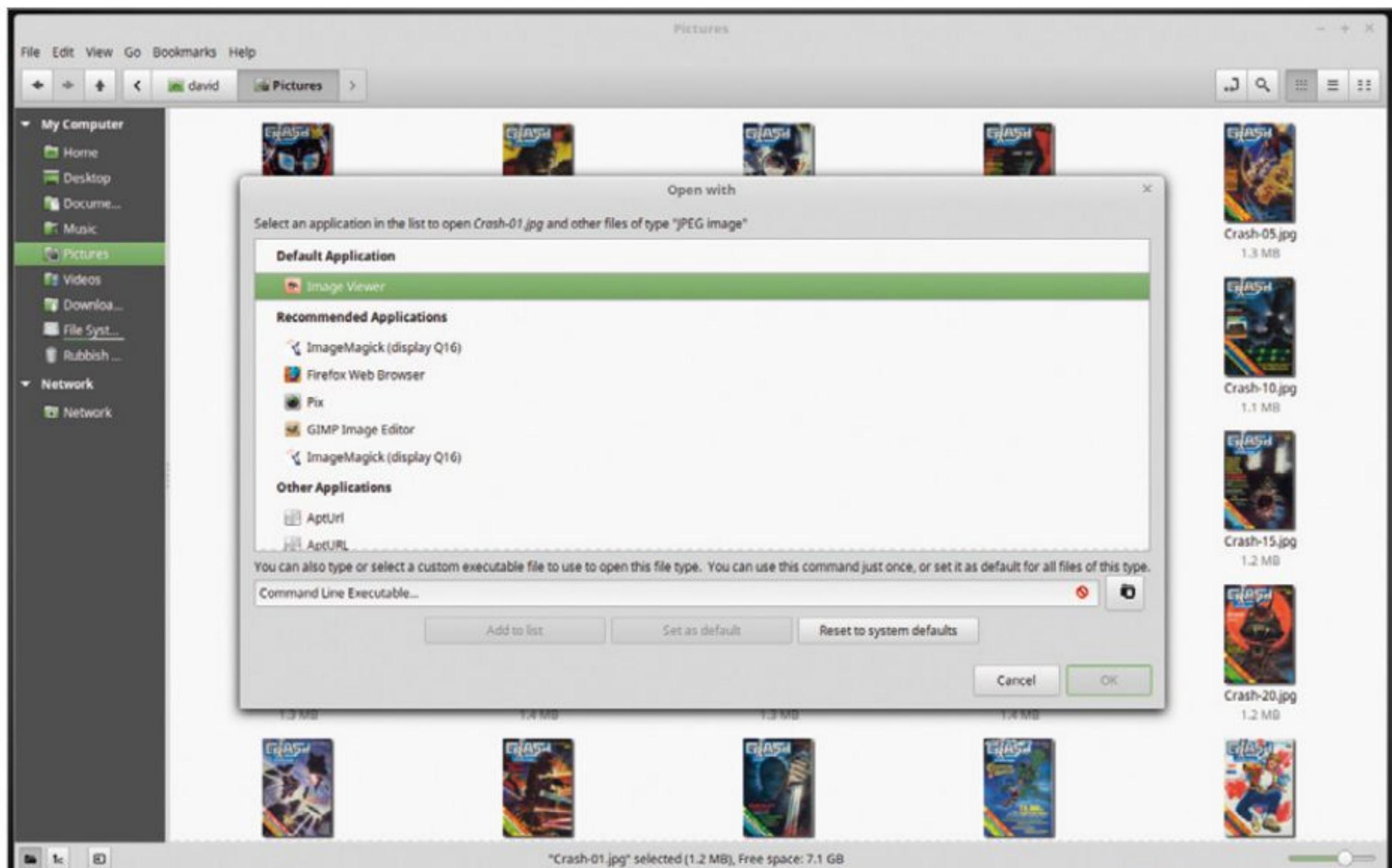
You can also define which application to use by right-clicking the file type in Nemo file manager. Picture file types are opened by Image View by default but if you wanted to change that to GIMP, for example, right-click the file and move the mouse pointer over the Open With option.

**STEP 7**

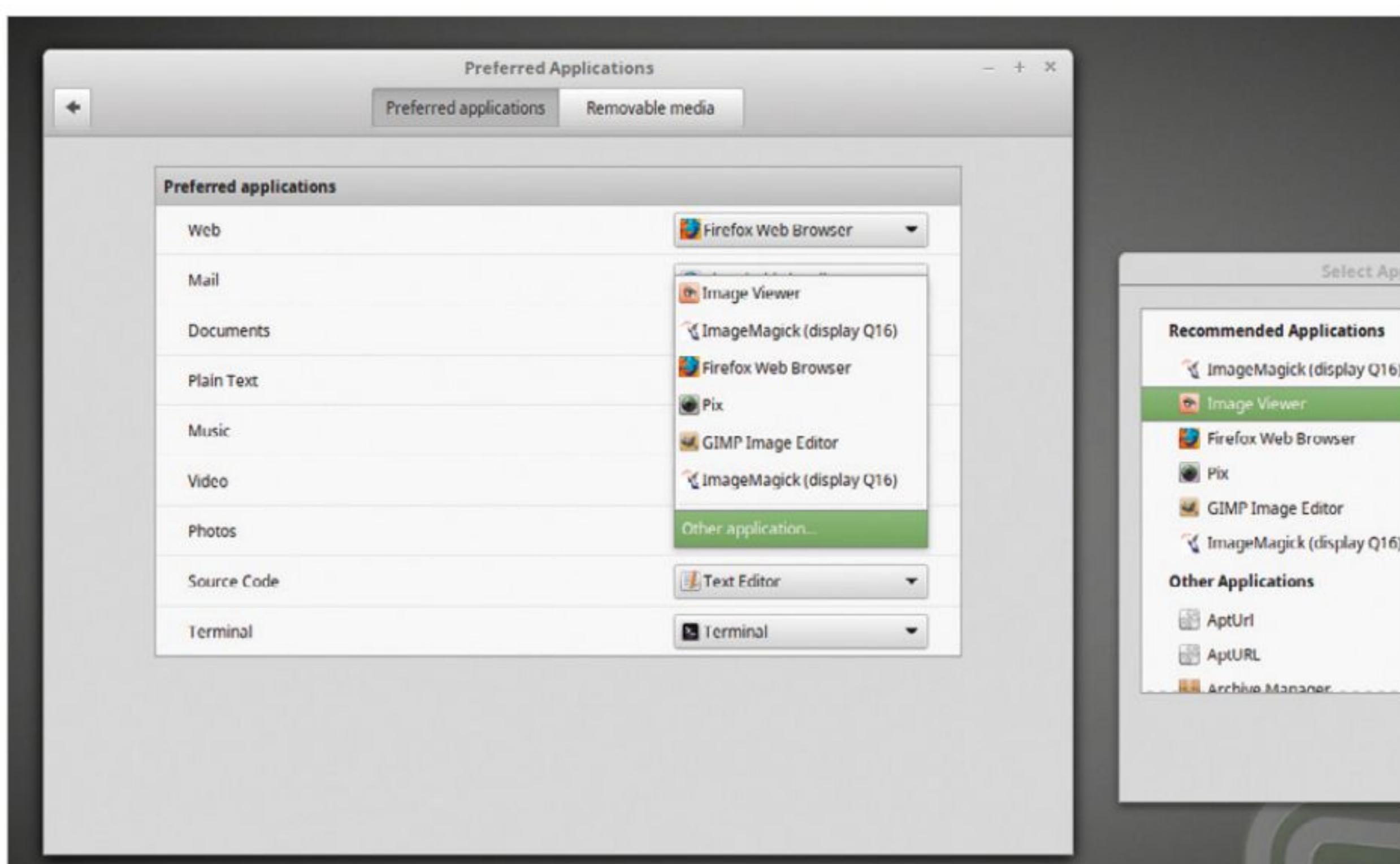
Depending on what software you have installed in the system, they are available to use when you right-click and select Open With. If for some reason there's an application you want to use, but it's not listed, click the last option in the menu: Other application.

**STEP 8**

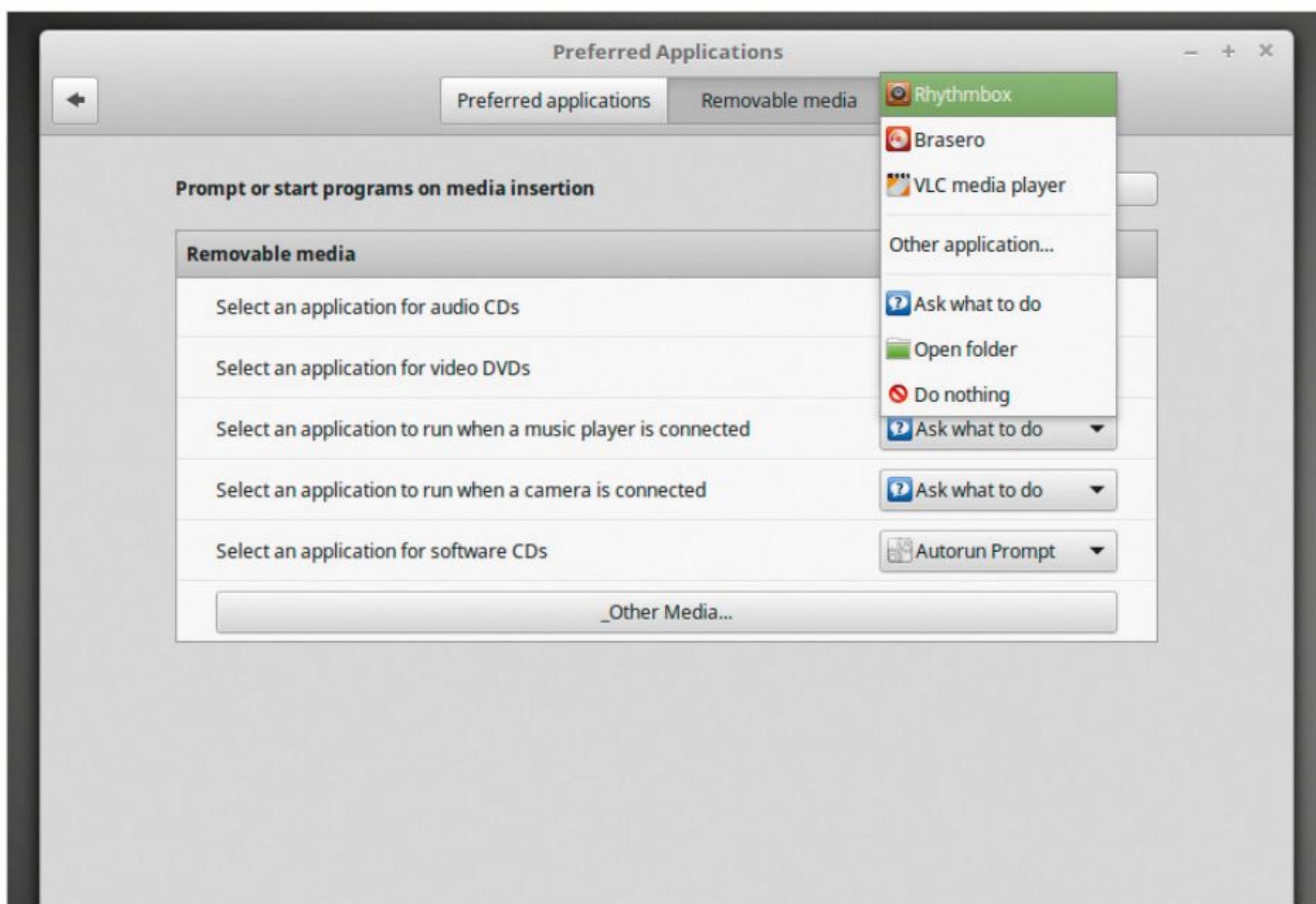
This will launch an Open With console window, where you can scroll through a list of recommended and installed application to pick the one you want to launch the file with. If you prefer, or there's a certain extension to an application that needs to be defined before opening, you can enter the command line in the box provided.

**STEP 9**

Moving back to the Preferred Applications console, you can do the same by clicking on the drop-down box next to a file type and choosing Other application. This again allows you to select an application from the list of installed software on the system.

**STEP 10**

Finally, in the Removable Media tab, in the Preferred Applications console window, you're able to choose which installed app will auto-run when a certain type of media, such as a DVD, is inserted in the computer.





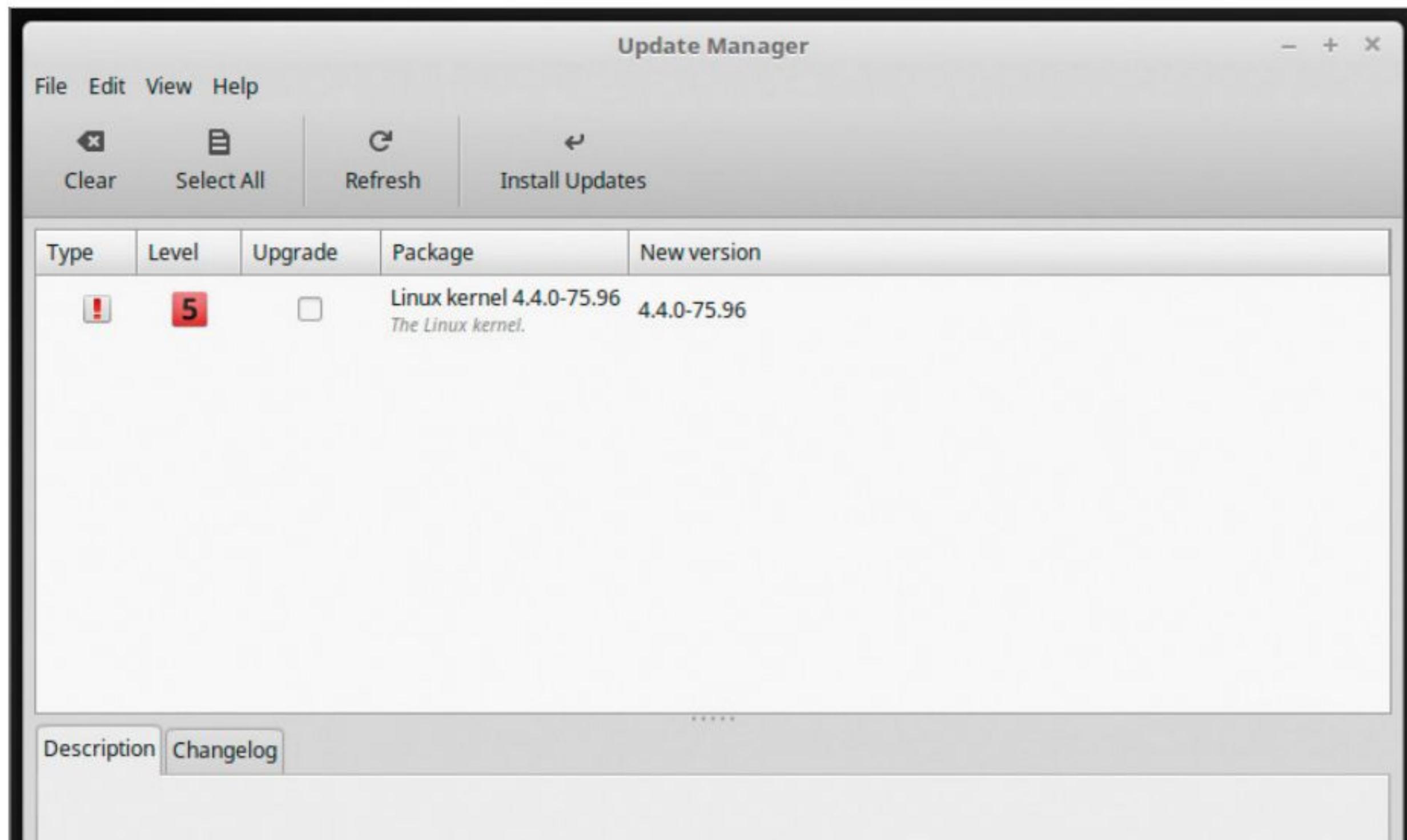
# Using and Installing Extensions

One of Cinnamon's newest Spices is Extensions, which are small programs that add something a little extra to the desktop environment. They cover Panels, dock launchers, tweaks to Cinnamon and modifications to the app windows and even the desktop itself.

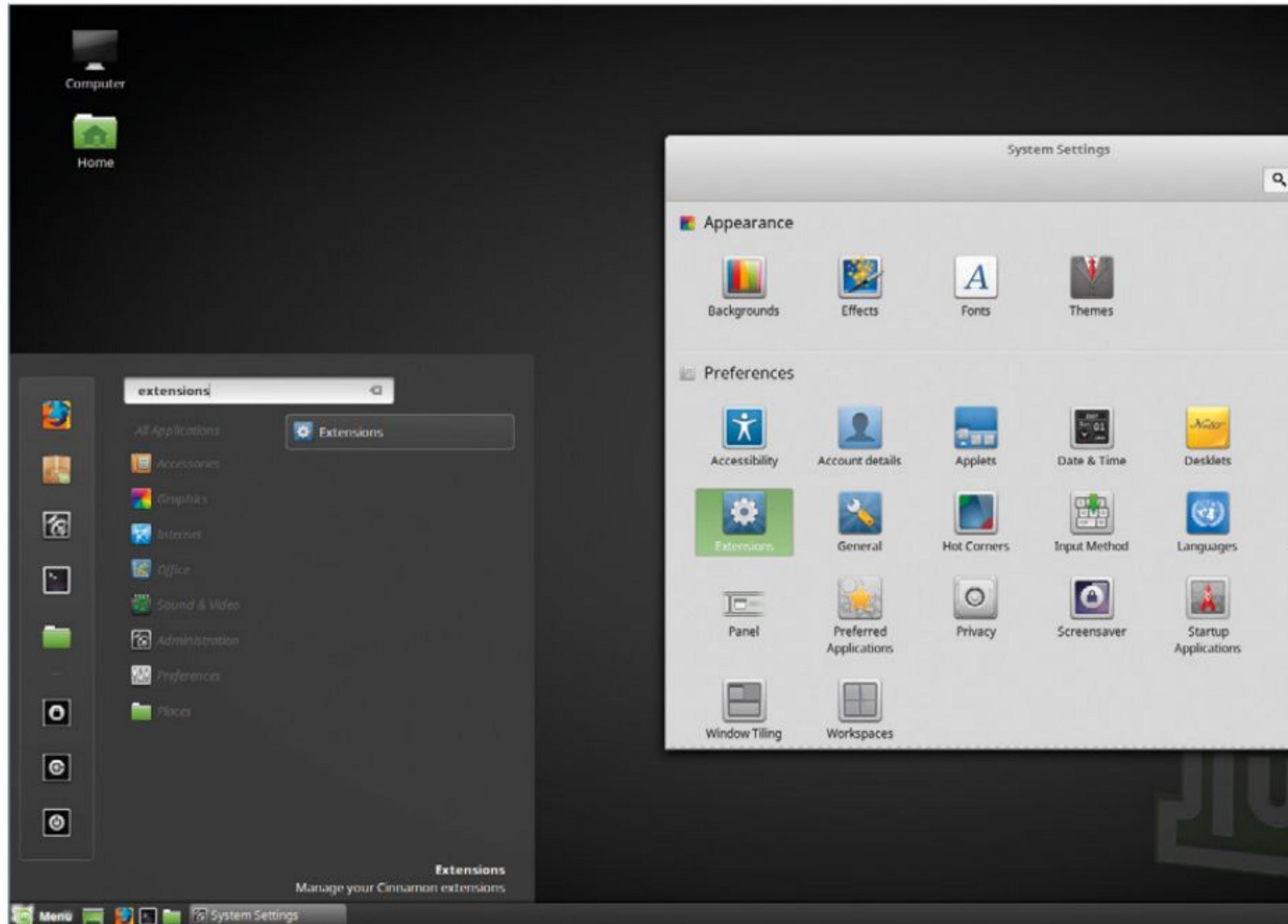
## ADDED SPICES

Extensions are being updated and added to all the time, however not always as fast as the desktop environment is being updated. Therefore, some Extensions may not work with the latest version of Cinnamon.

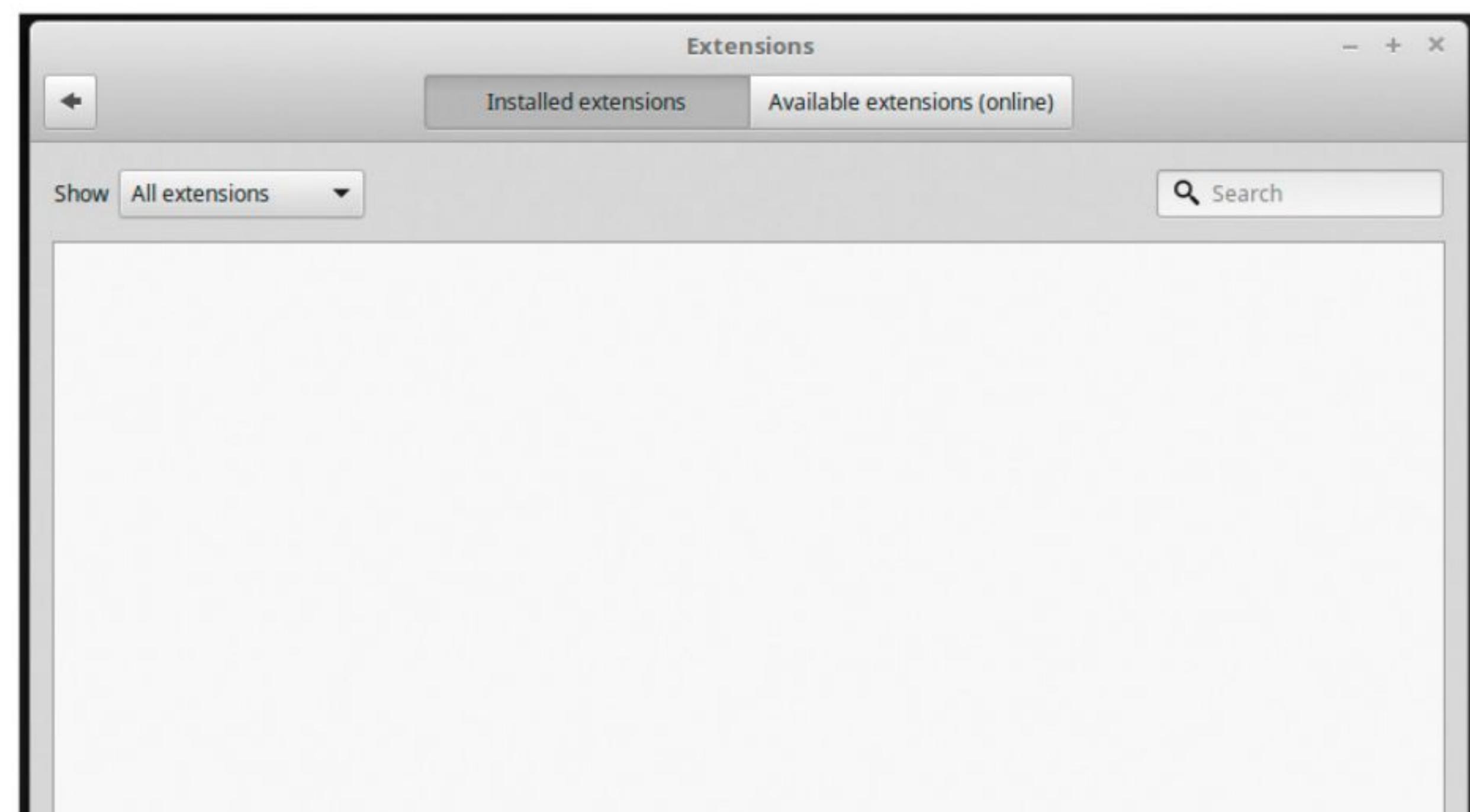
- STEP 1** As you're dealing with additions to the desktop environment it's always best to check for any updates before you proceed. As with the previous steps, look to the shield icon and launch the Mint Update Manager. Check for level-3 or less updates, apply them and restart if necessary.



- STEP 2** Once the system is upto date, access the Extensions console either by clicking on the Mint Menu and entering extensions into the search box, then click the result; or right-click the Panel > System Settings > Extensions.



- STEP 3** To begin with you won't have any Extensions installed in the system. The Extensions console window works in the same fashion as the Desklets and Applets consoles, in that one tab, Installed Extensions, will list the currently installed and either active or inactive Extensions, and the other is where you find Available Extensions (Online).

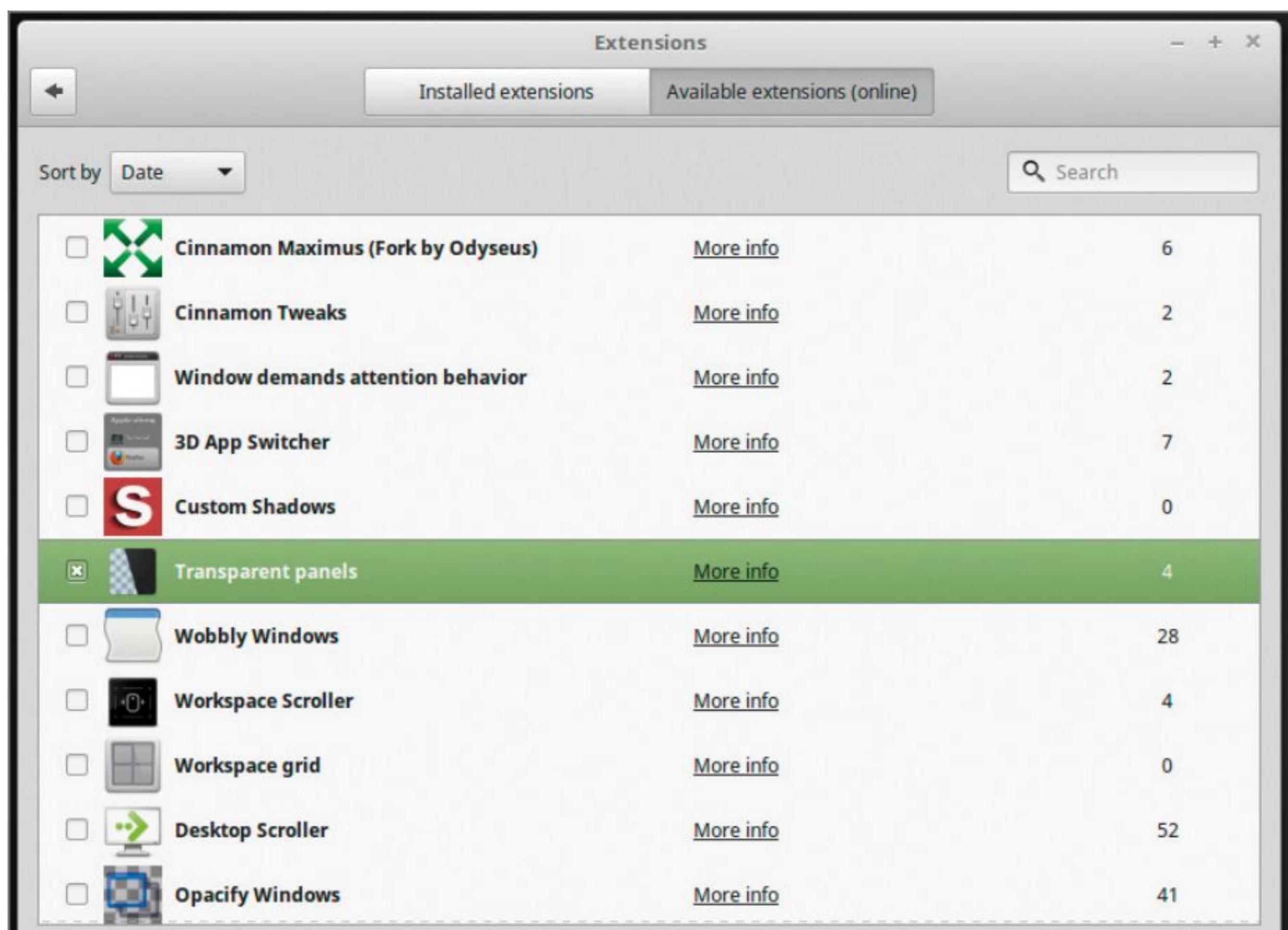


- STEP 4** Click the Available Extensions (Online) tab. This is a list of the current Extensions created by the community and provided via the Cinnamon servers (repositories). You can list and sort the available Extensions by Name, Popularity and Date; or search for something specific via the search text box.

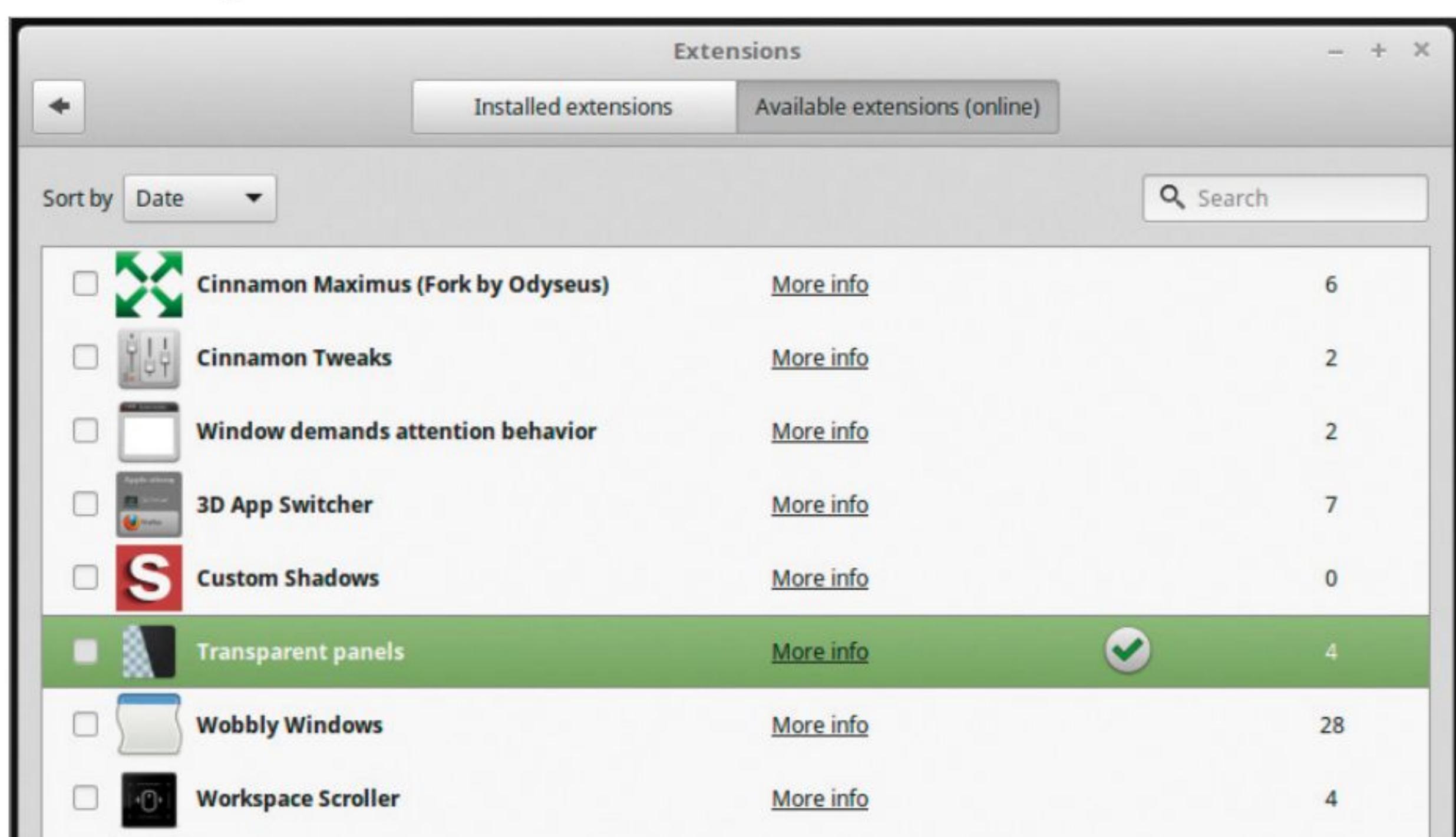
Name	Popularity	Date
Cinnamon Maximus (Fork by Odysseus)	More info	6
Cinnamon Tweaks	More info	2
Window demands attention behavior	More info	2
3D App Switcher	More info	7
Custom Shadows	More info	0
Transparent panels	More info	4
Wobbly Windows	More info	28
Workspace Scroller	More info	4
Workspace grid	More info	0
Desktop Scroller	More info	52

**STEP 5**

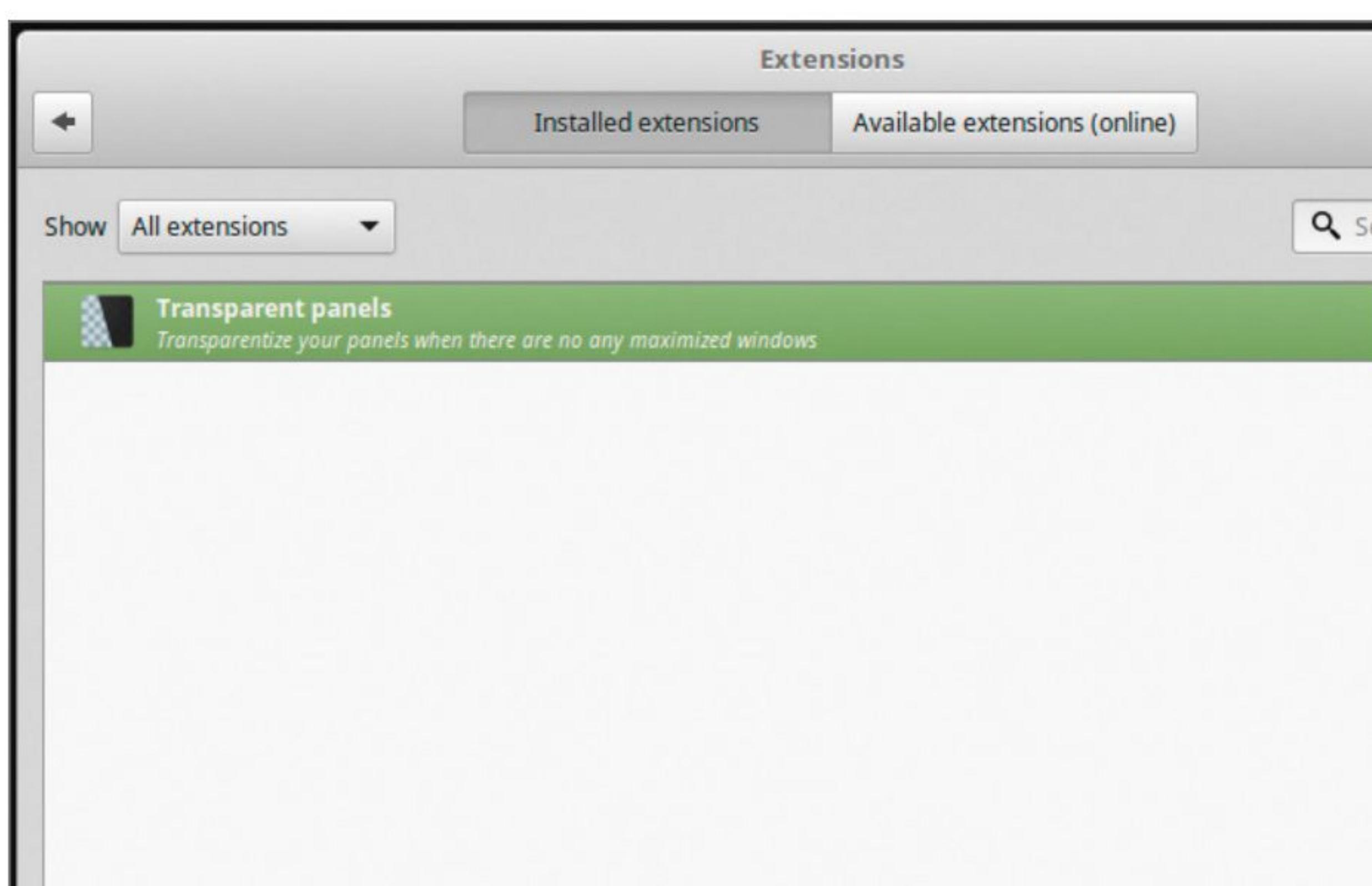
Click the Sort By drop-down box and choose Date. Somewhere near the top you can see the Transparent Panels Entry, click the box next to it to highlight it and mark it for installation.

**STEP 6**

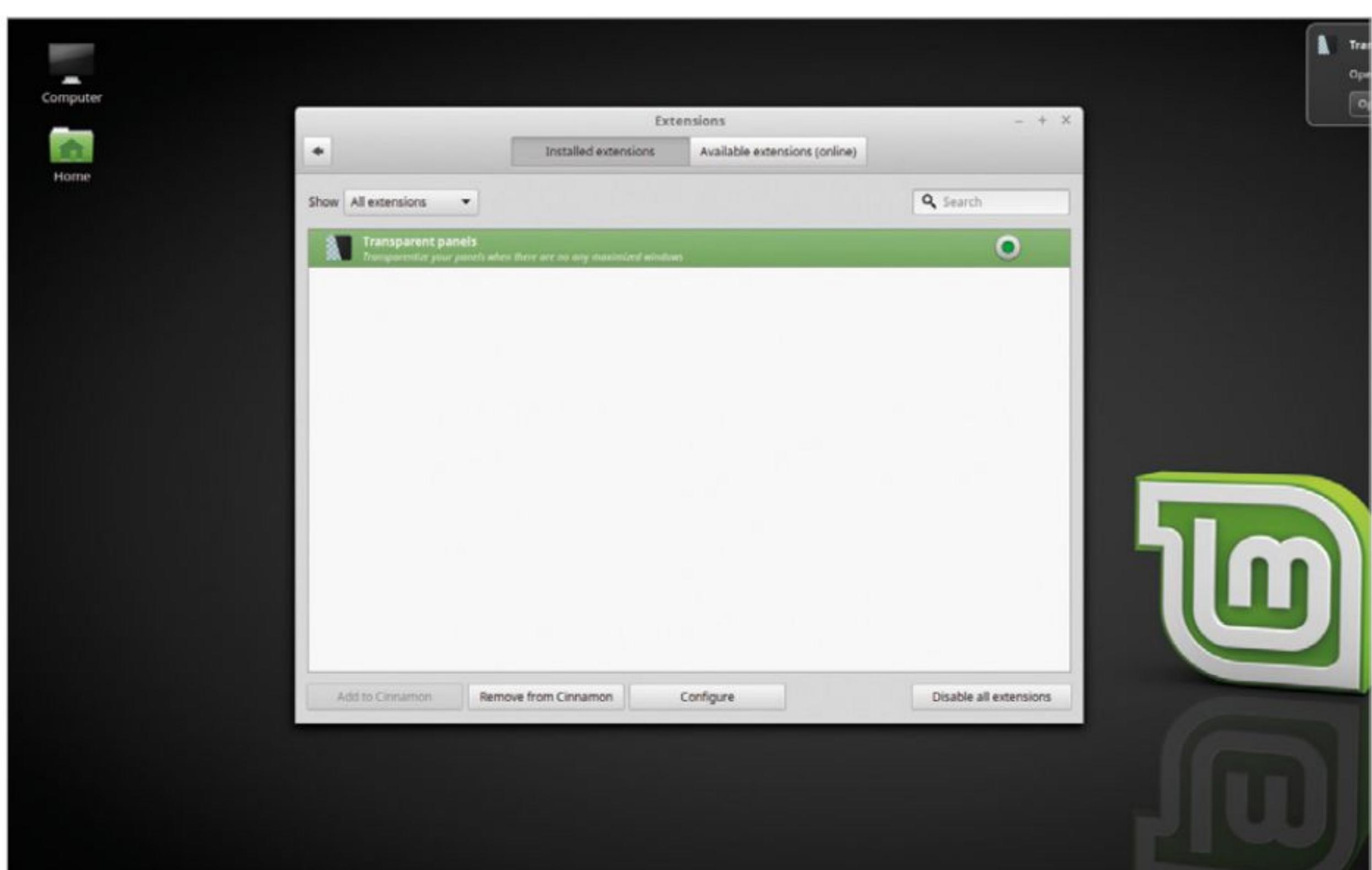
Next click the Install or update selected items button, located at the bottom of the Extensions console window. This will download and install the Transparent Panels Extension, which won't take long as it's a small addition to the desktop environment. You can see a green tick in the console when it's successfully installed.

**STEP 7**

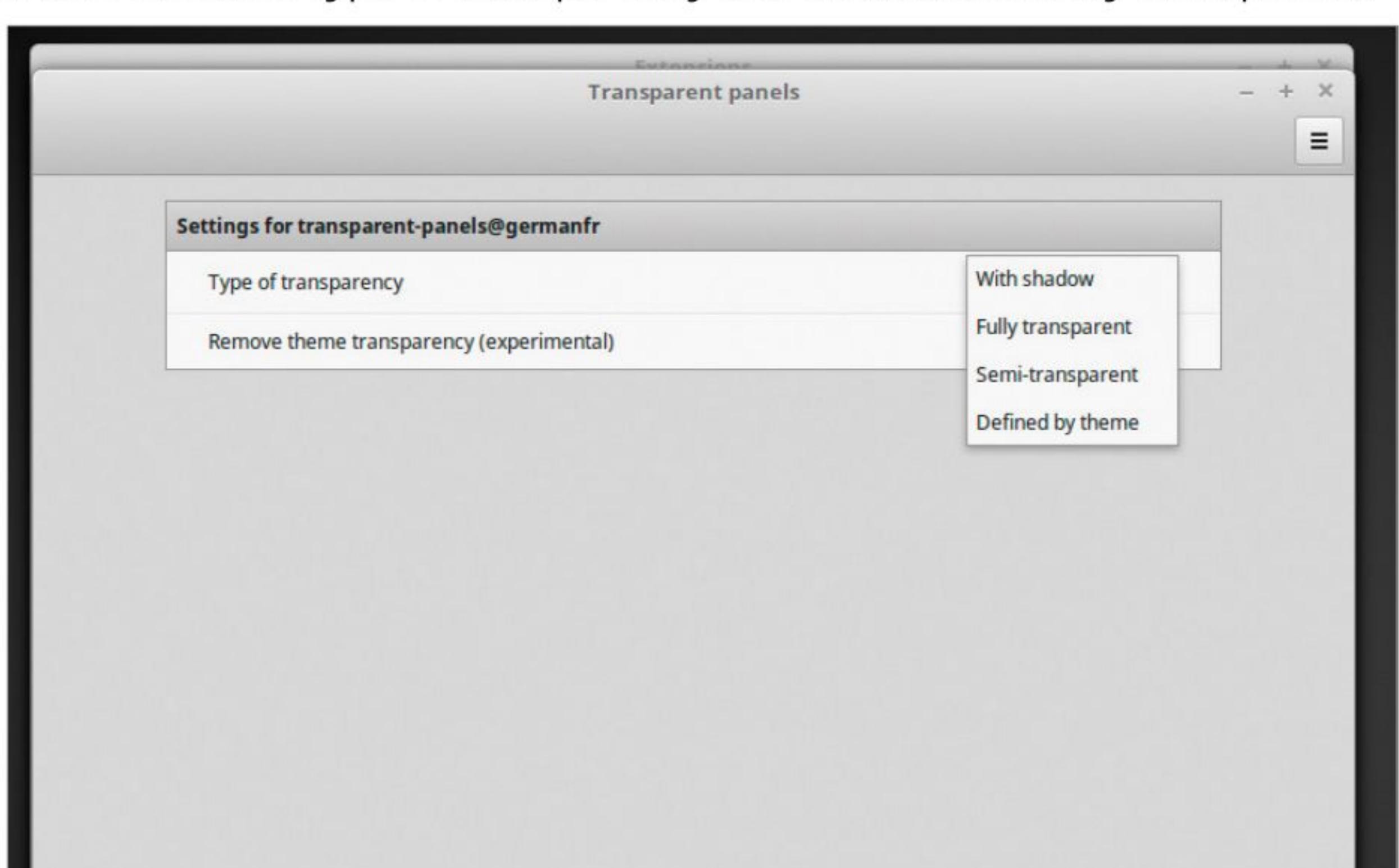
Click back into the Installed Extensions tab and the Transparent Panels Extension will be displayed. Click to highlight it, and click the Add to Cinnamon button at the bottom of the console window.

**STEP 8**

Depending on the Extension, and how it's programmed, you either get a notification (as in this case) asking you to Open Settings, or you need to click the Configure button on the Extensions console to activate launch keys or set up the Extension. In this example, click the Open Settings box that appears as a notification.

**STEP 9**

The Transparent Panels Extension, as you've no doubt already guessed, makes the Panel transparent, allowing the desktop wallpaper to be visible behind the Panel icons. With this Extension you have very few options, whereas others have considerably more. Click the Type of transparency box and set it to Fully Transparent.

**STEP 10**

Close the console windows and, if you haven't already, change your desktop background. You can see that your Panel is now fully transparent, and looking quite cool. Not all Extensions run this smoothly but most do. It's worth experimenting and trying out different Extensions to see which works best for you.





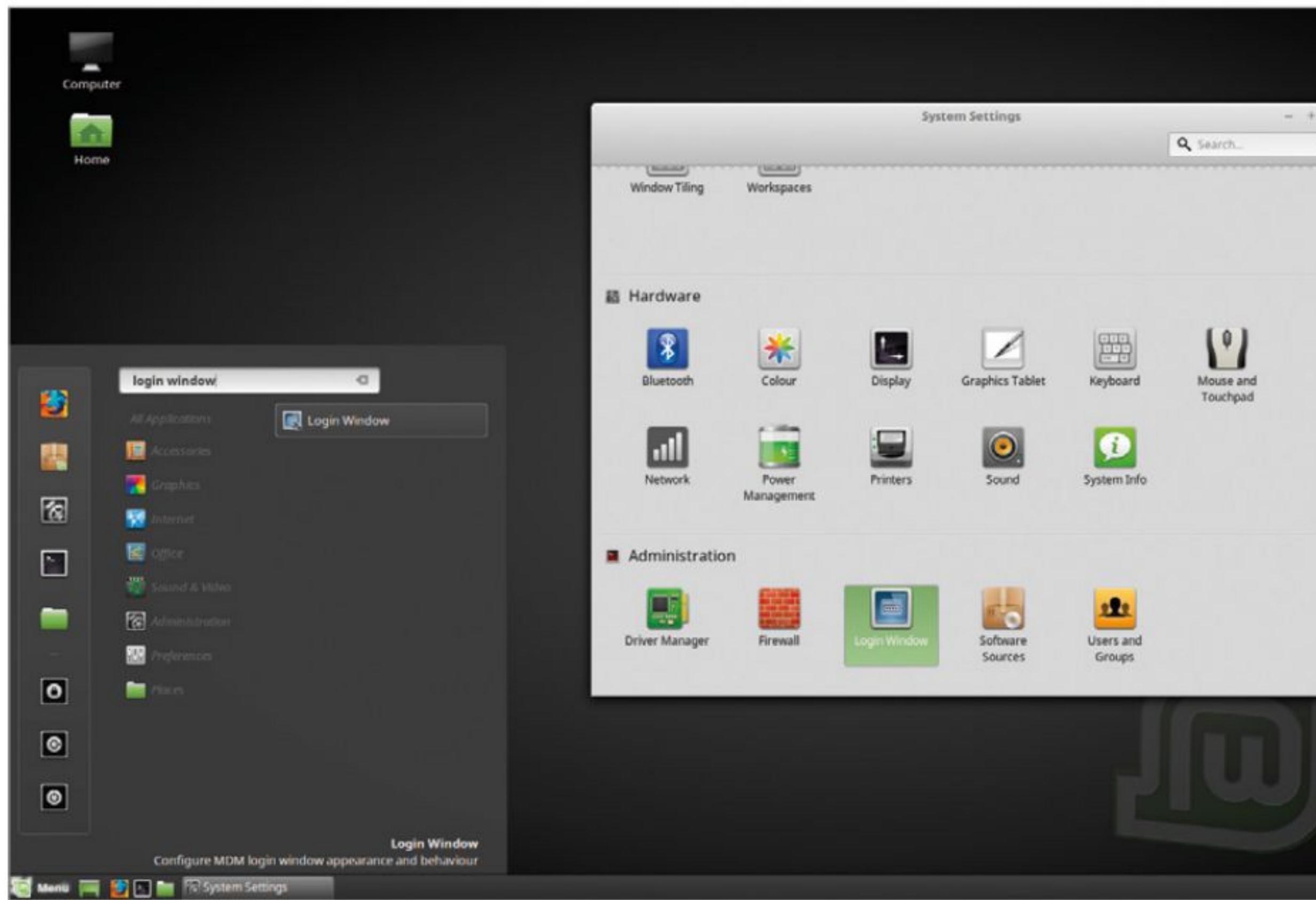
# Change the Mint Login Window

You may be asking yourself why you'd want to change the Linux Mint Login Window, after all, it works just fine. The answer is simply: because you can. Linux Mint is a highly configurable system that can be changed and personalised easily.

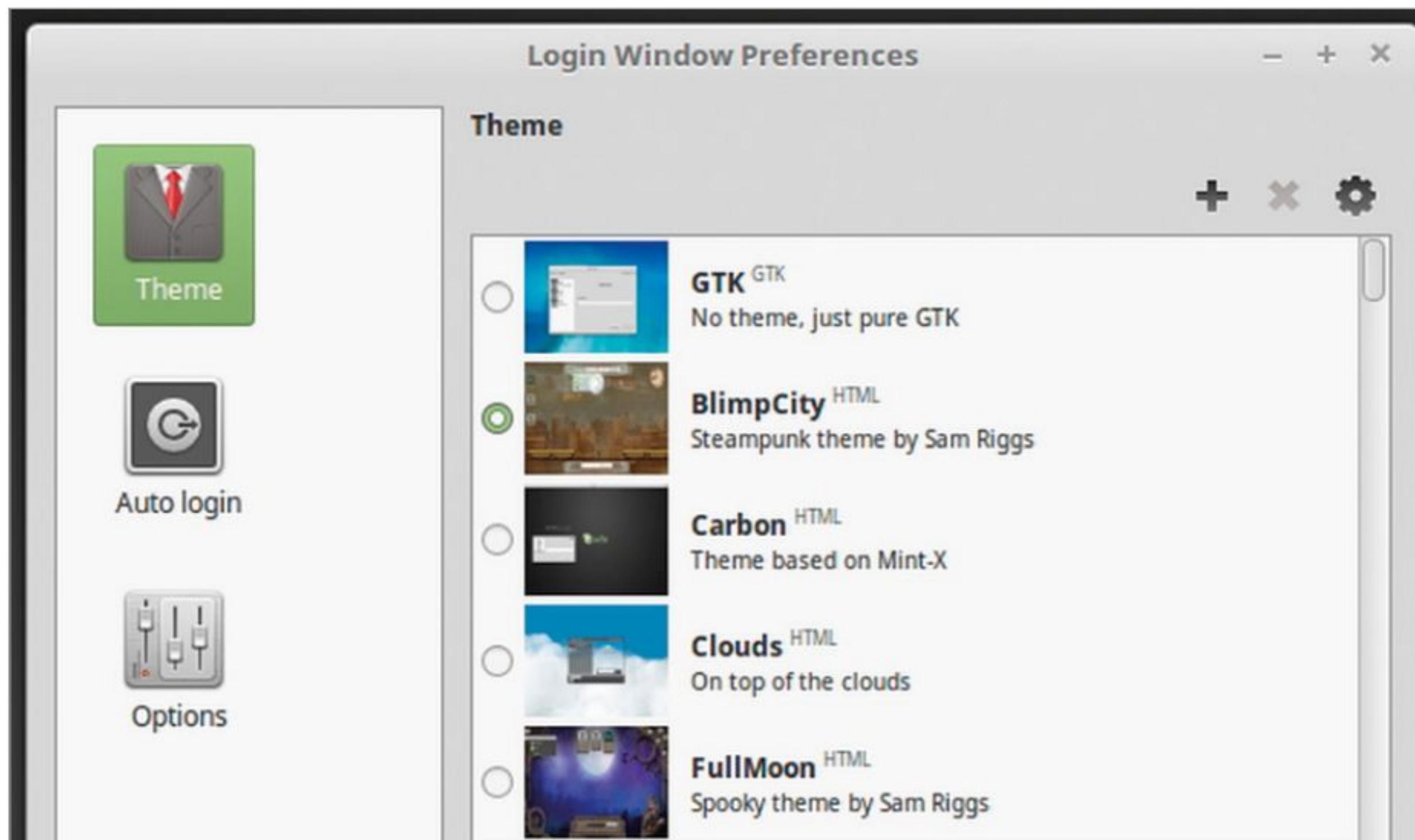
## FANCY LOGINS

There's a huge range of options available when it comes to changing the Linux Mint Login Window. In fact, you could spend a fair amount of time choosing the backdrop and tweaking its settings.

**STEP 1** We need to open the Login Window Preferences console to be able to edit the login settings. To do this either click the Mint Menu and search for login window, then click the returned result. You can also right-click the Panel > System Settings > Login Window, found at the bottom under Administration.



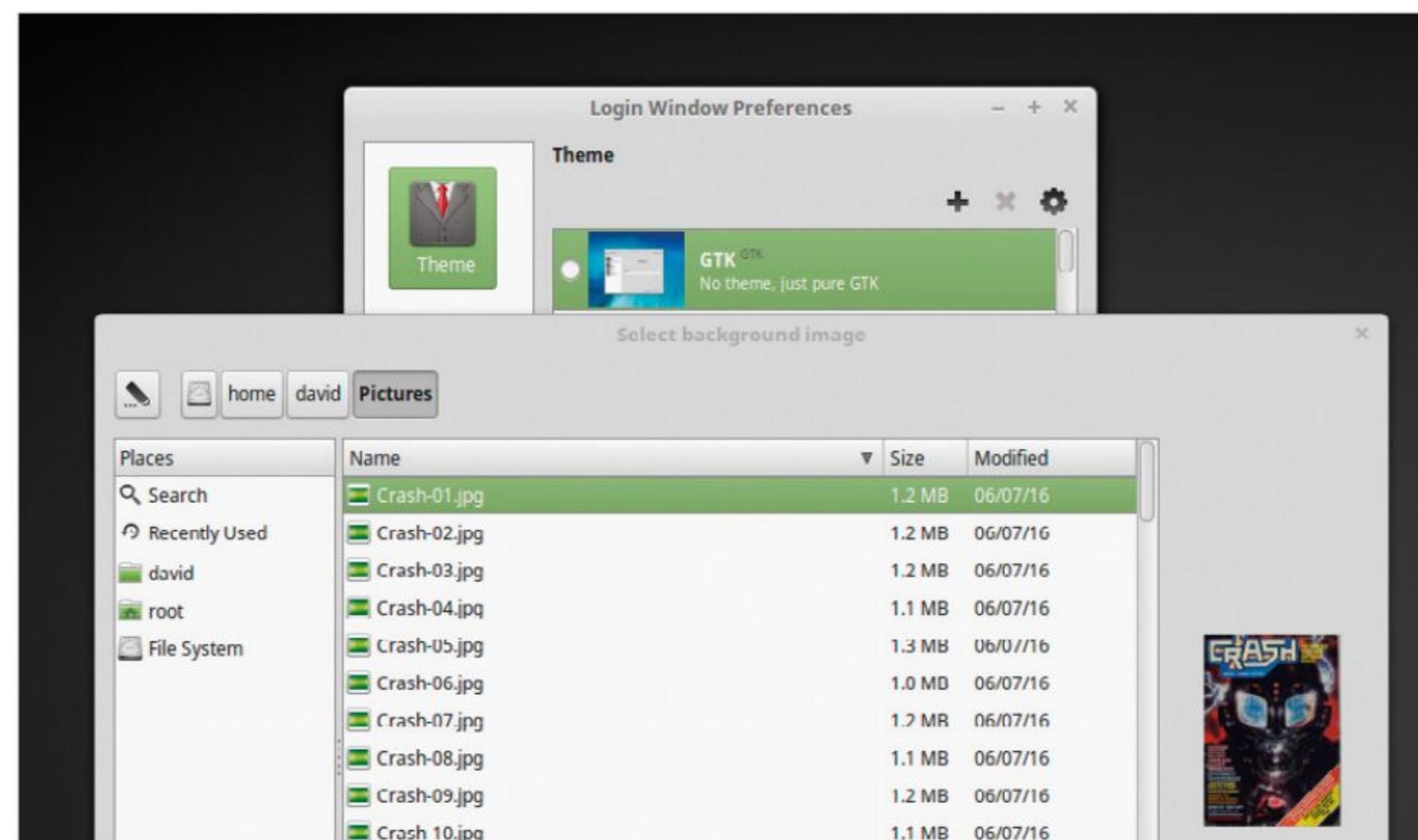
**STEP 2** You need to enter your password to continue to the Login Window Preferences console. Once it's loaded up, you can see there's a fair amount you can tweak. At first glance, there are options to the left-hand side: Theme, Auto-login and Options. The right-hand side displays the contents of these sidebar settings.



**STEP 3** Starting with the Theme setting, we have a collection of available themes on the right in a scroll-down window. There are plenty to choose from, just click the radio button next to the one you want to preview and click the cog icon in the top right. This will launch a preview screen, click the x in the corner to close it.

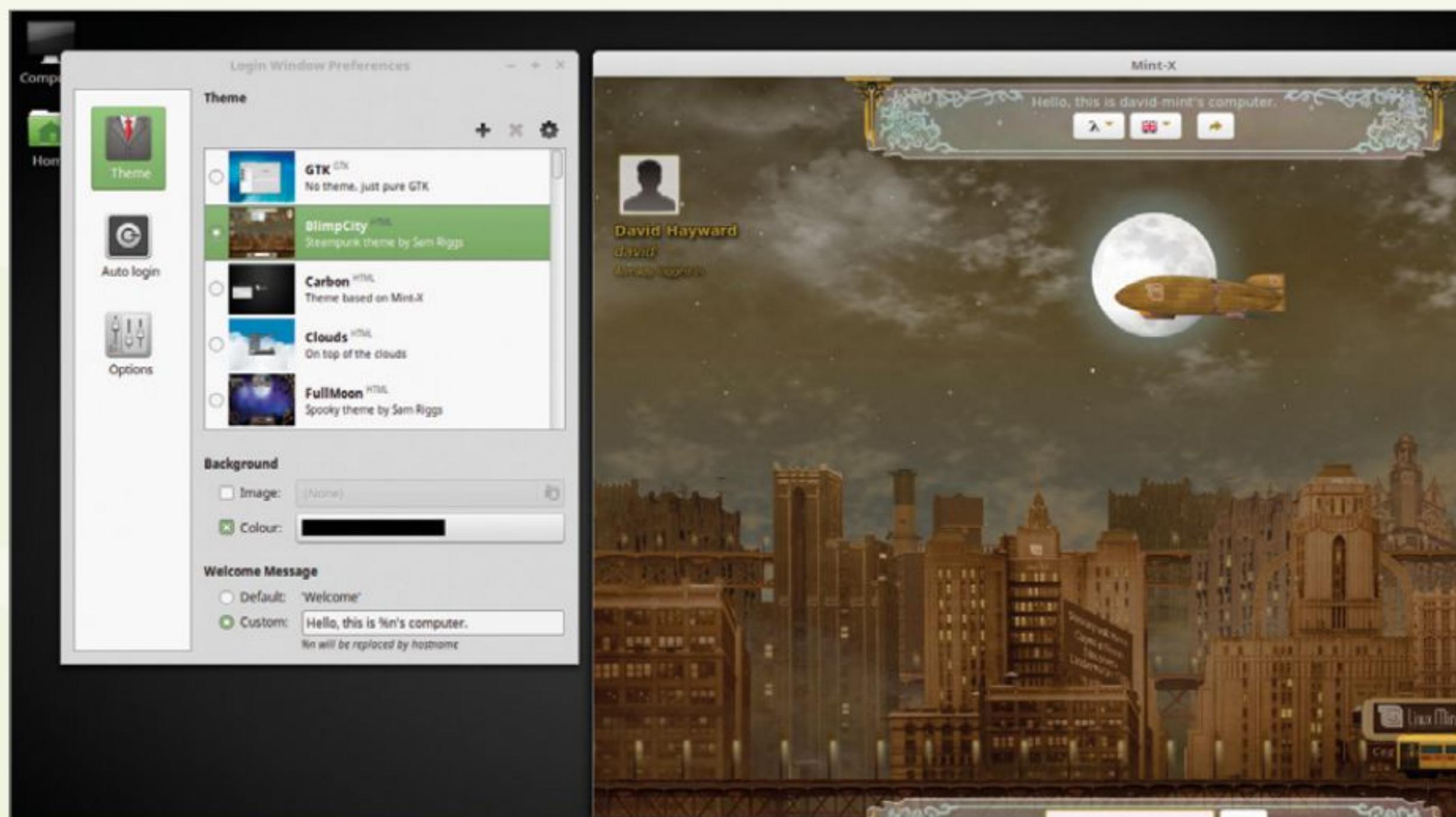


**STEP 4** You can see that a lot of the available themes are animated, whereas some feature a fantastic image or present a simple, clean interface. You can even choose your own images as the background picture. Click to tick the Image option below the themes and use the box opposite to locate your desired image.

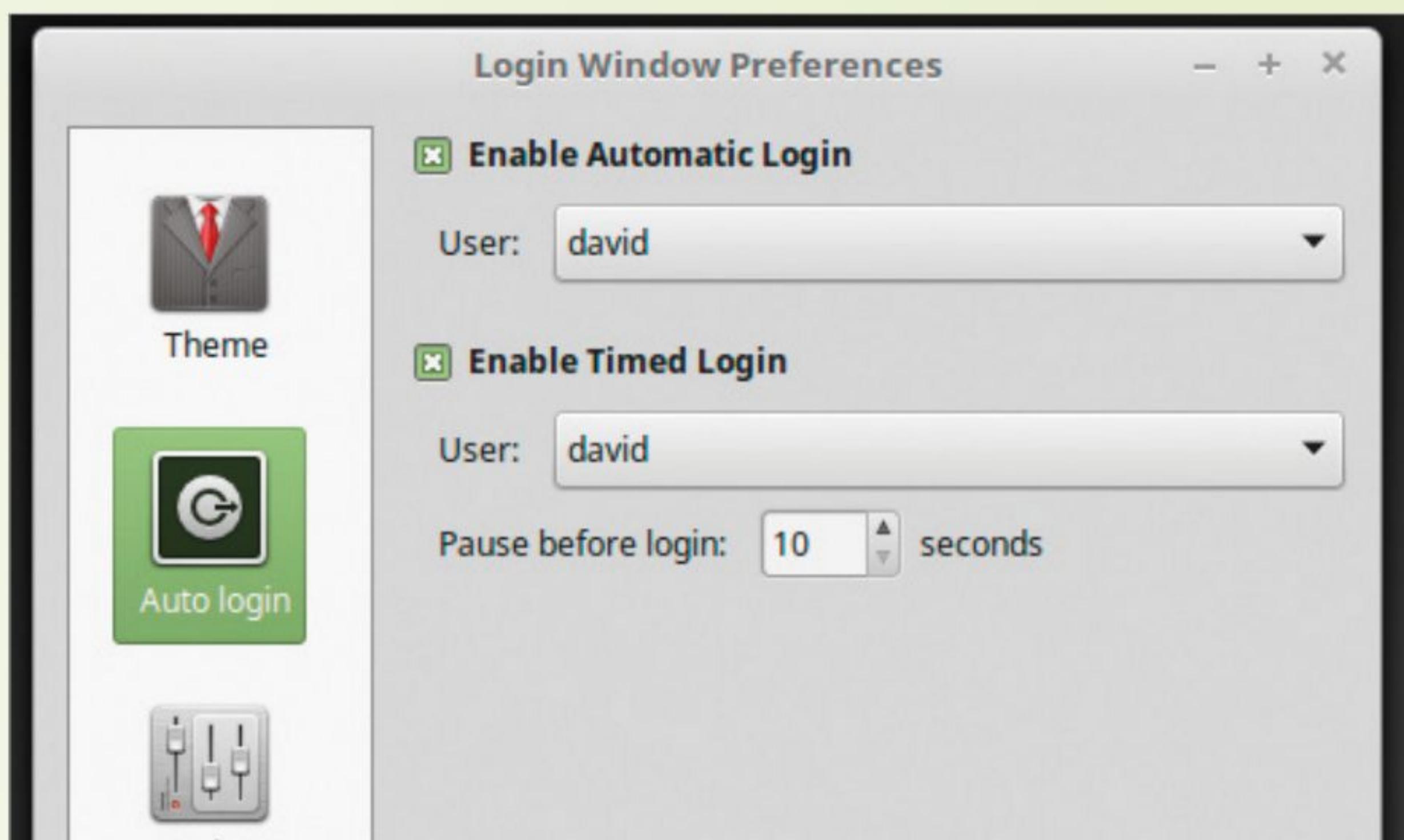


**STEP 5**

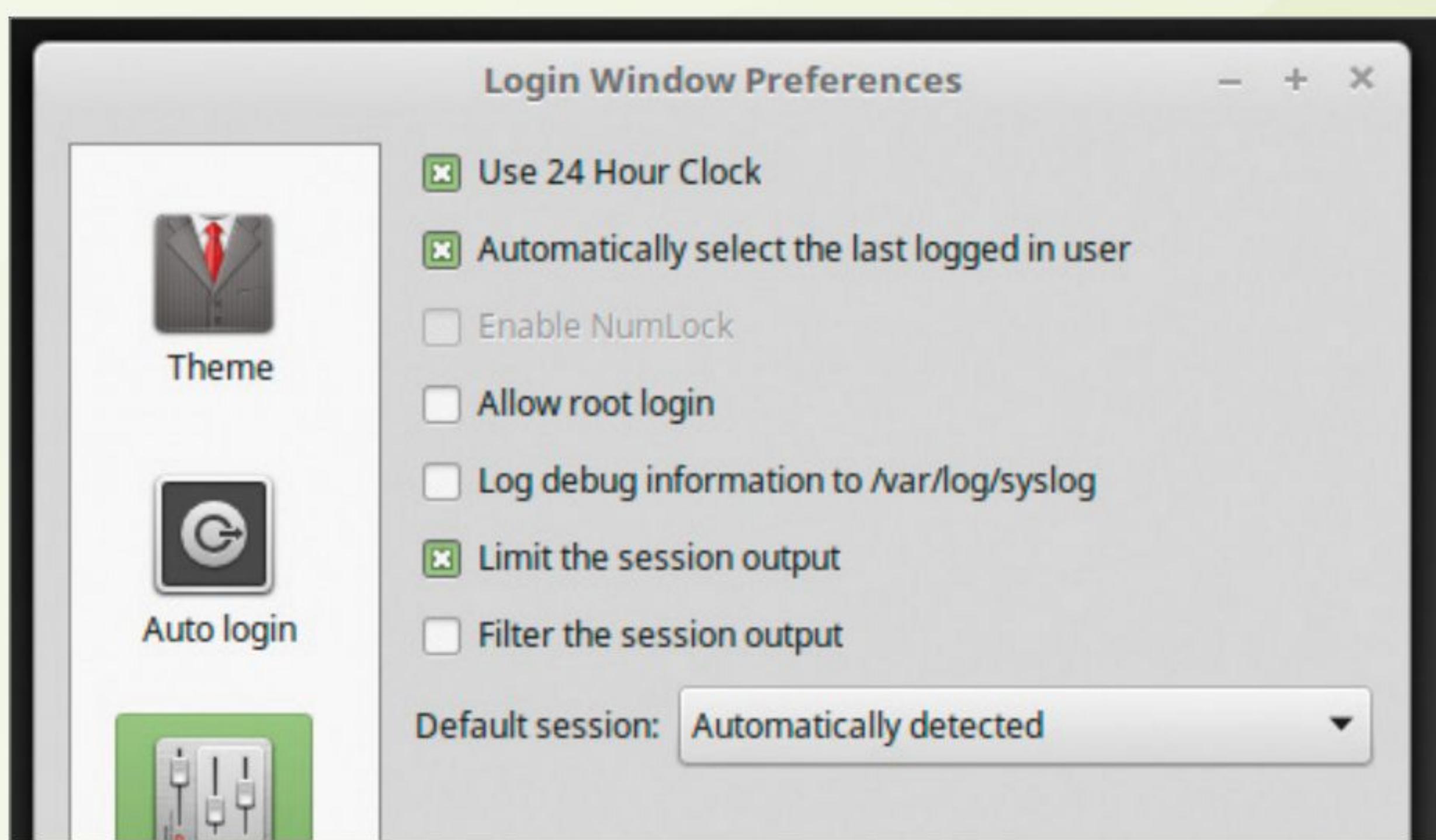
Furthermore, under the Welcome Message section, you're able to enter a custom message. Click the radio button next to Custom and type in your message. You can use the system variable %n to display the name of the computer and preview the message via the cog icon. In this example, we've used: Hello, this is %n's computer.

**STEP 6**

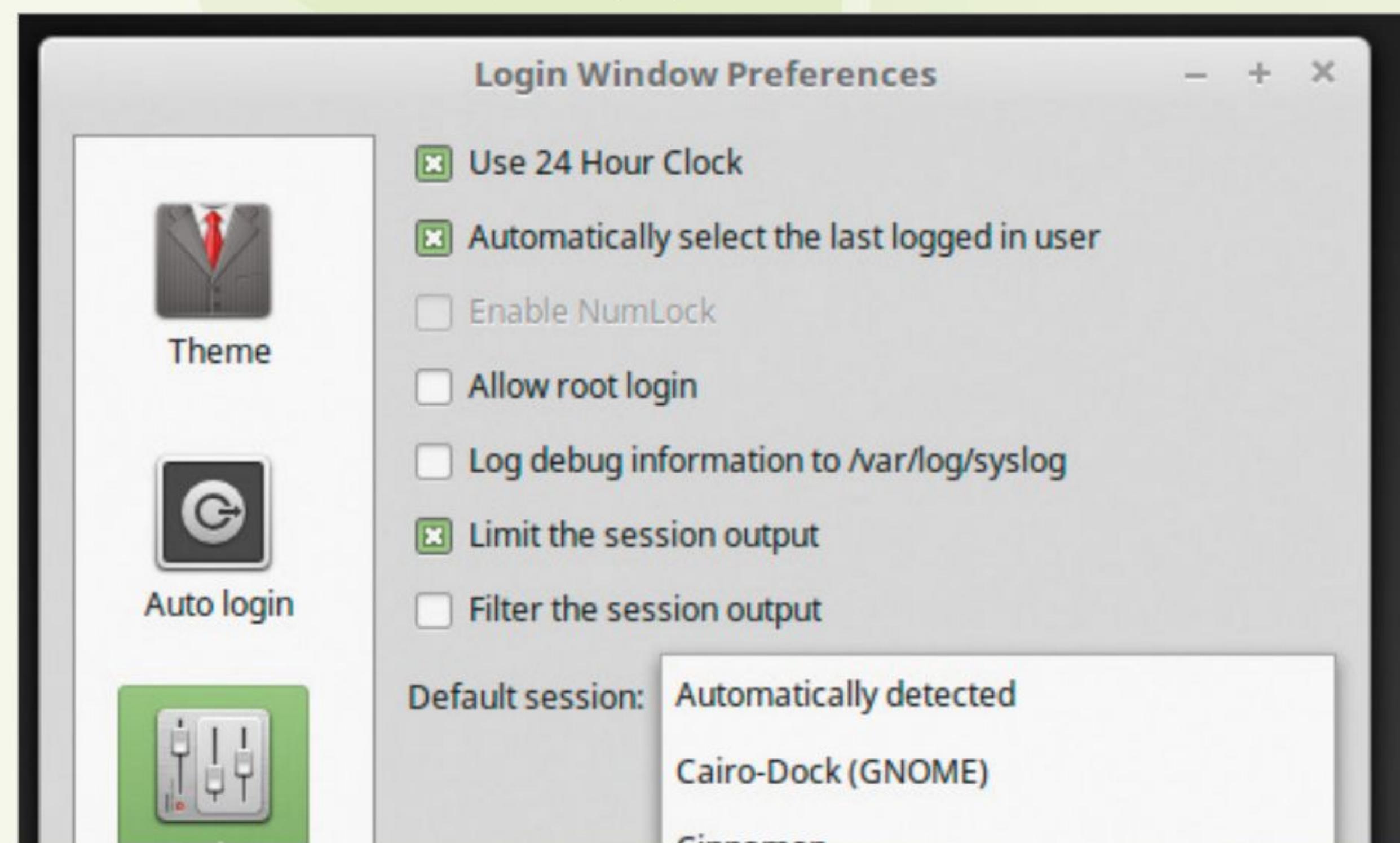
Moving on, click the Auto-login setting from the left-hand sidebar. This obviously, allows you to enable or disable the auto-login function, as well as a timed login. If you disable auto-login, you can set the timed login to automatically login any of the available users you've set up in Linux Mint to login after a set period.

**STEP 7**

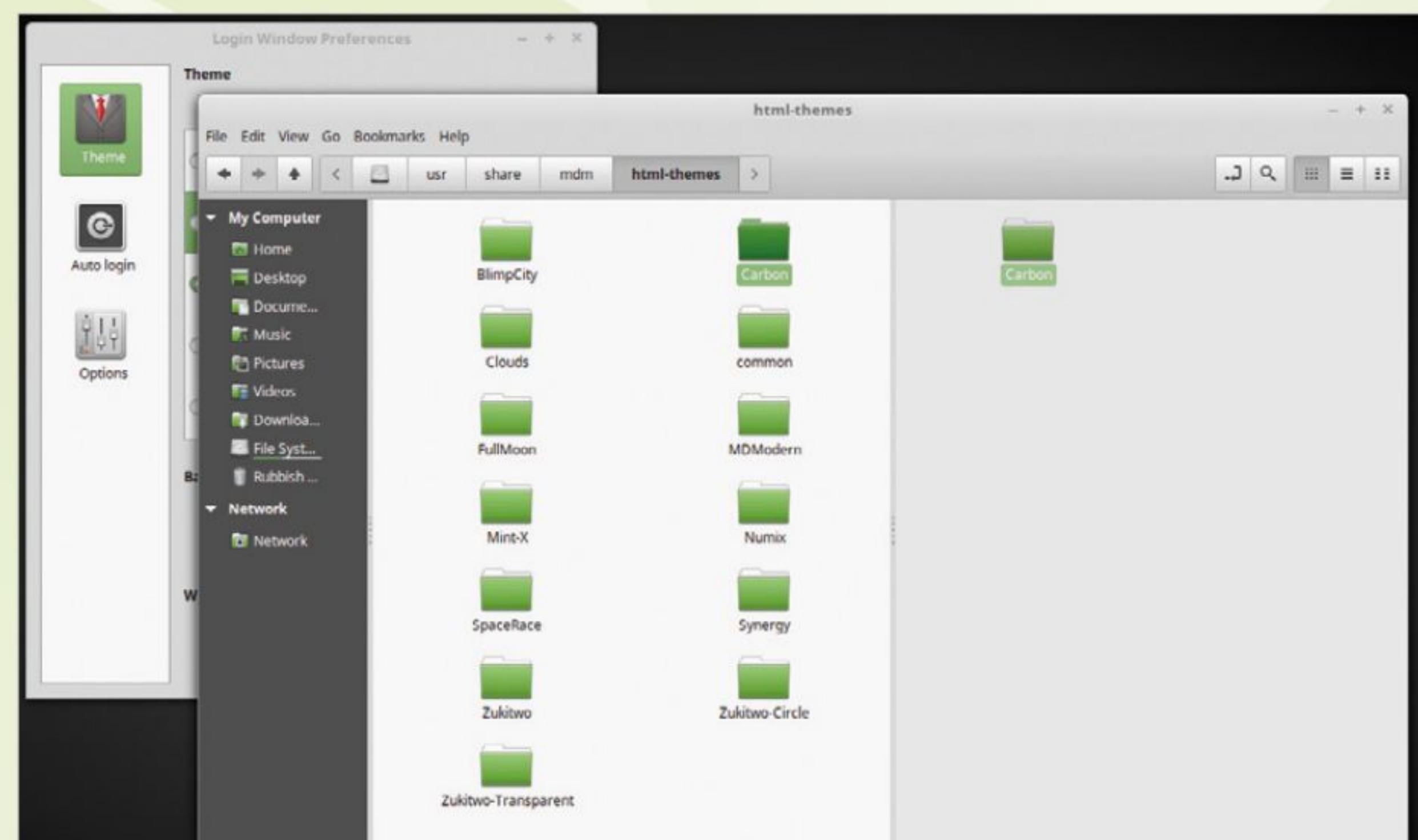
The next setting in the sidebar, Options, enables you to further configure the way your users will log into Linux Mint. In here you can set the format of the clock that's displayed on the login screen, automatically select the last logged in user, allow Root (administrator) login (not recommended) and limit the number of session errors displayed.

**STEP 8**

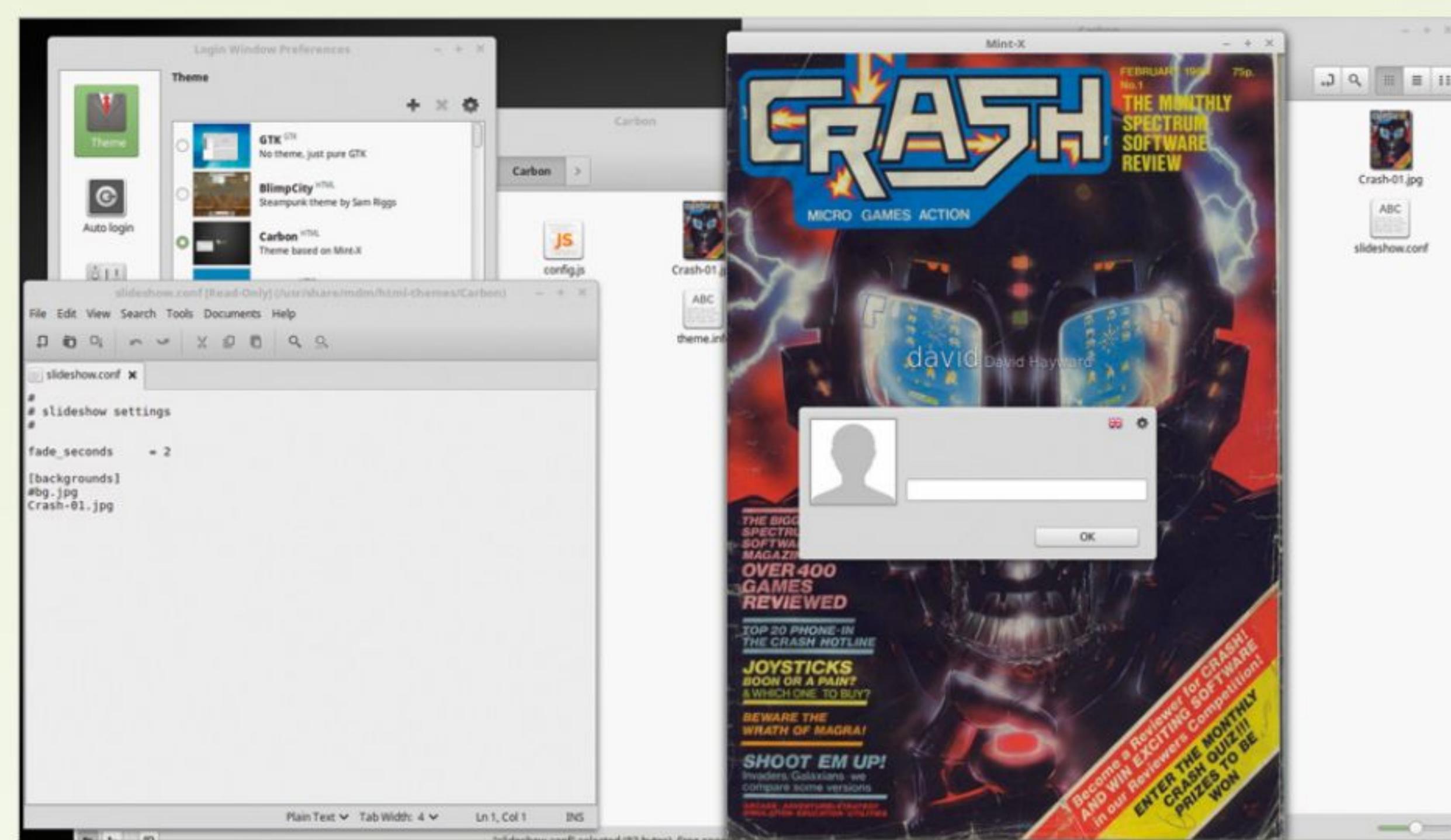
In addition to all that, you can also set a default session type. This option allows you to choose which desktop environment you want to login to. If you installed any extra DEs on top of Cinnamon, such as Enlightenment DE, then you can choose it from this list. Otherwise, it displays the default environment.

**STEP 9**

It is possible to further customise a current login theme. The Theme files are stored in /usr/share/mdm/html-themes. These are for the HTML-based themes. If you copy the folder of the theme you're interested in hacking, such as Carbon, to an area in your Home folder you can access the contents without damaging the active theme.

**STEP 10**

The HTML themes are a mixture of files, JavaScript, images, HTML pages and so on. You can, for example, edit the slideshow.conf file, and include your own image instead of the bg.jpg default image. Clicking the cog will reveal the changes once you've copied everything back over to the theme's locations.





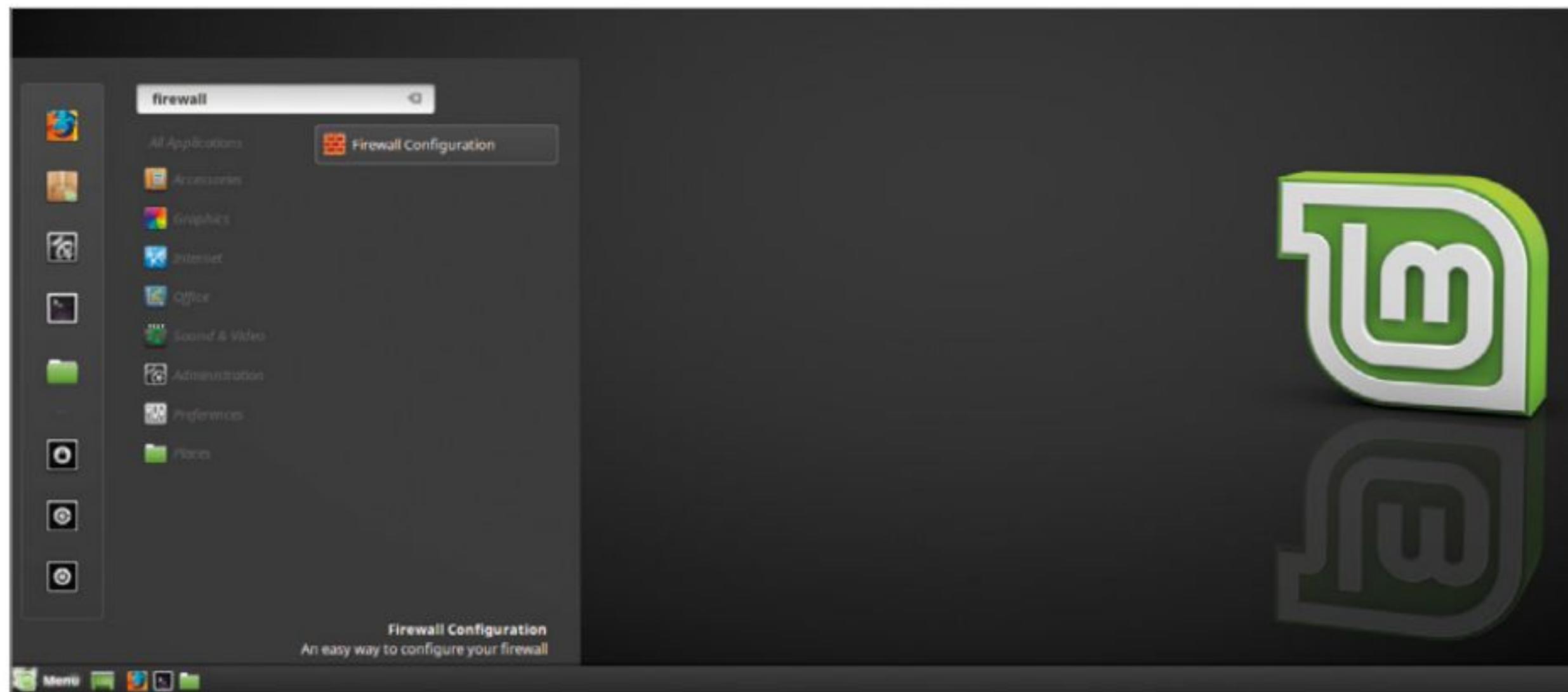
# Using the Mint Firewall

From a technical standpoint, a firewall is a barrier against which any unauthorised service will come up against when attempting to gain access to your system. Mint comes preinstalled with a firewall, so let's look at it in more depth.

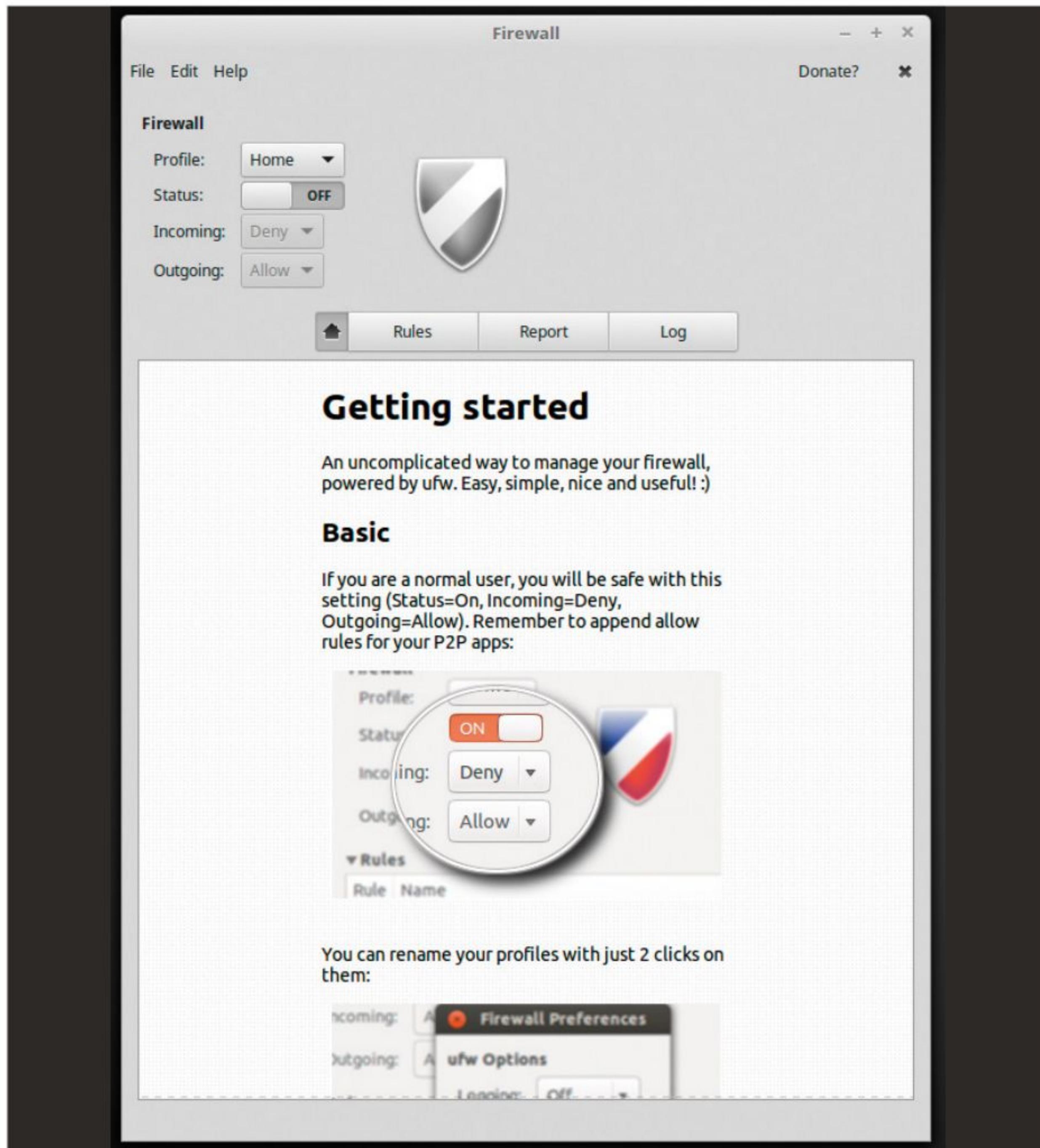
## UNCOMPLICATED FIREWALL

The Linux Mint Firewall is simply a graphical interface to the Linux Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW). However, at times UFW can be anything but uncomplicated. In fact, it's actually quite complex.

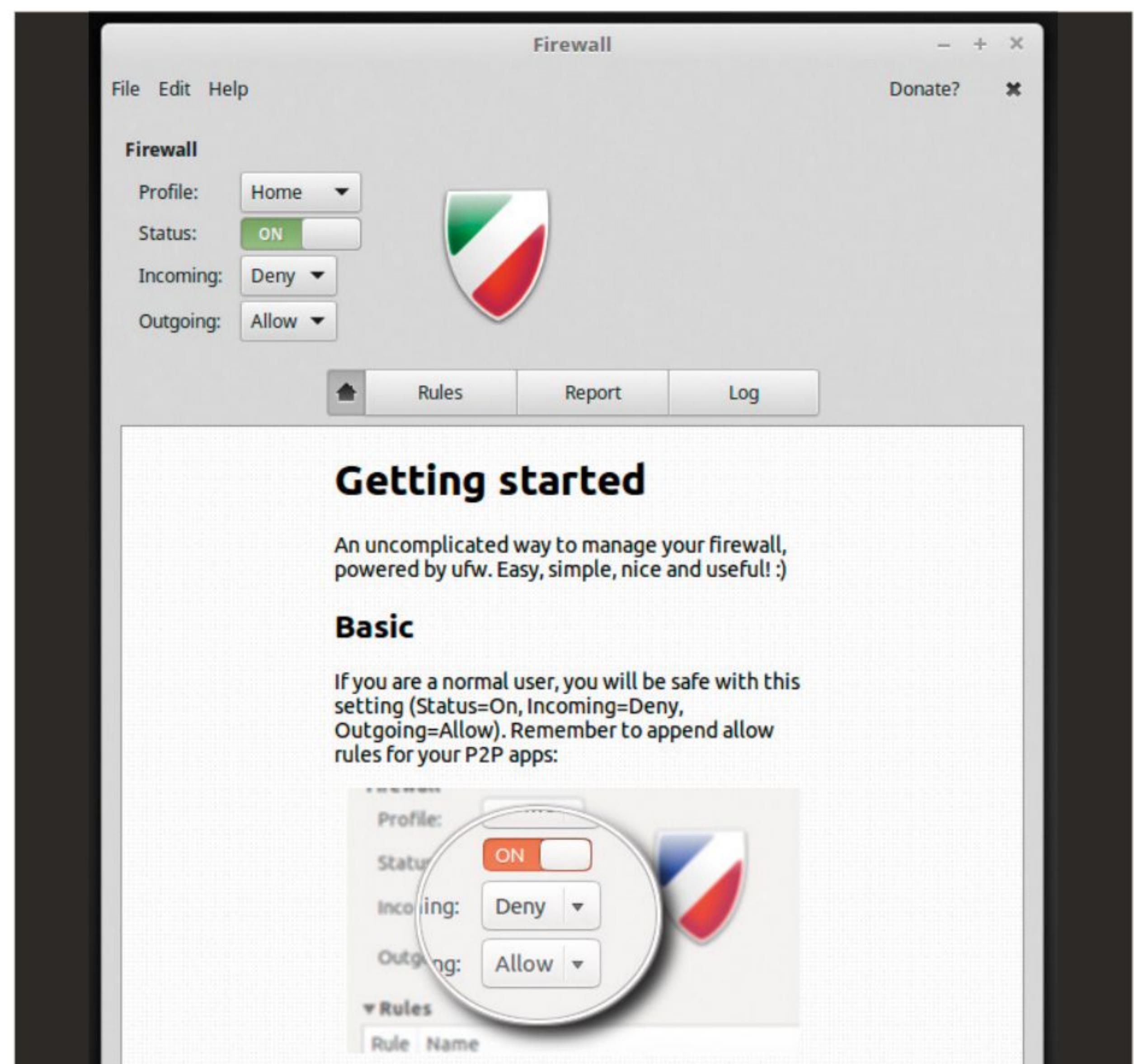
- STEP 1** If you haven't already activated the Linux Mint Firewall, as we covered in the 10 Things To Do After... sections, do so now by clicking on the Menu and typing firewall into the search box and clicking on the returned result: Firewall Configuration.



- STEP 2** You need to enter your password to access the Mint Firewall Configuration console. Once in, you are presented with the main Firewall console window, displaying the Firewall's Profile, Status and Incoming and Outgoing traffic policies.



- STEP 3** The bottom section of the Firewall console displays a quick user guide that confirms the steps we mentioned in the previous sections; meaning that for a normal user, someone who simply uses Mint to work on and navigate the Internet, the default setup will suffice. In this case, you simply click the Status button to On.



- STEP 4** There are three predefined Profiles in the Mint Firewall: Public, Office and Home. The default is Home, where Incoming traffic is Denied and Outgoing traffic Allowed. This means you are still able to browse the Internet, going out from your computer but anything that's trying to get in, incoming traffic, is denied access.

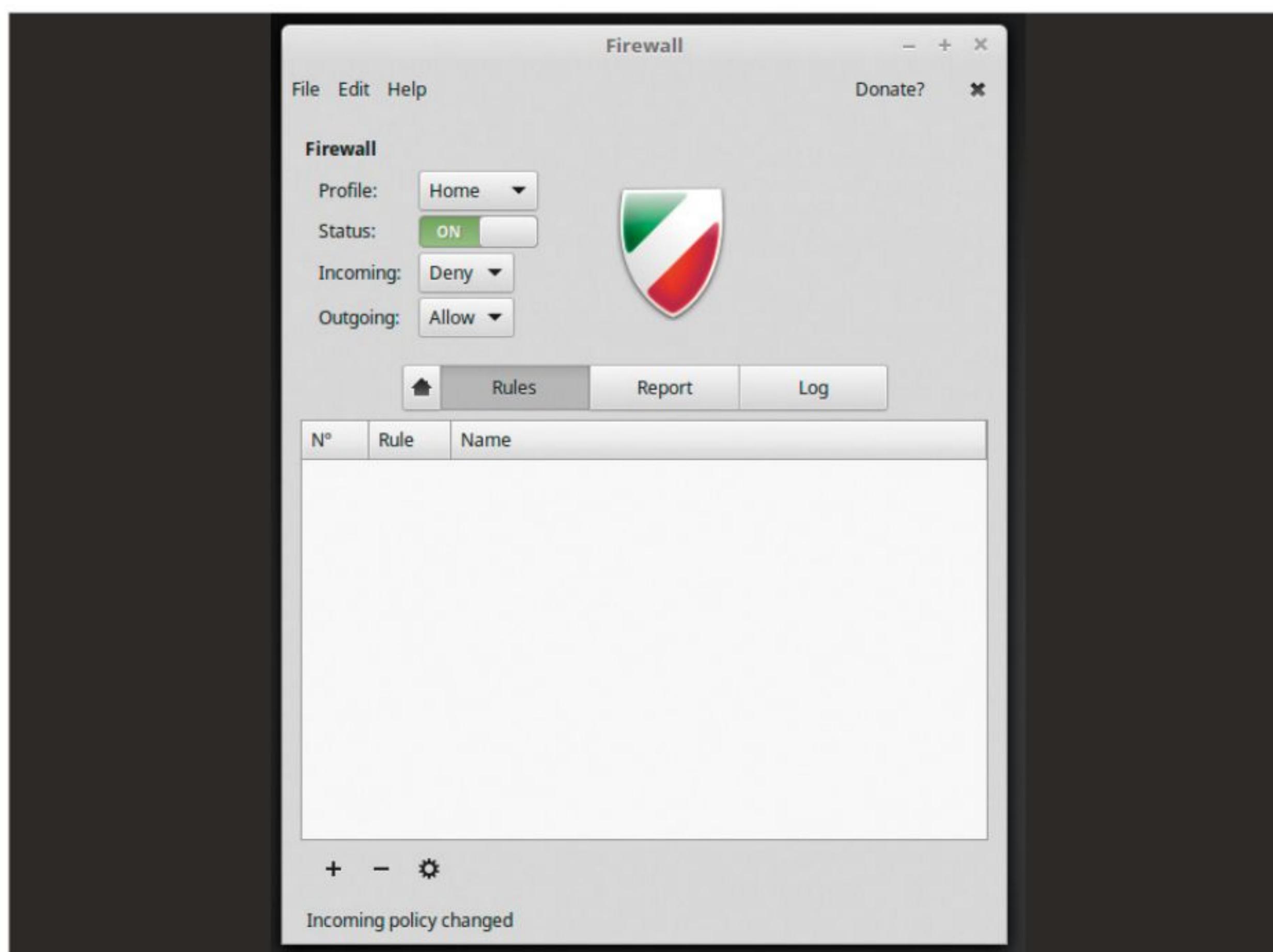


**STEP 5**

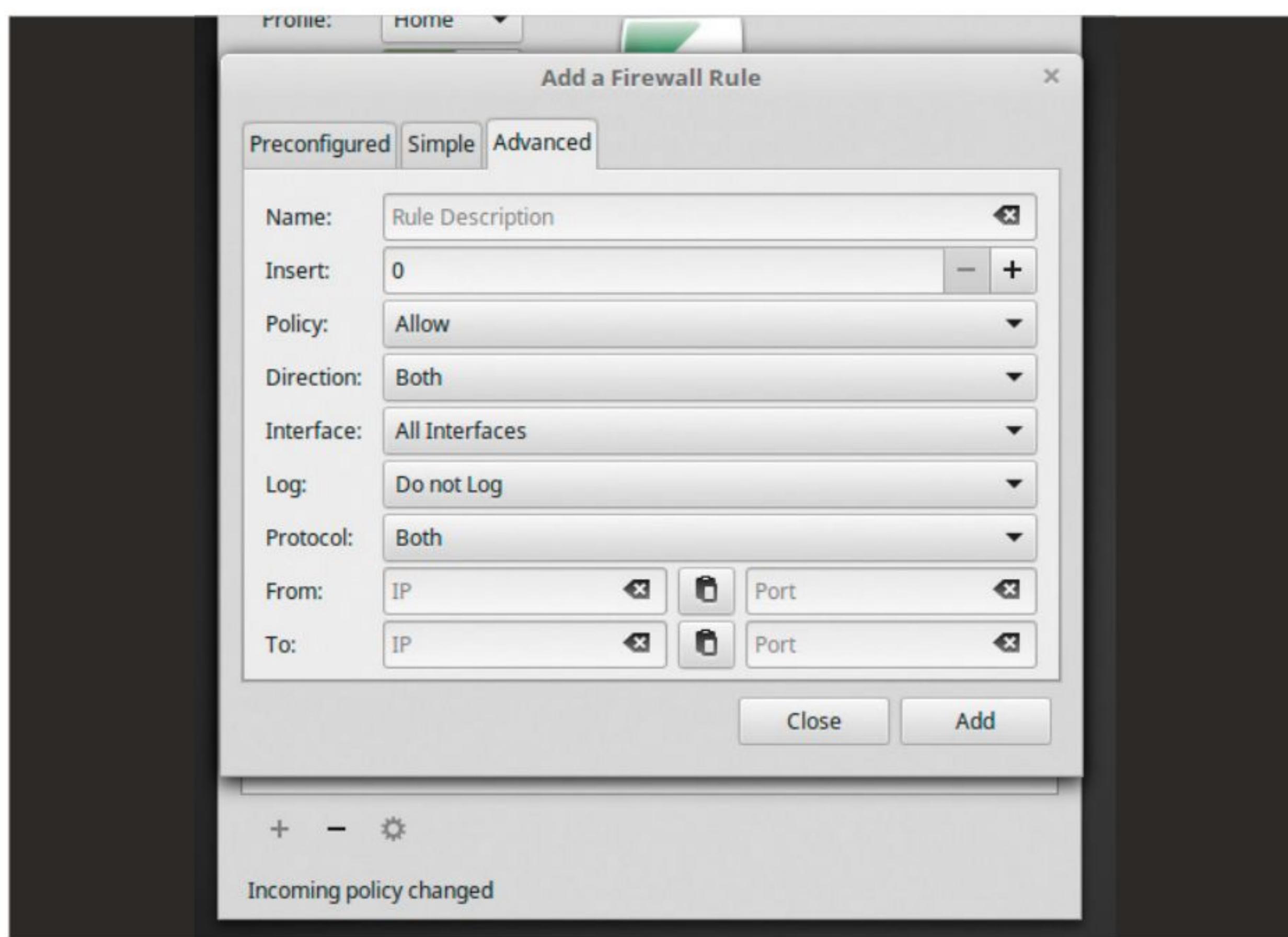
Changing Profiles alters the rules of the Firewall. In the case of Public, Outgoing traffic is allowed, whereas Incoming traffic is instantly Rejected. Obviously, you can further alter the defaults for the Profiles, by clicking on the Incoming and Outgoing drop-down boxes to change them from Reject, Deny and Allow, but it's not advisable.

**STEP 6**

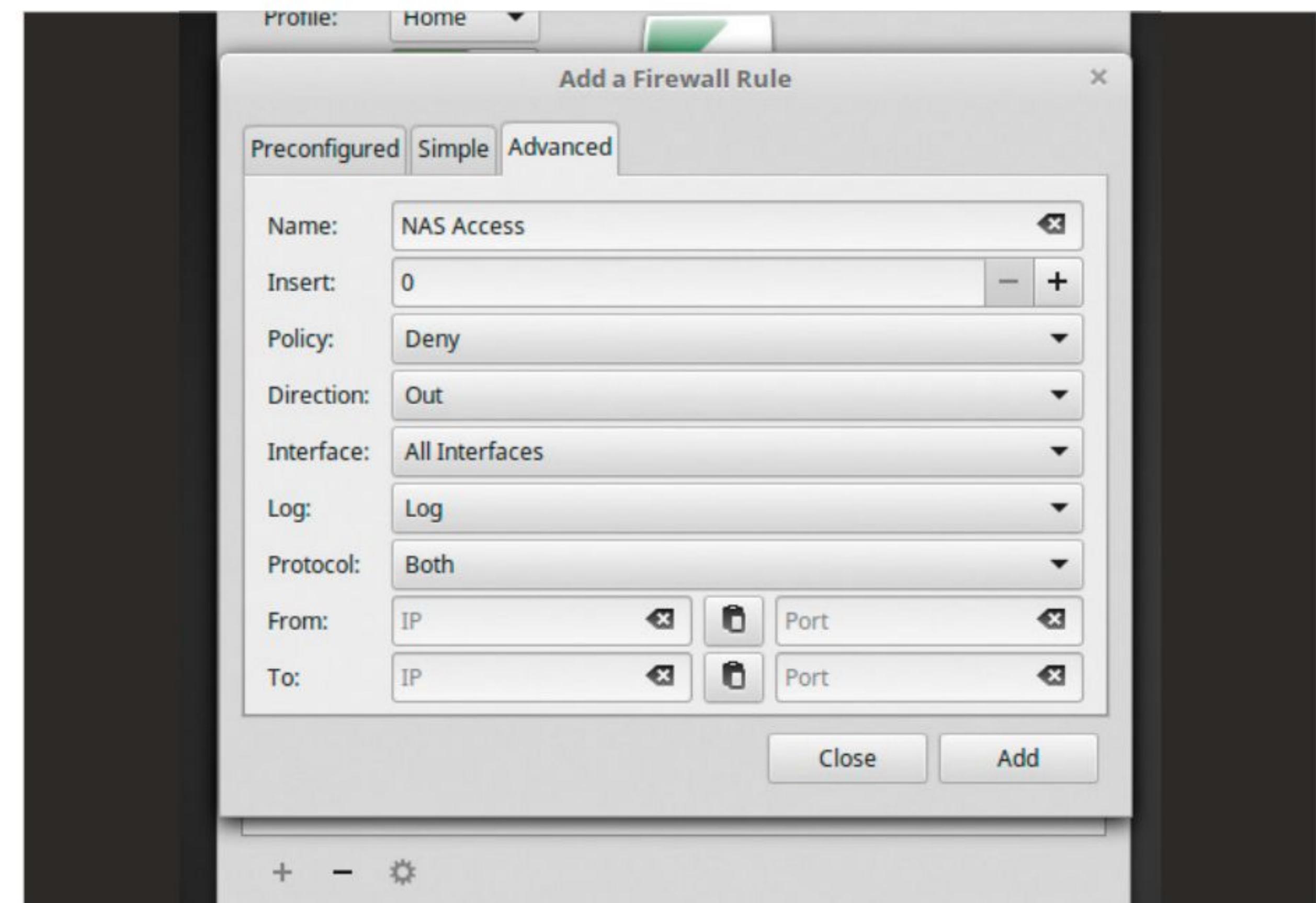
If you want to enforce a unique rule, let's say to prevent access to a local, internal network resource such as a NAS drive then to begin with you need the IP address of the NAS drive in question. In our example, it's 192.168.1.4. Click on the Rules button in the Firewall console.

**STEP 7**

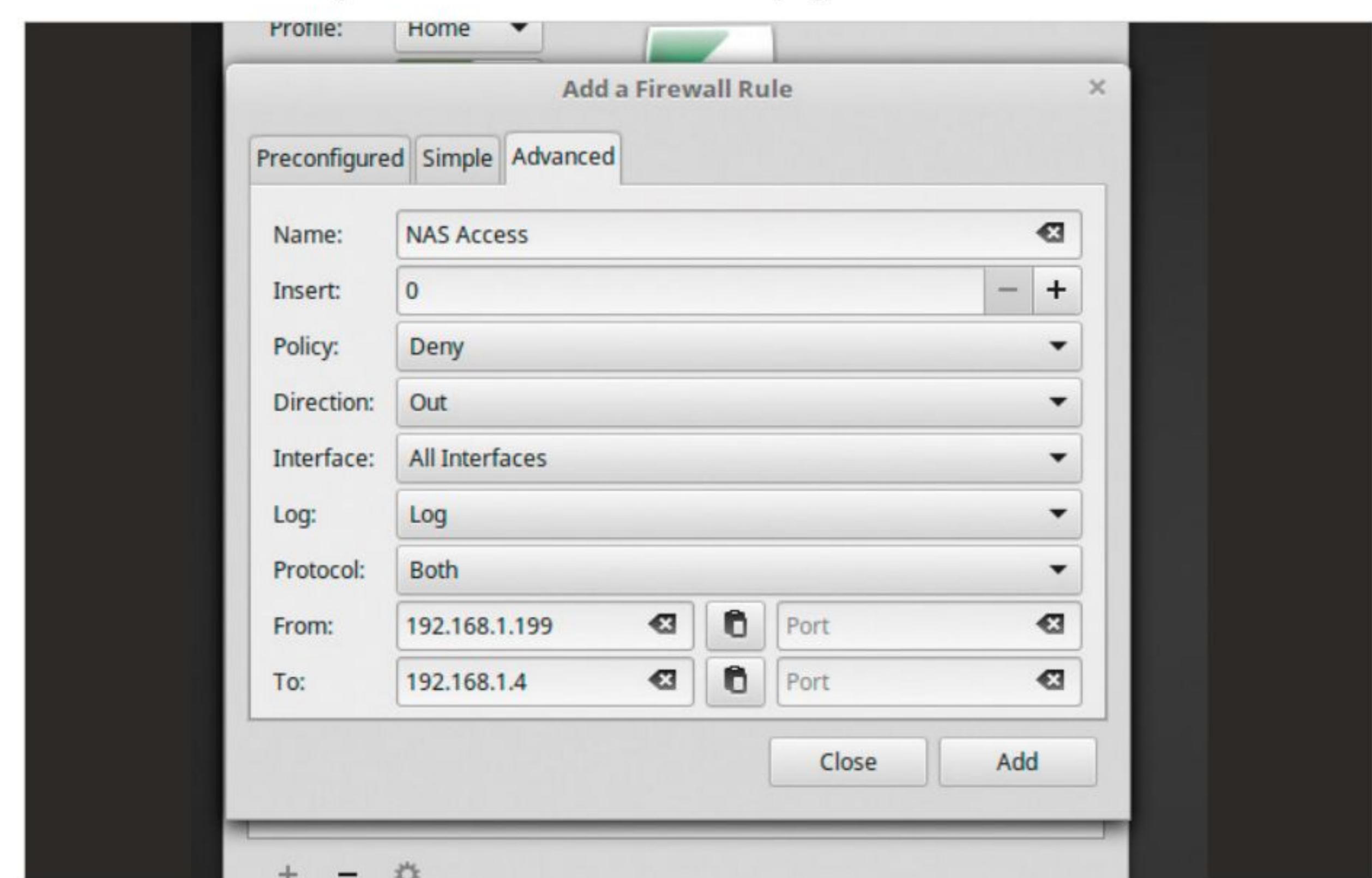
What we need to do is enter a set of rules for Outgoing traffic to Deny access to 192.168.1.4. To do this, click the plus symbol at the bottom of the Rules section, followed by the Advanced tab.

**STEP 8**

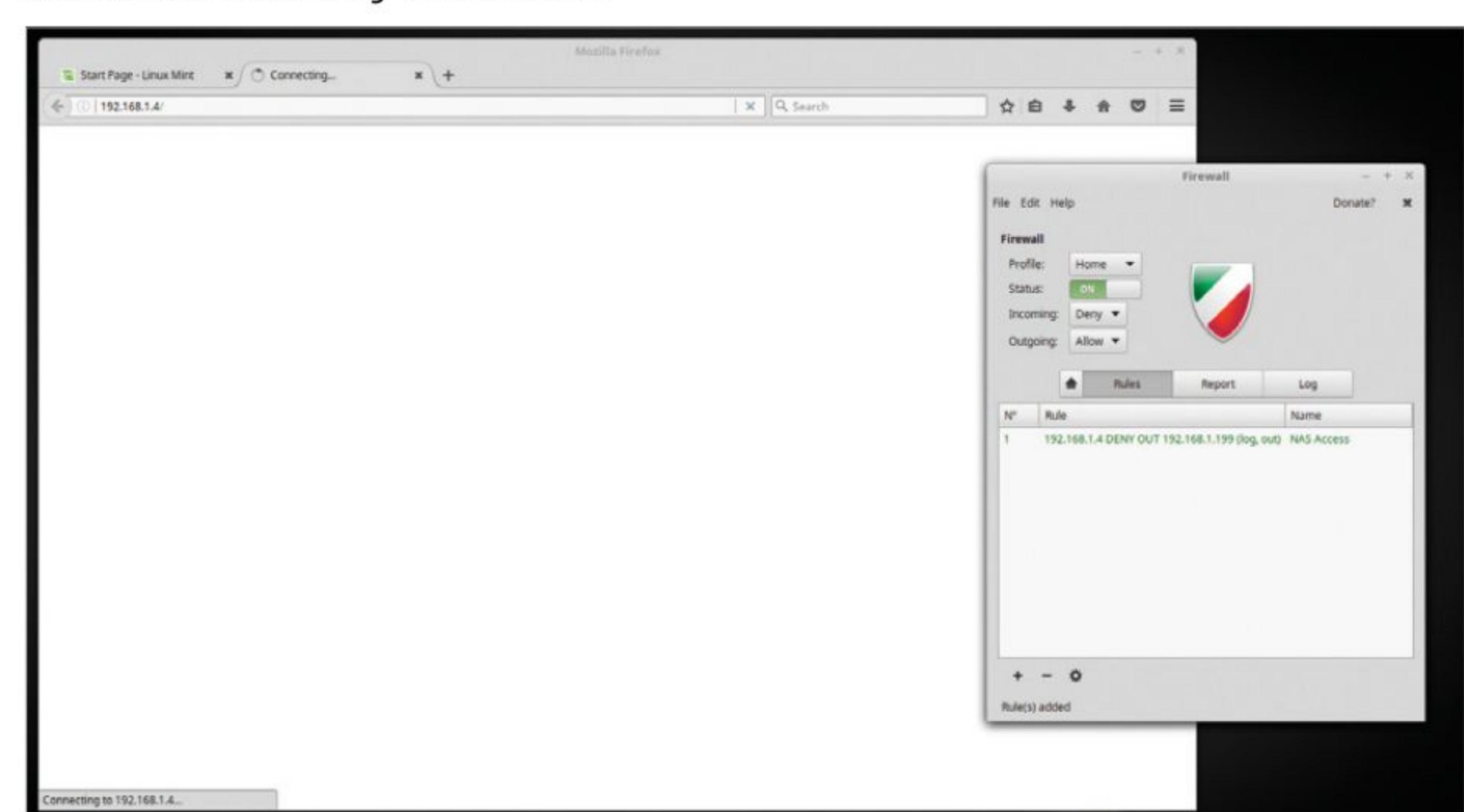
In Advanced, enter a name for the new Rule, NAS Access for example. In the Policy section select Deny. In Direction select Out. You can Log the traffic reports if you like, to monitor any access to the IP address, but it's not necessary.

**STEP 9**

In the From section, click on the clipboard icon, which is between the IP address and Port text boxes; this will paste in your computer's current IP address. In our example, this is 192.168.1.199. In the To section, enter the address of the NAS, which is 192.168.1.4. Keep the Ports sections empty.

**STEP 10**

Click the Add button to apply the new Rule, then click Close to exit the Add Firewall Rules console window. Open Firefox and navigate to a couple of outside locations, such as Google, BBC News and so on. Now try a new Firefox tab and access the internal address that's blocked, 192.168.1.4. What happens is that Firefox eventually times out.





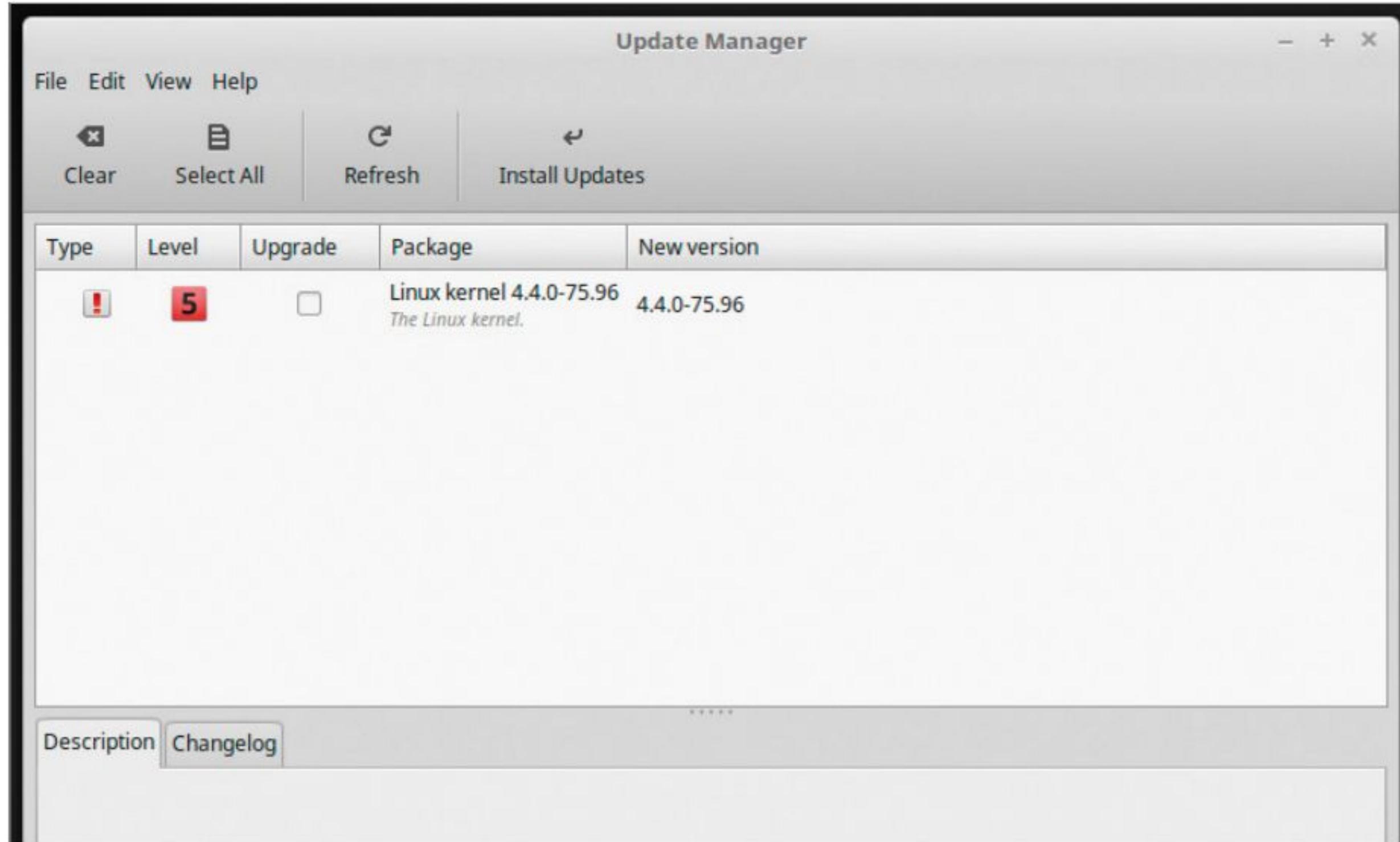
# Add a Printer to Linux Mint

Linux used to be unsupported as an operating system when it came to printers. Many of the big names didn't bother with proper driver support. That, thankfully, isn't the case these days. Setting up a printer in Linux Mint is now very easy.

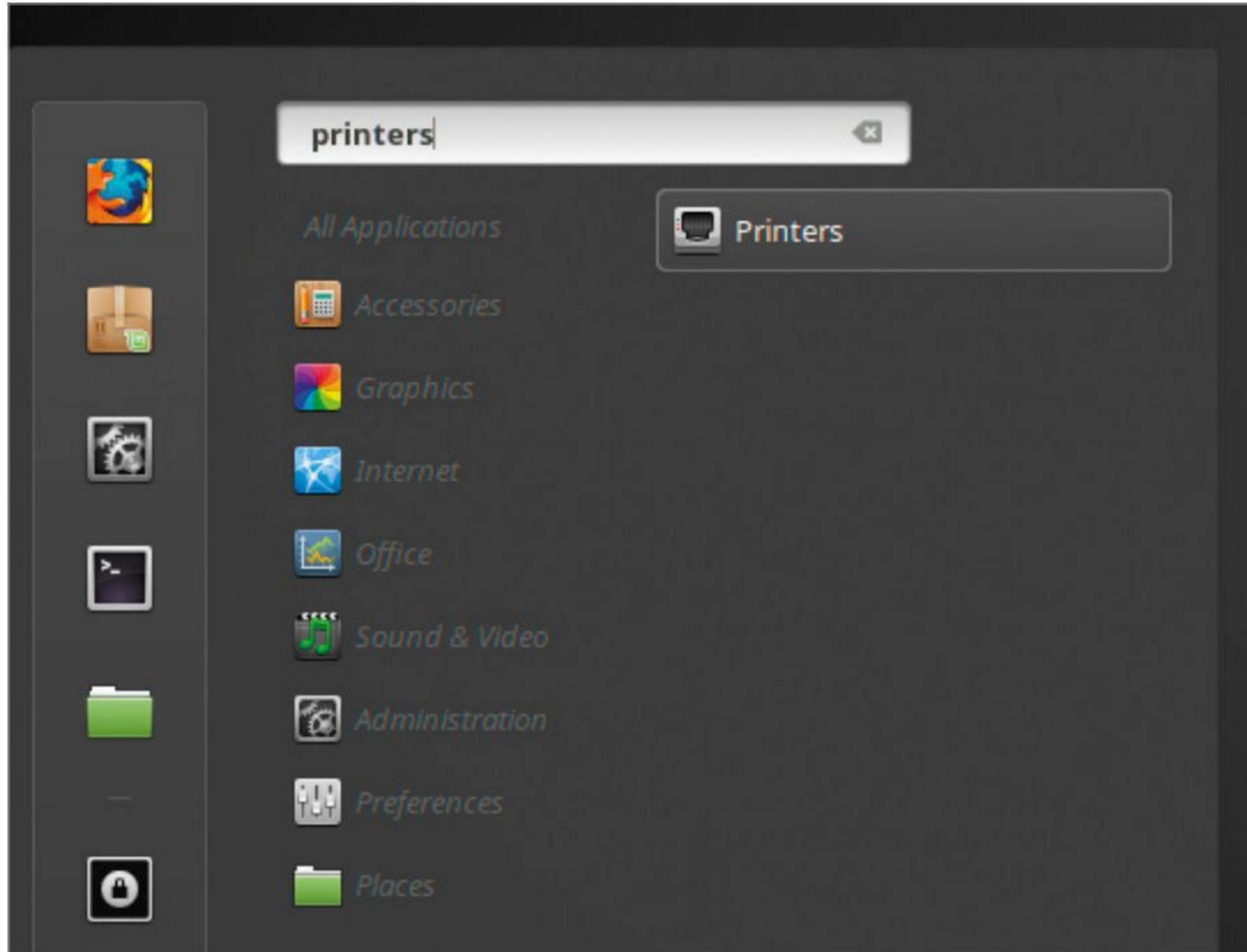
## FILL YOUR CUPS

Mint uses the Common UNIX Printing System (CUPS) to handle all its printing, covering both locally attached and network printers.

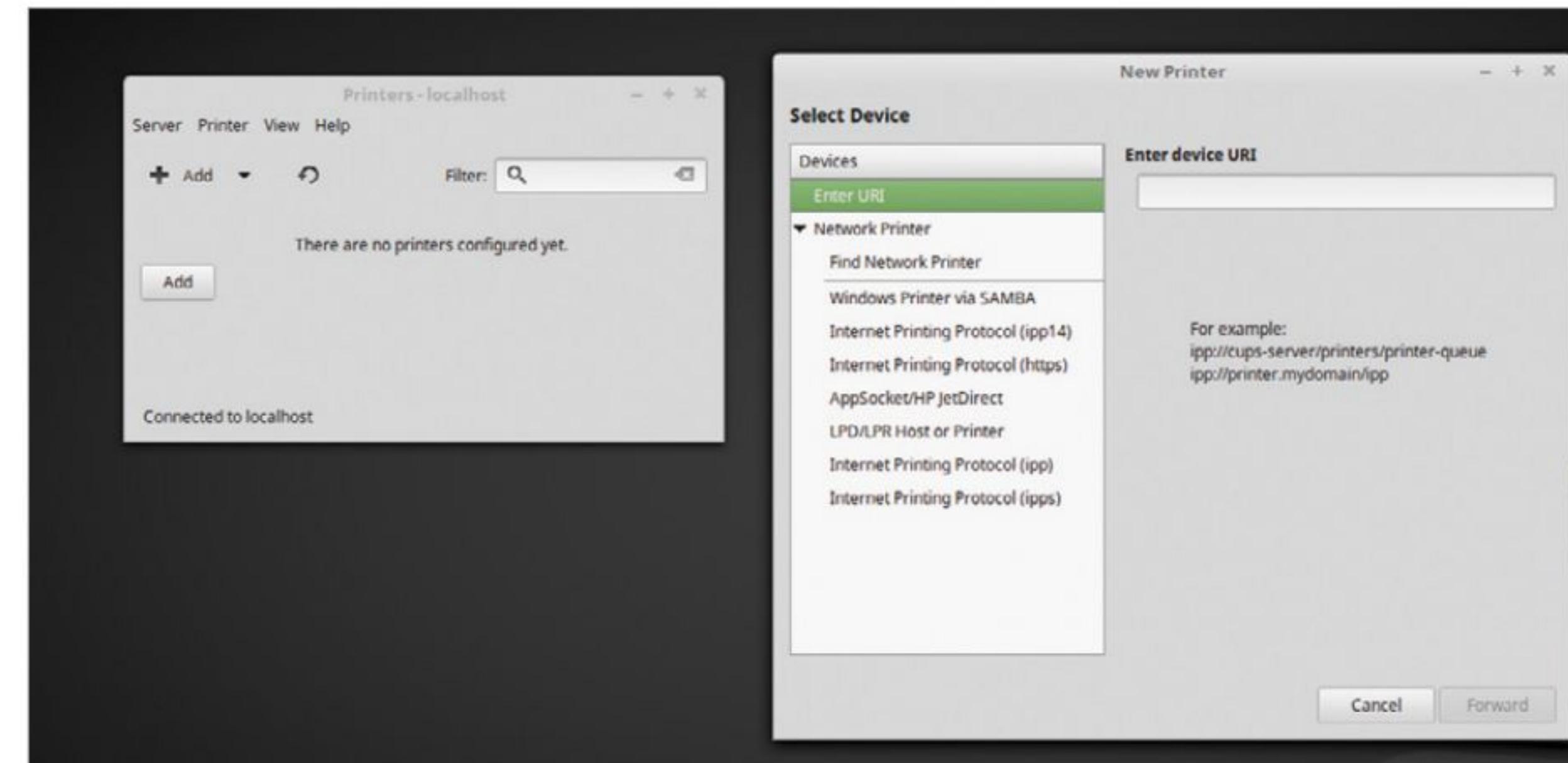
**STEP 1** Making sure the system is up to date first ensures that you're running the latest version of CUPS and that any newer printers are supported. We're sure you're familiar with the process by now: click the shield to launch Update Manager, refresh and install.



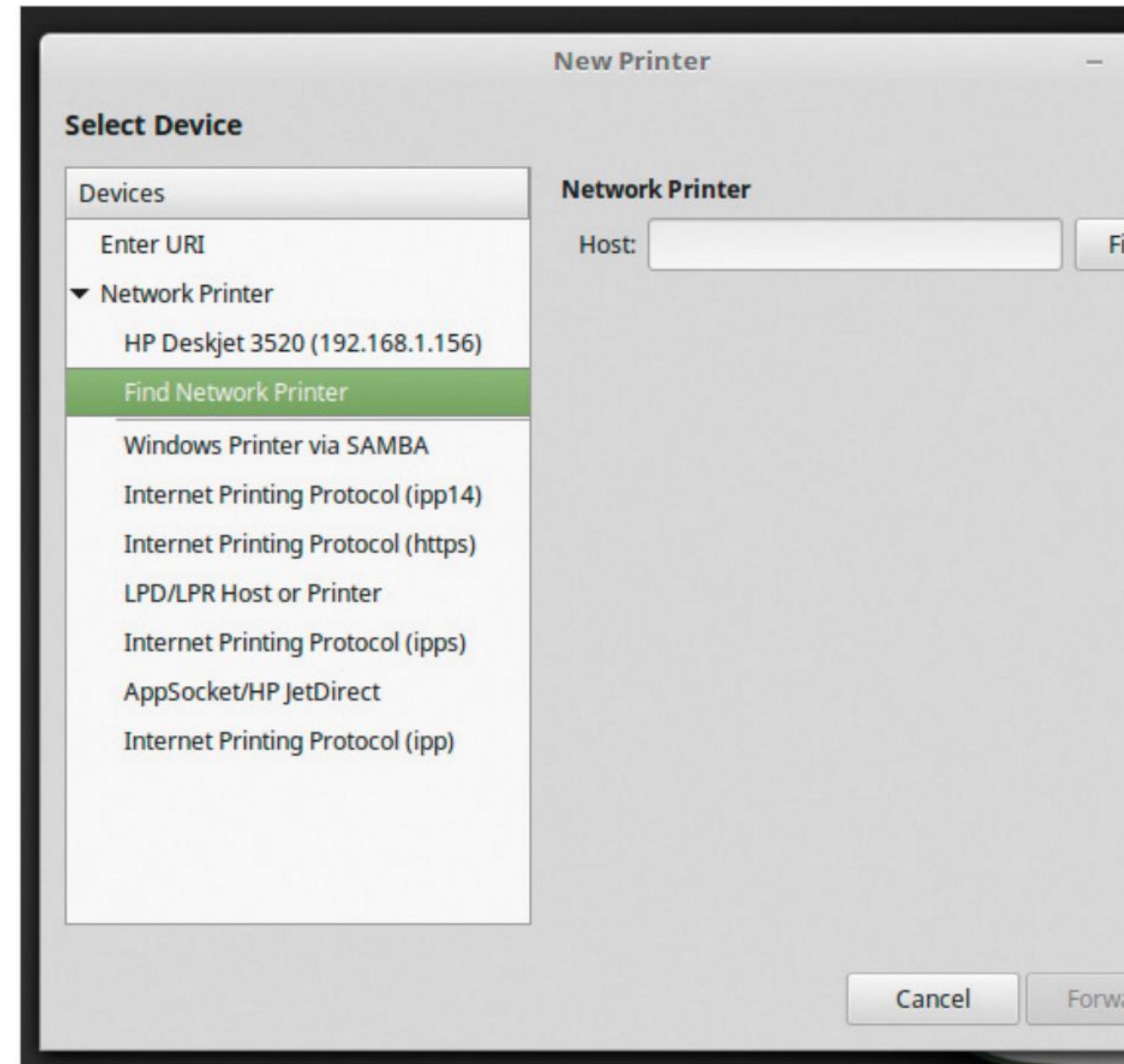
**STEP 2** Click the Mint Menu and type printers into the search box. Click on the returned Printers icon that's displayed in the search results.



**STEP 3** To add a new printer, click on the Add button. The next window will detail the location of the printer, click on the arrow next to Network Printer to expand the selection.

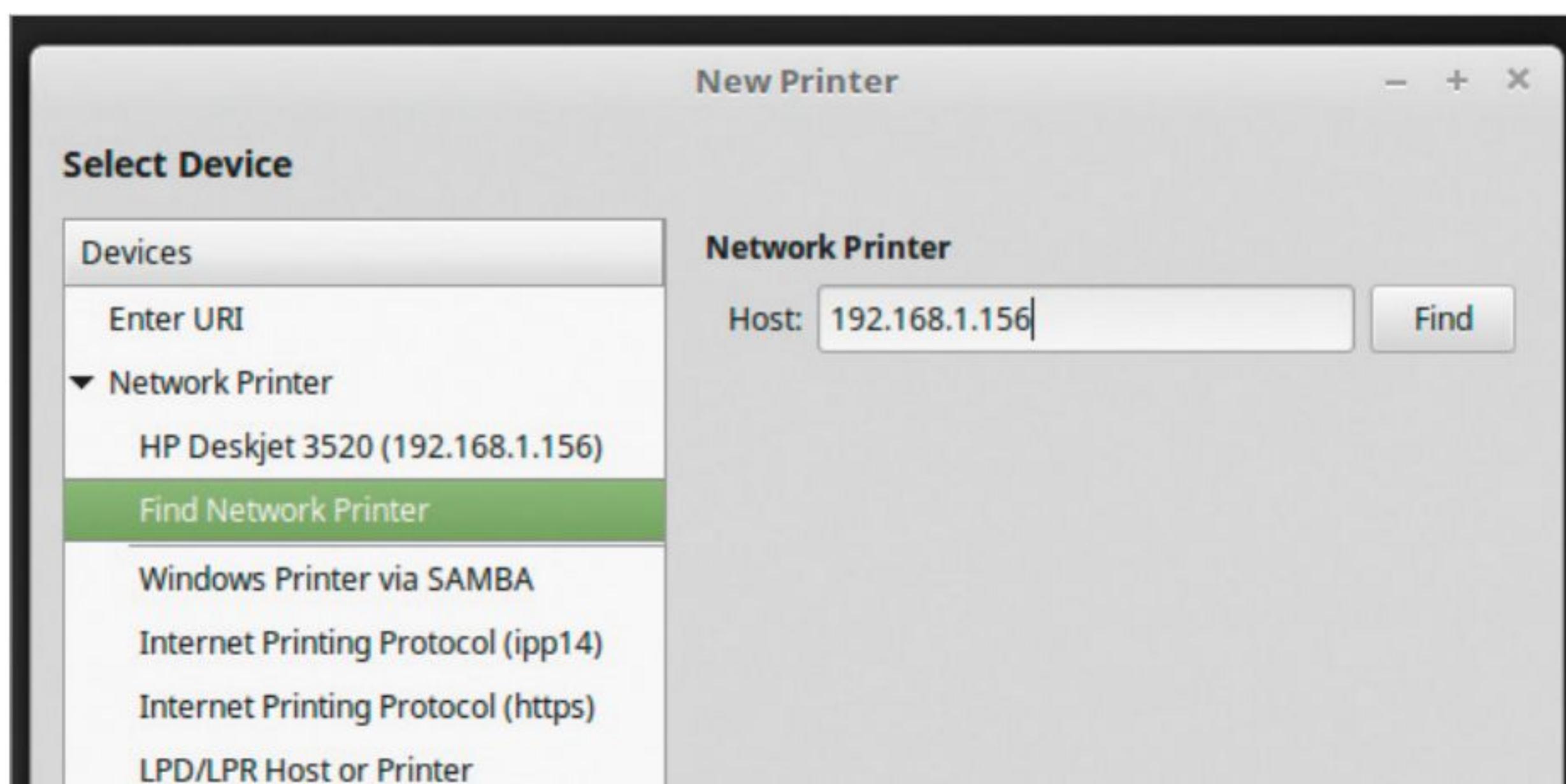


**STEP 4** Unless you specifically know whether the printer is shared via a Windows computer, JetDirect or some other network protocol, you can opt for the Find Network Printer option.

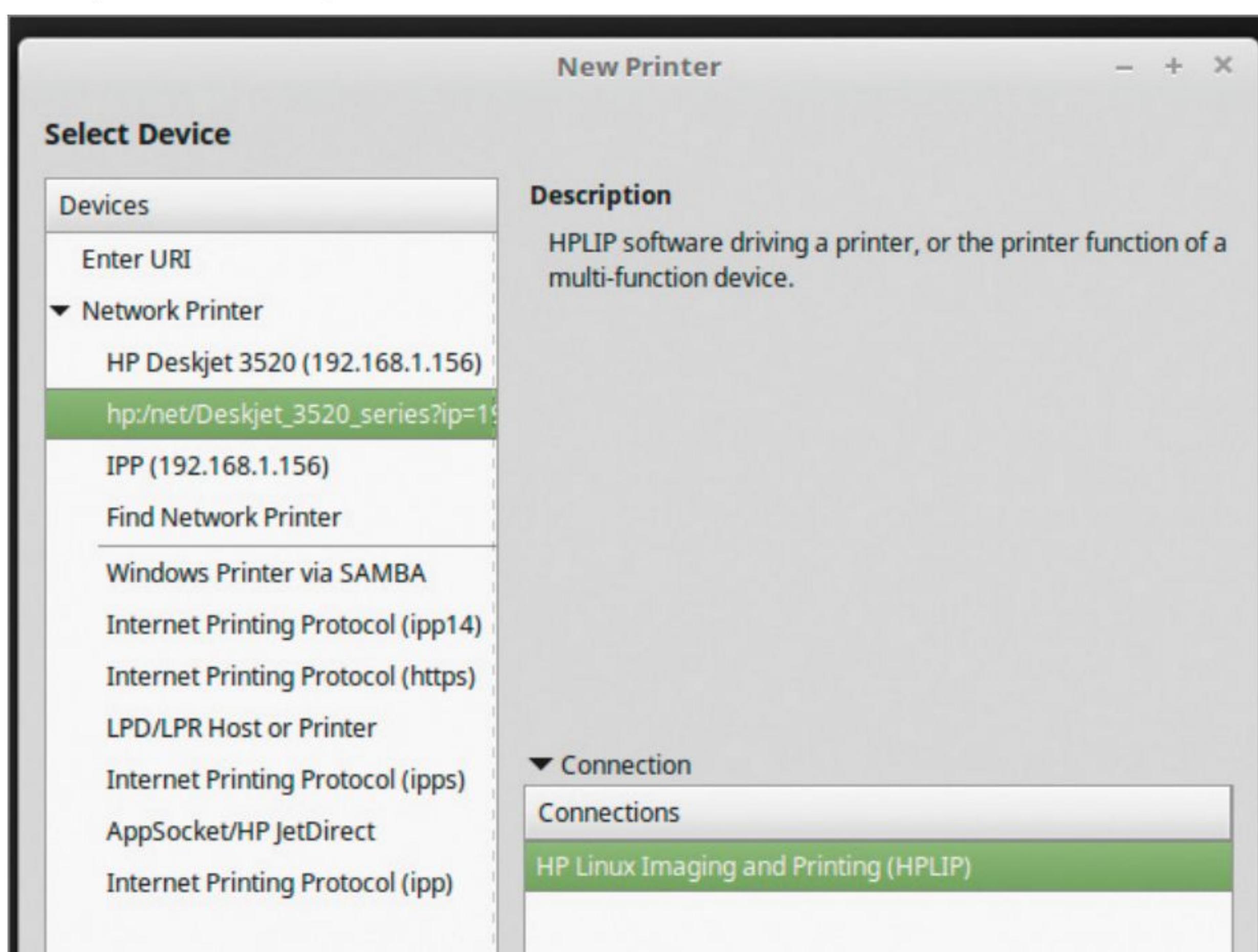


**STEP 5**

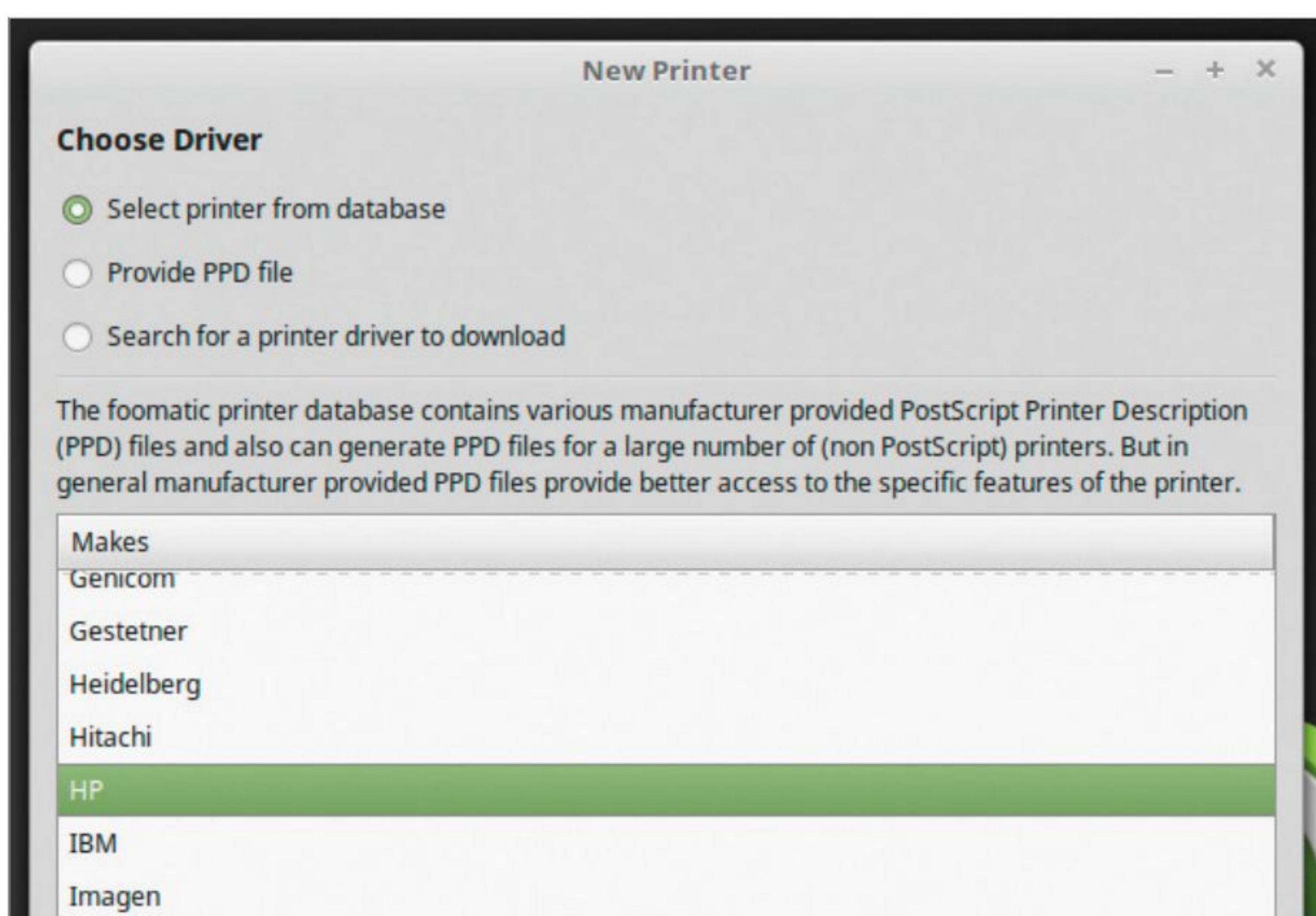
If you know the IP address of your printer on the network, something which can be found by having the printer print its test page, then enter it into the Network Printer Host box. Our example printer is at: 192.168.1.156. Click Find to start the scan.

**STEP 6**

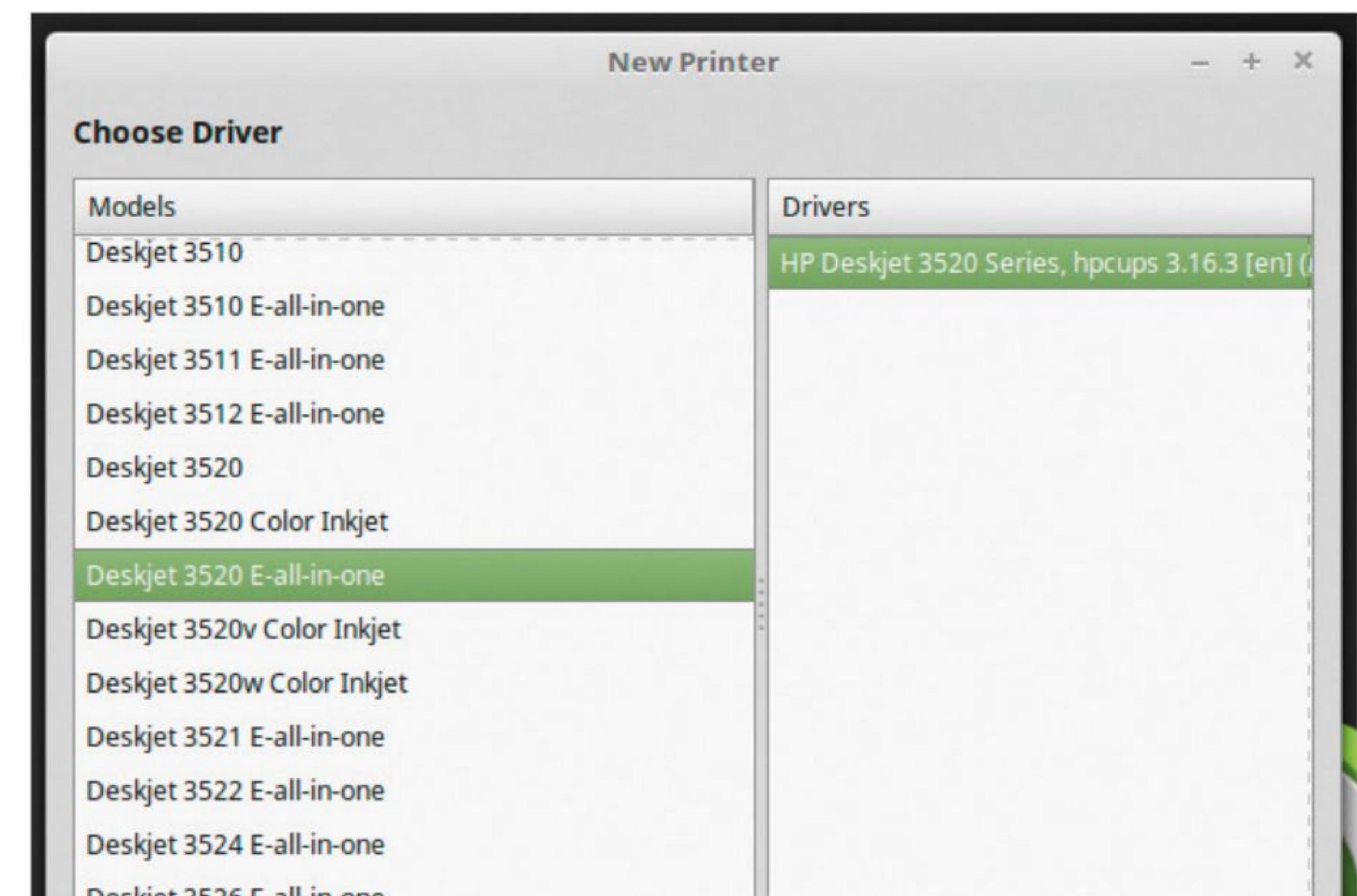
Mint will scan the IP address for the printer, and the protocol it's using, and come back with make and model number. Usually the first available option, in this case the hp:/net/ Deskjet... instance, is the best. Click the Forward button to continue.

**STEP 7**

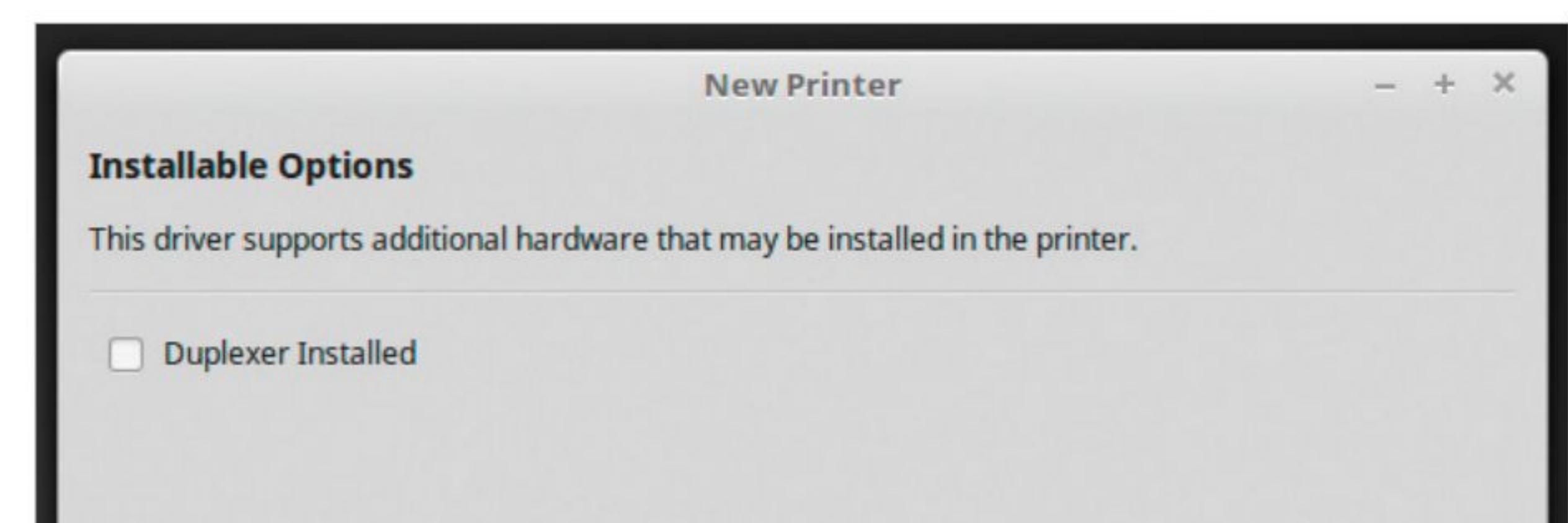
Despite improved support for printers, there are some models that Mint can't pick up straight away. When this happens you are given the option to choose a driver from the current database. Pick your printer manufacturer, in our case HP, then click the Forward button to continue.

**STEP 8**

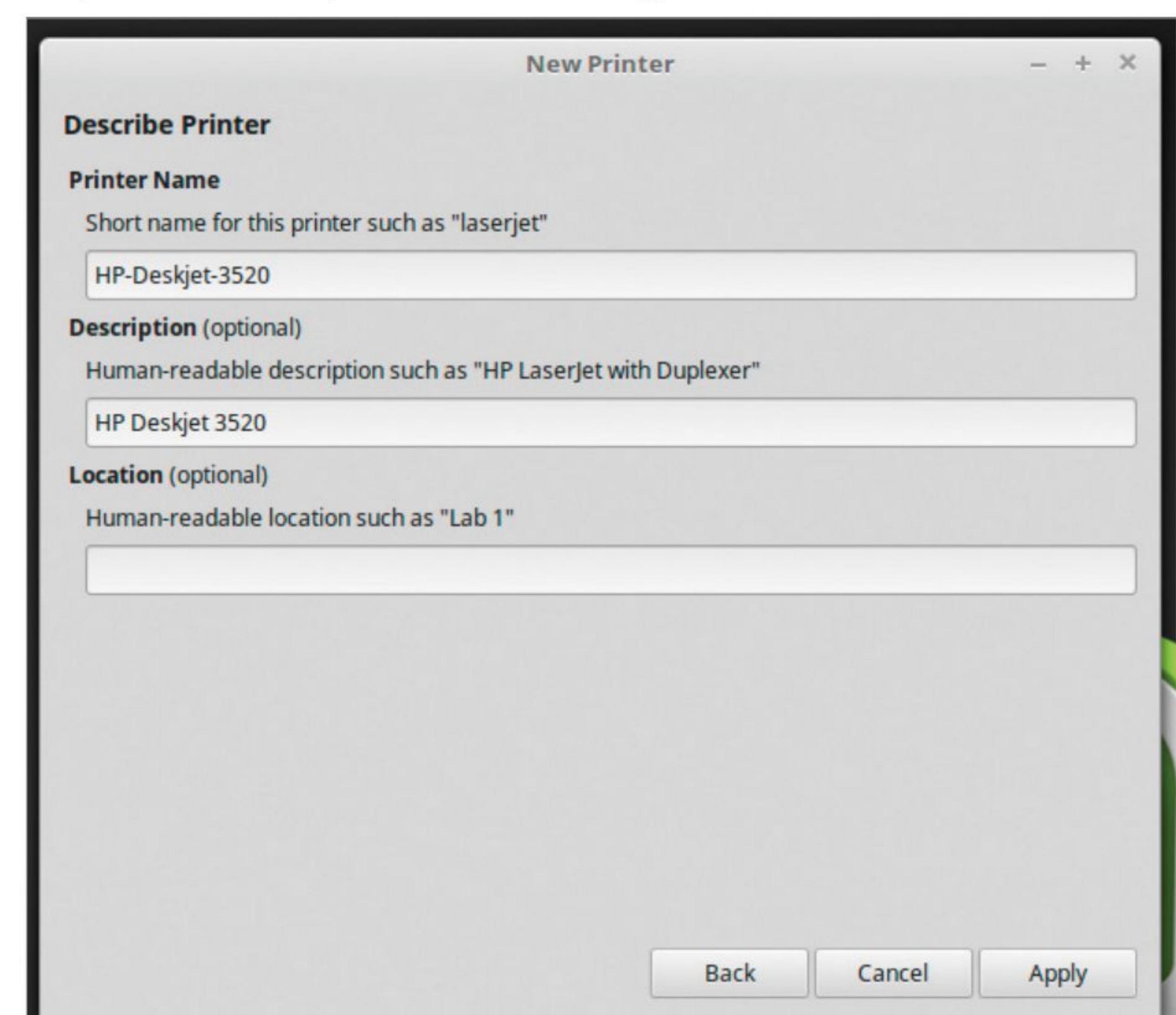
You now need to scroll through the available drivers for the model of printer you have until you find the one that either matches your model, or one that's as close as possible. Depending on the manufacturer, there can be quite an exhaustive list to scan through.

**STEP 9**

When you've found your printer model, click on the Forward button. This will apply the driver and ask if there's any extra hardware or special features that require support, such as Duplexer.

**STEP 10**

After clicking the Forward button, you can enter a description for the printer, such as Office. When you're ready click the Apply button and when asked if you want to print a test page, do so. The eagle-eyed among you will notice that our printer was instantly recognised back in Step 3; this method will help those whose printers aren't recognised.





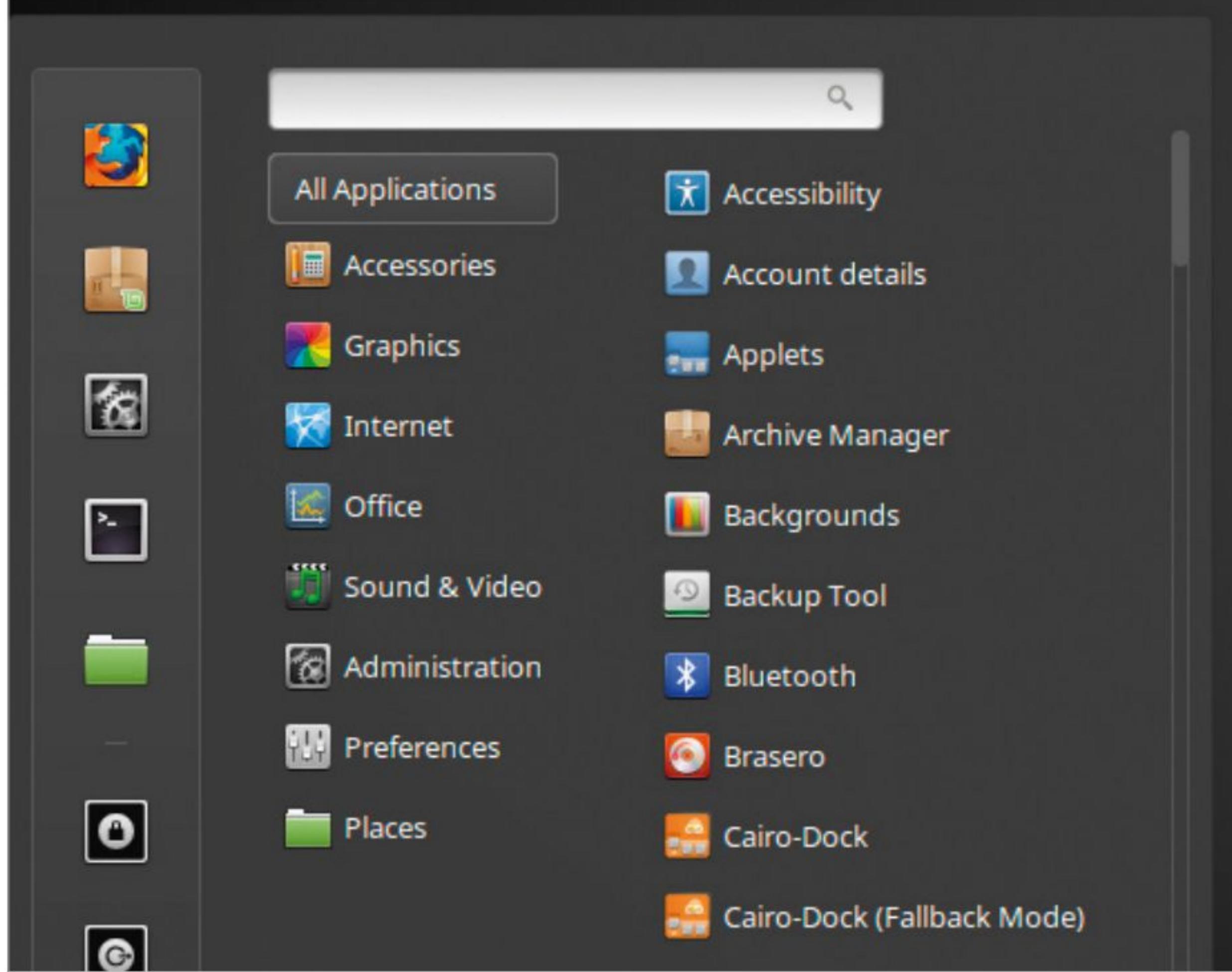
# How to Edit the Mint Menu

The Mint Menu is the hub of Linux Mint and one of the best features of the desktop environment. Not only is it a one-stop place to find apps quickly, it's also a place where you can search for folders and configure to a remarkably high degree.

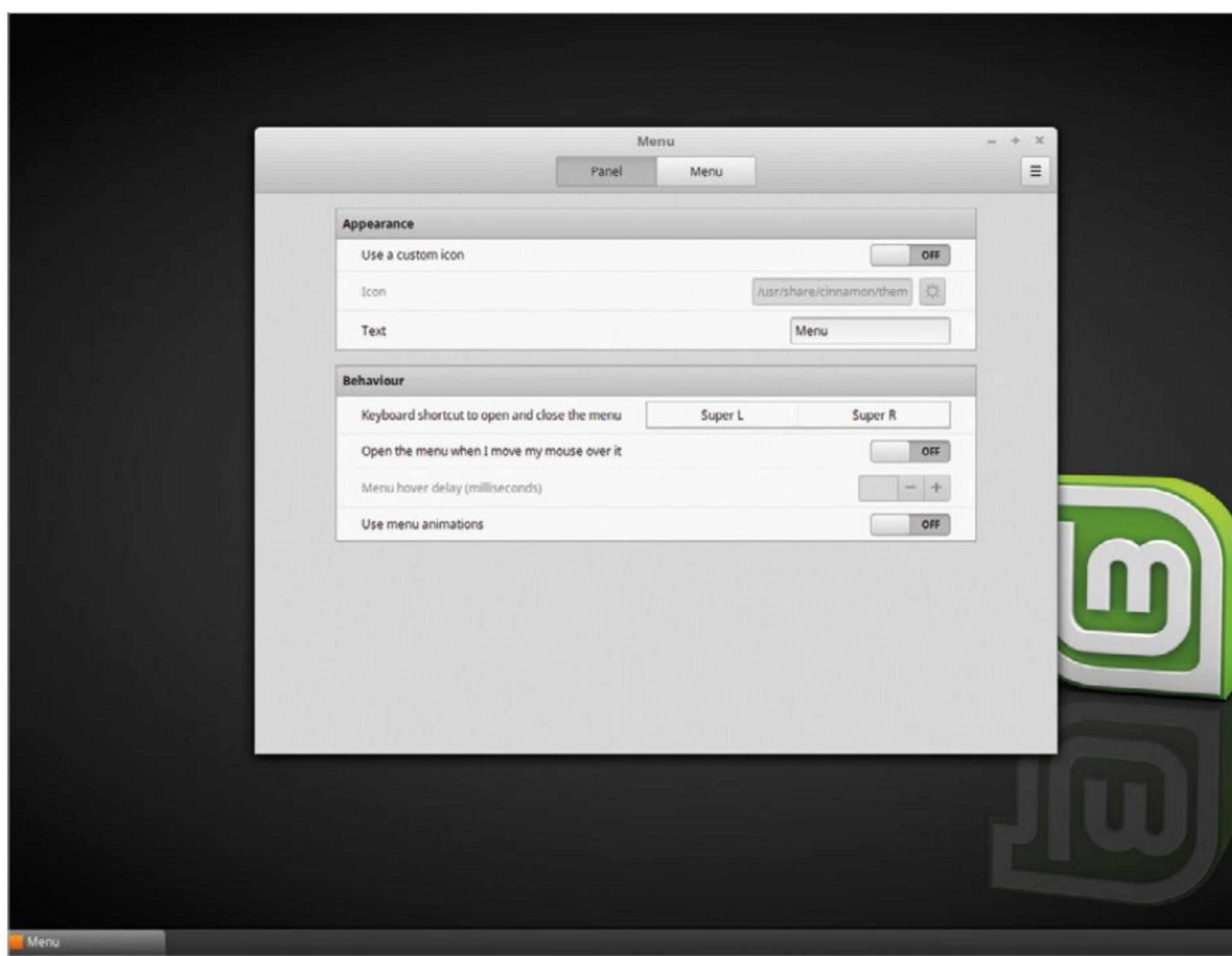
## MAKE YOUR OWN MENU

As with most other aspects of Mint, you can configure, tweak and personalise the Menu to suit your own tastes. Fancy changing the icon? Calling it something else? What about adding another category?

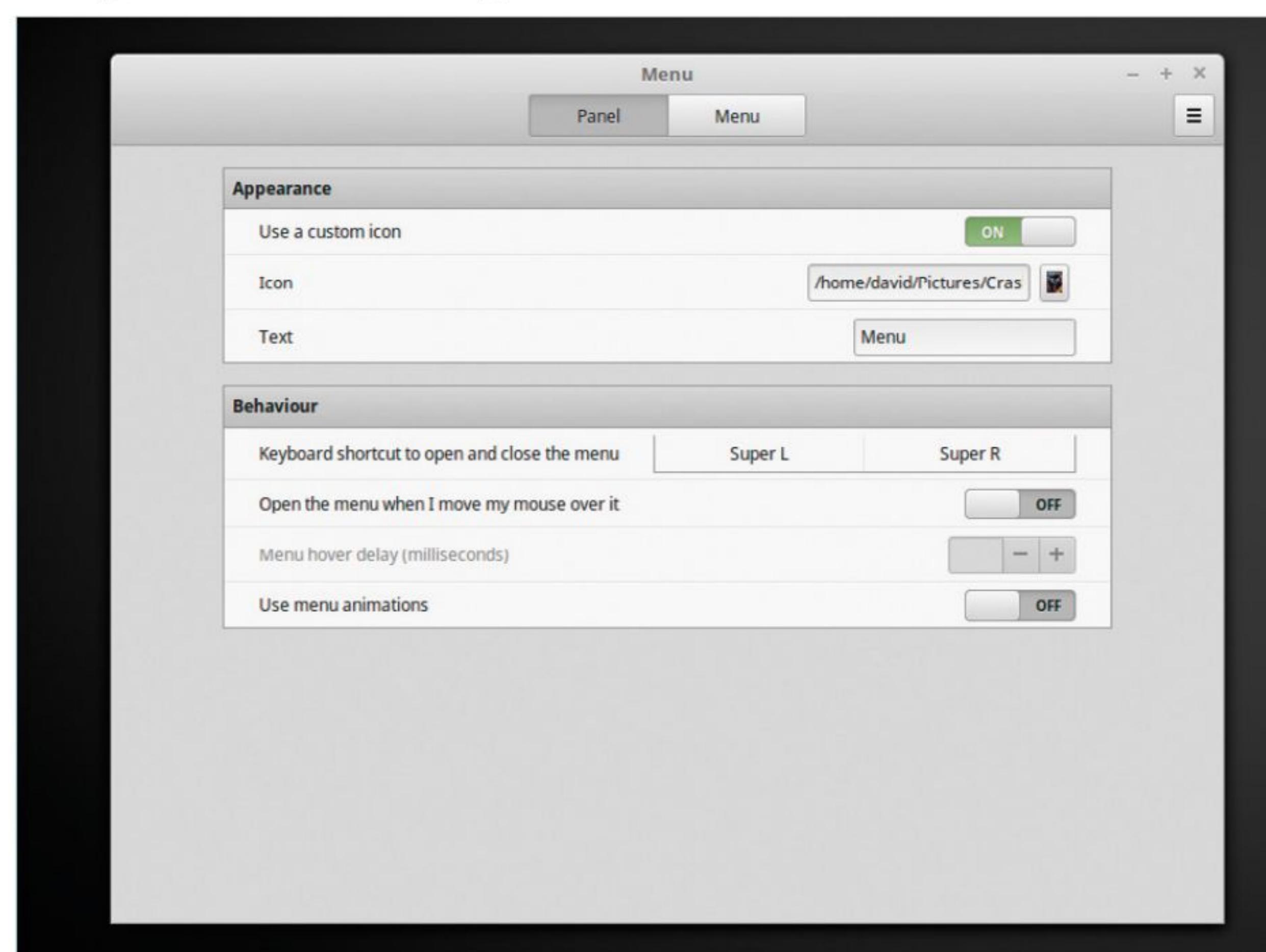
**STEP 1** The Mint Menu looks pretty good out of the box. It's a clean interface, easy to read and understand, and you can easily get to the many applications and areas features in Linux Mint. On the whole, it's a well designed and user-friendly feature.



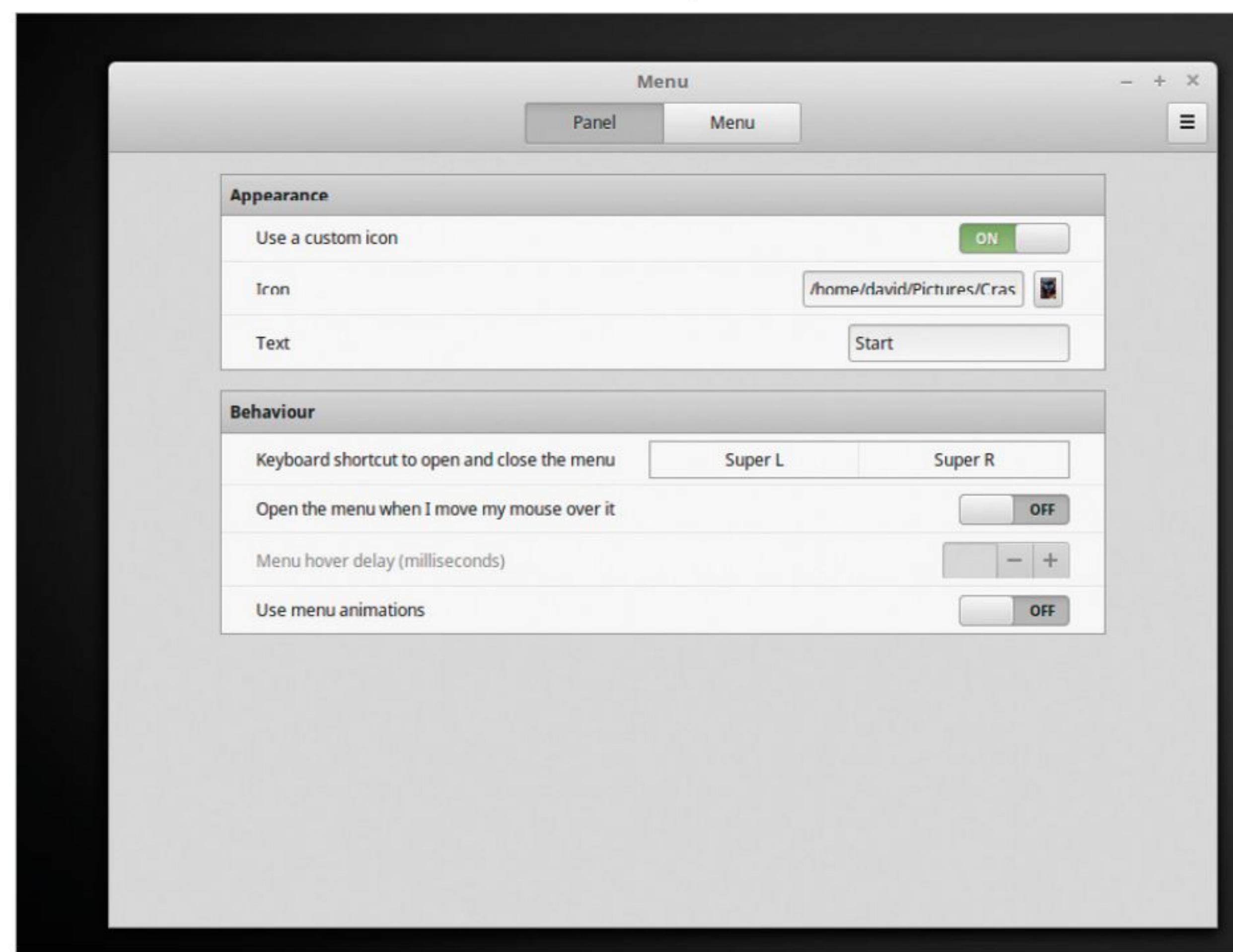
**STEP 2** To personalise and tweak the Menu, start by right-clicking it and selecting Configure from the available options. This launches the Menu console window, with two available tabs: Panel and Menu.



**STEP 3** Starting with the Panel tab, you have the option to change the current Mint Menu icon to a custom image. Click the 'Use a custom icon' slider to the On position, then click the cog icon in the Icon section to navigate to an image. This will immediately change the Menu icon image.

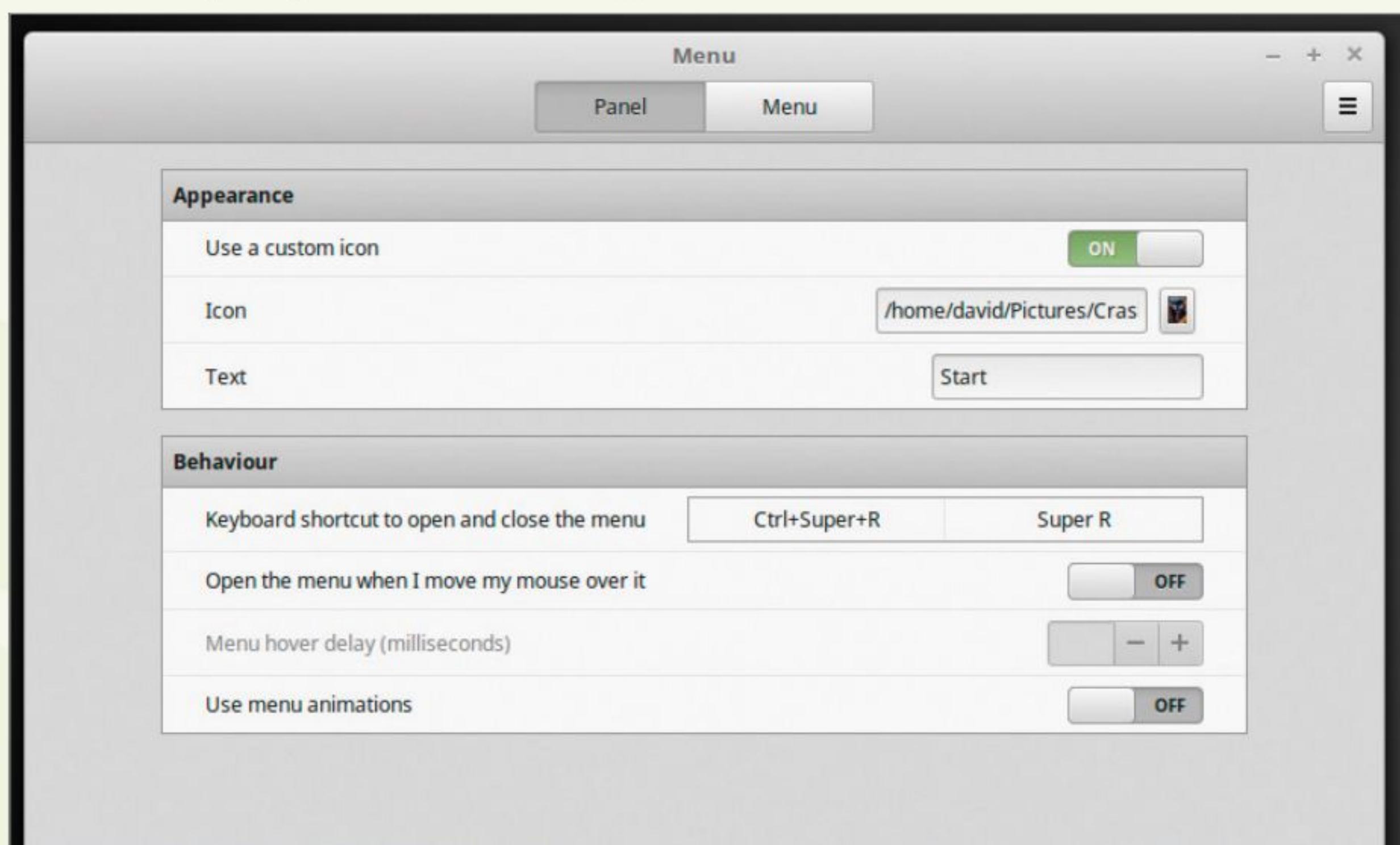


**STEP 4** While still in the Appearance section of the Panel tab, you can not only change the Menu icon image but actually call the Menu something else. In the Text section, delete the word Menu and name it Start, for example.

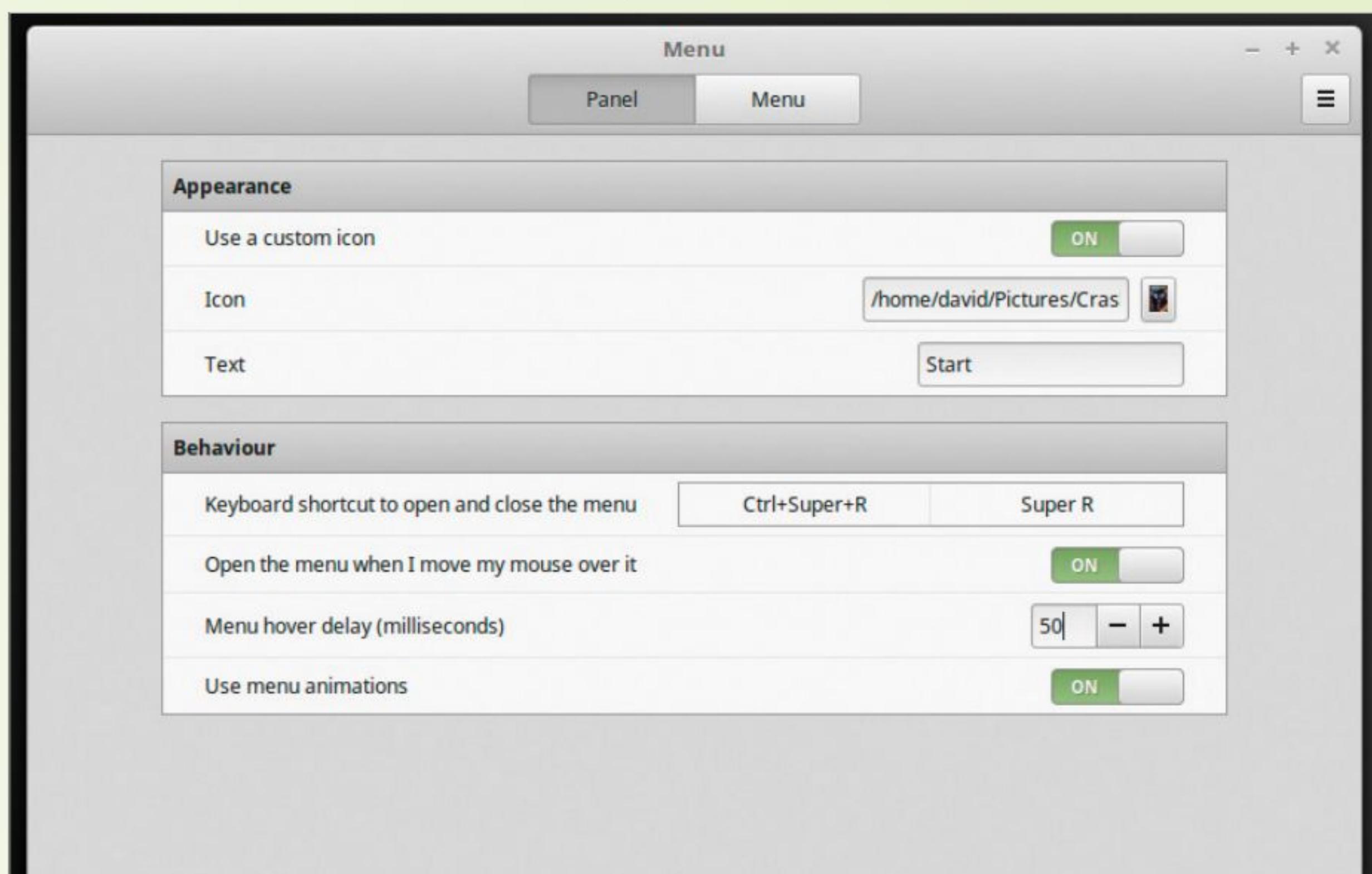


**STEP 5**

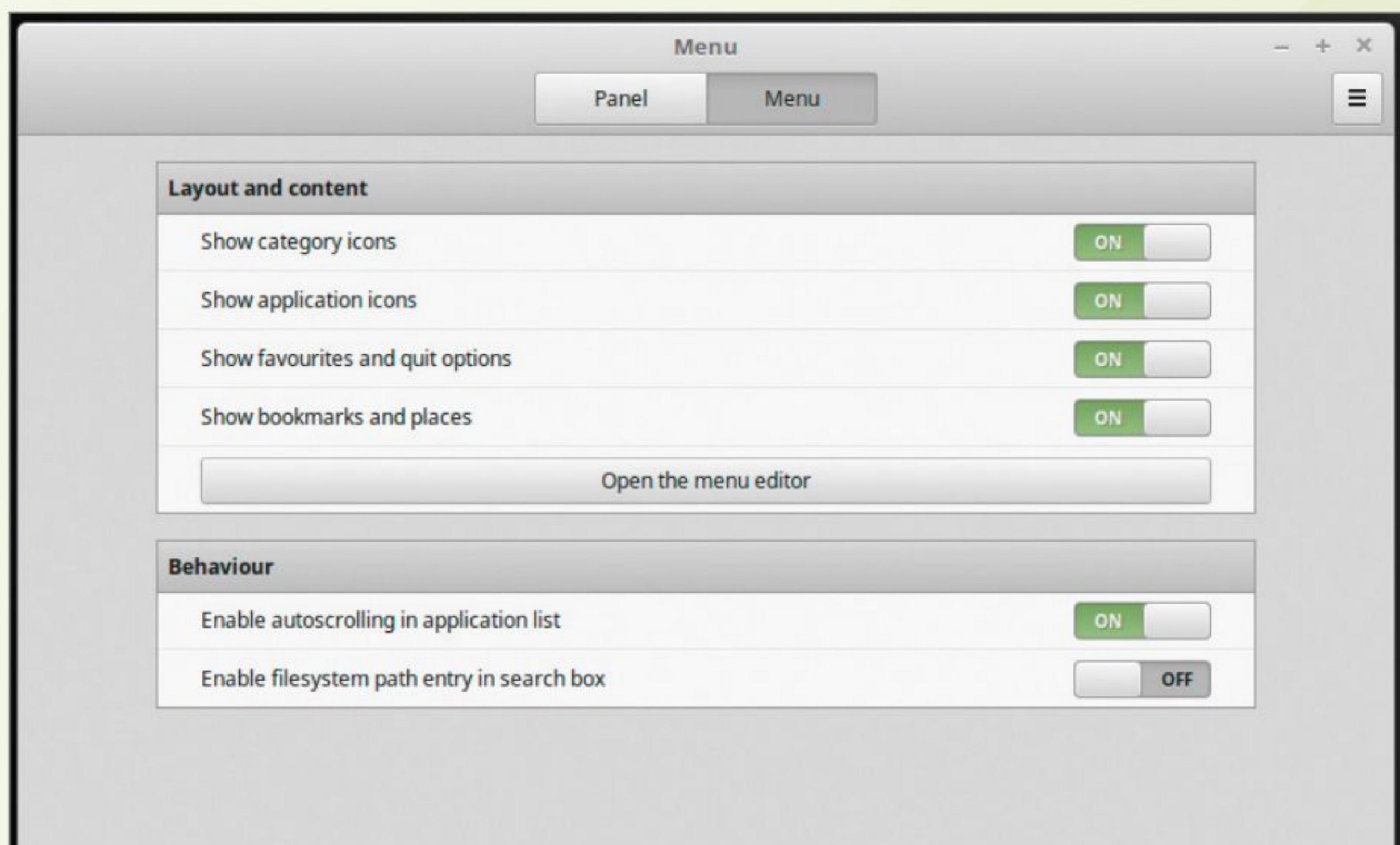
The Behaviour section will allow you to define a keyboard shortcut to open and close the Menu. The default is perfectly fine but if you do want to change it, click the action and press the desired keyboard combinations. Here we've changed ours to Super (the Windows Key) + Ctrl + R.

**STEP 6**

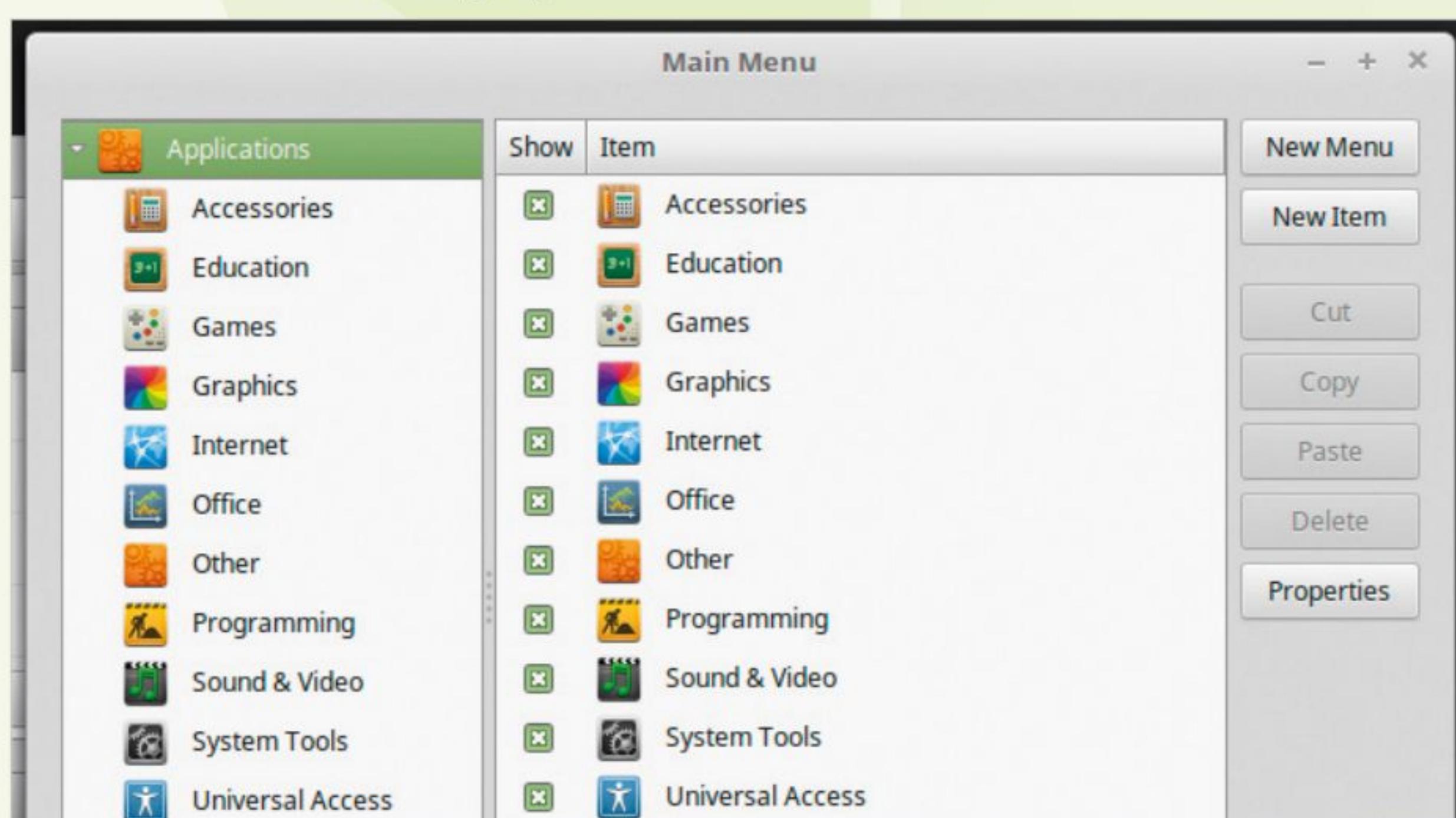
The remainder of the Panel tab features the option to open the Menu when the mouse pointer hovers over it, as opposed to clicking the Menu, along with the hover over delay. You can also opt for Menu animations that gradually roll up the Menu when clicked instead of instantly launching.

**STEP 7**

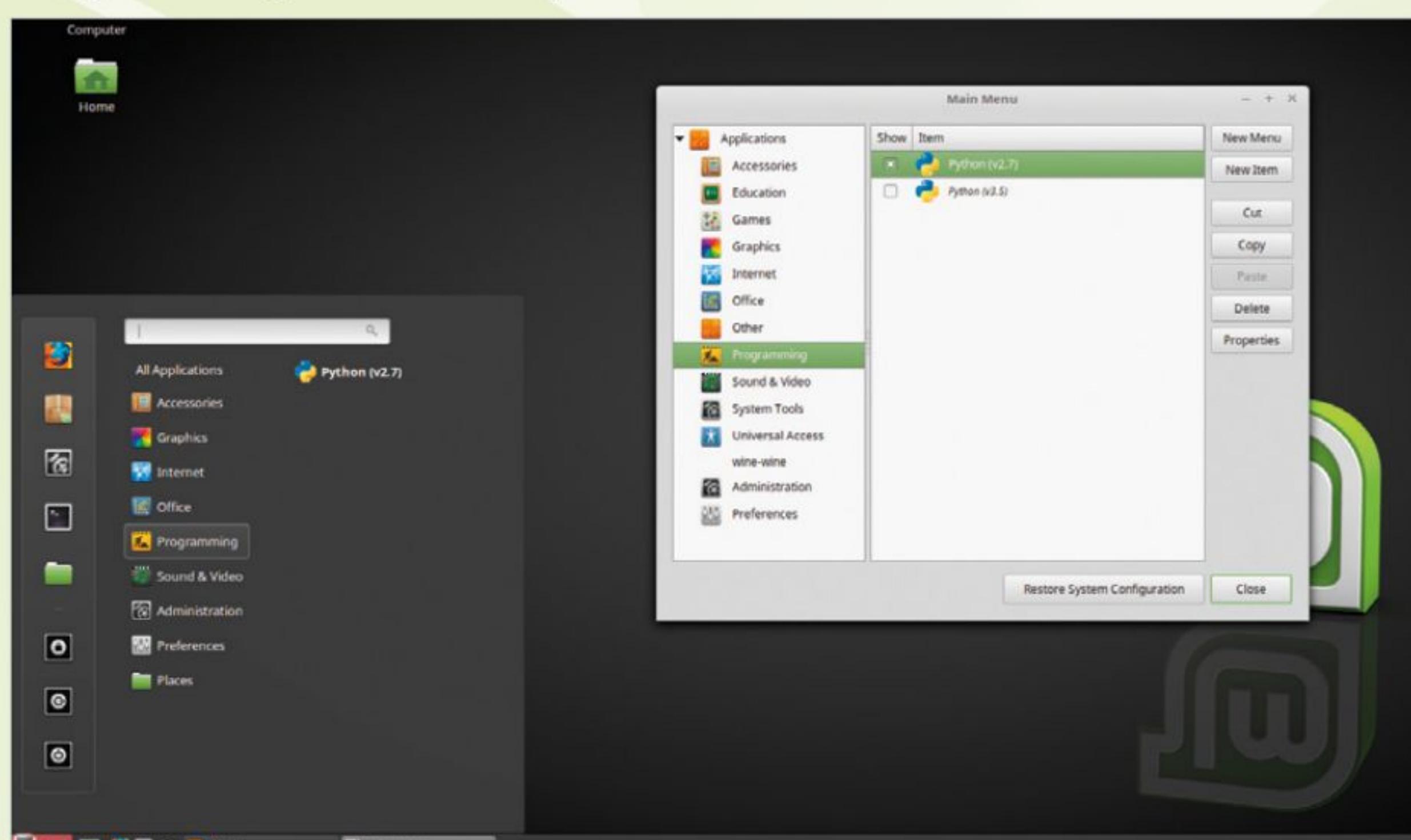
Moving on, the Menu tab has a couple of sections where the options within are already enabled by default. These include displaying the Menu category items, showing the Favourites and Session options in the Menu, Bookmarks and so on. It's all fairly self-explanatory, so let's take a look at the 'Open the menu editor' button.

**STEP 8**

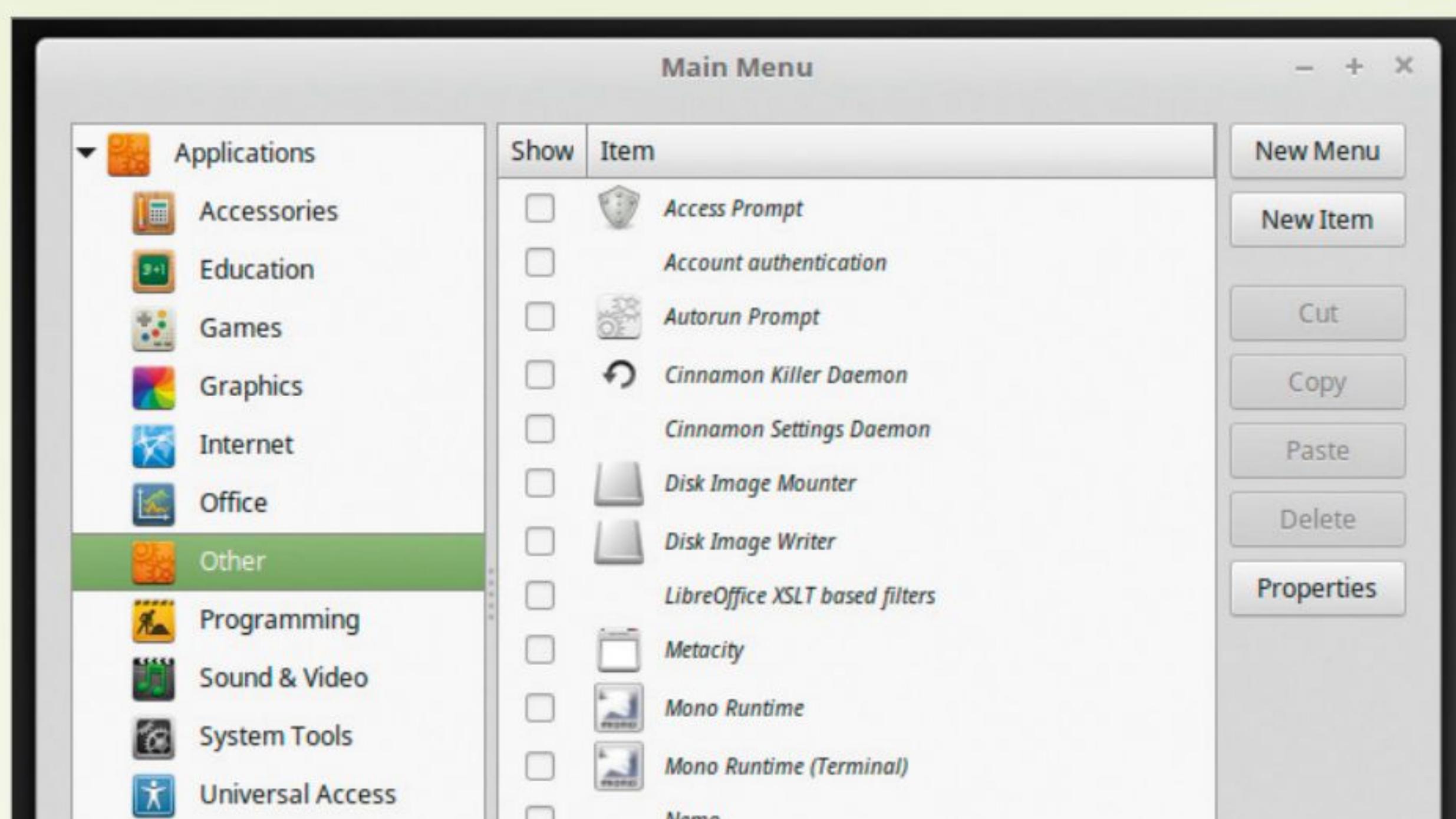
The menu editor is an interesting sub-console window that pops up. In here you're able to further define the categories and contents the Menu offers when you click it open. You can see two columns with a set of controls down the right-hand side. The left column features the categories and the right column the contents of each category.

**STEP 9**

For example, the Programming category isn't on the Menu by default, yet it's here in the list of categories. Click Programming in the left-hand column; now the right-hand column will display two entries: Python v2.7 and 3.5. Tick the box next to Python (v2.7) and click the Menu. You can now see that Programming is listed and present.

**STEP 10**

From the menu editor, you're able to create new Menu categories, move existing categories and include apps that aren't in the Menu by default. It's worth having a look around and seeing what you can do. If you mess something up, click the Restore System Configuration button to restore the default Menu layout.



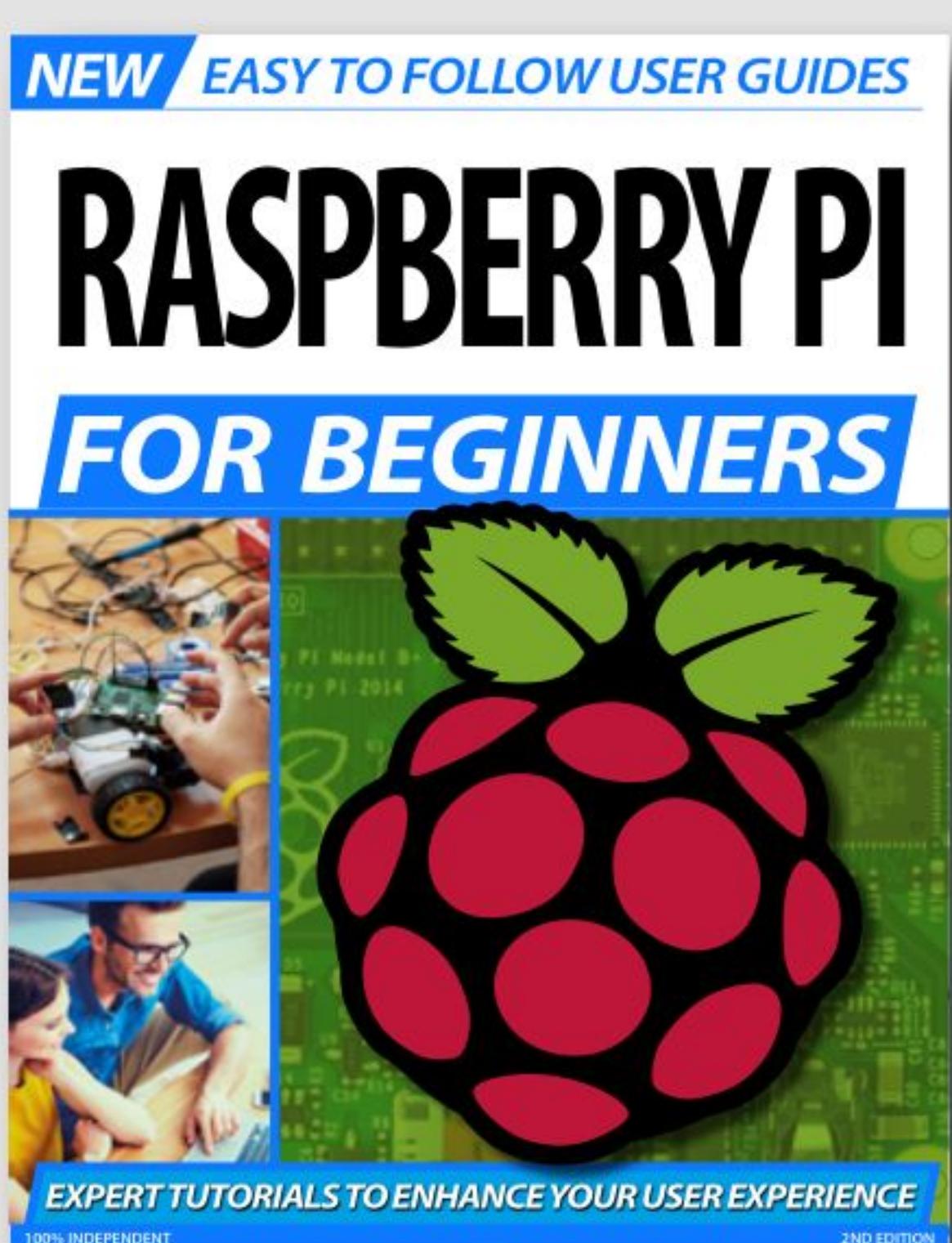
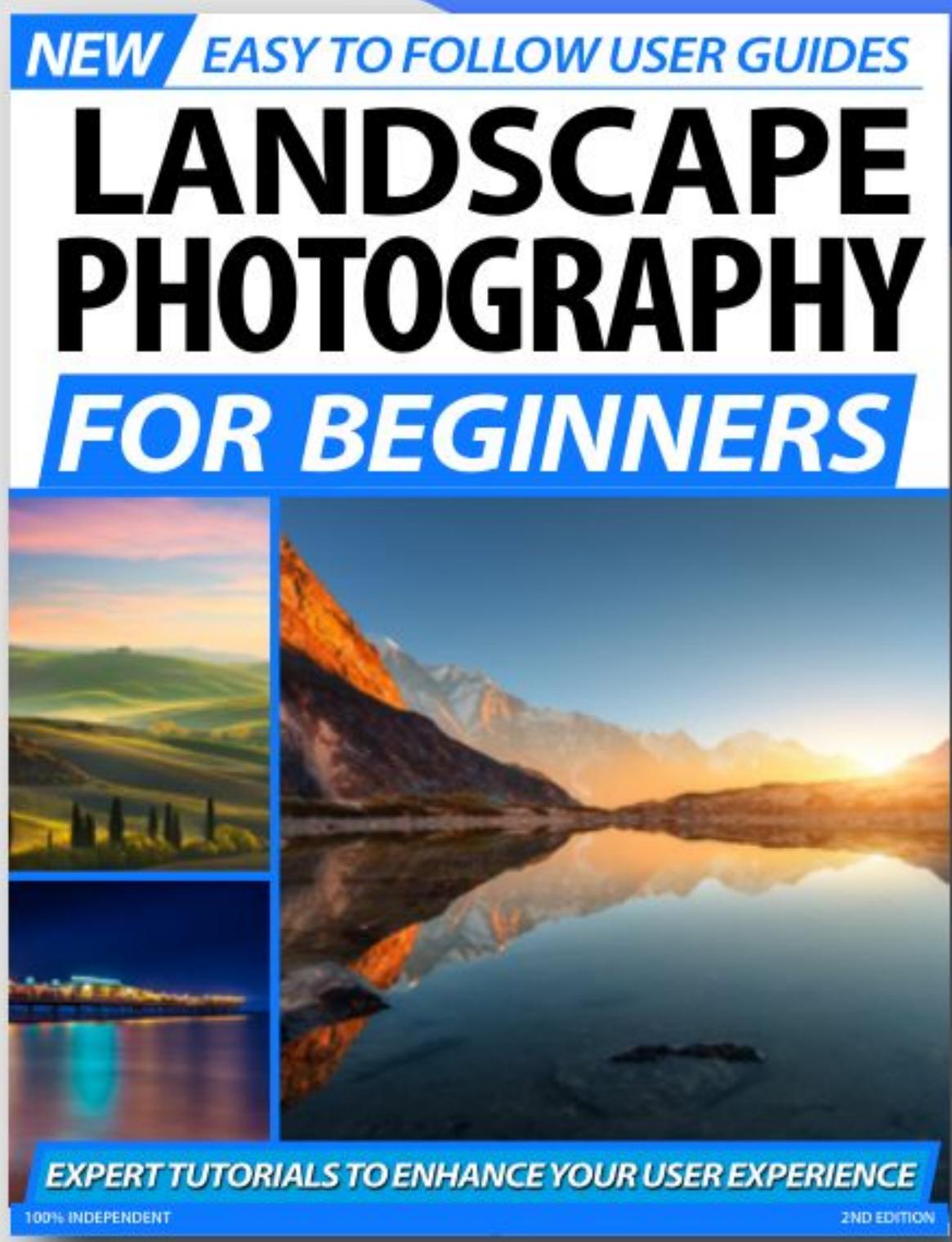
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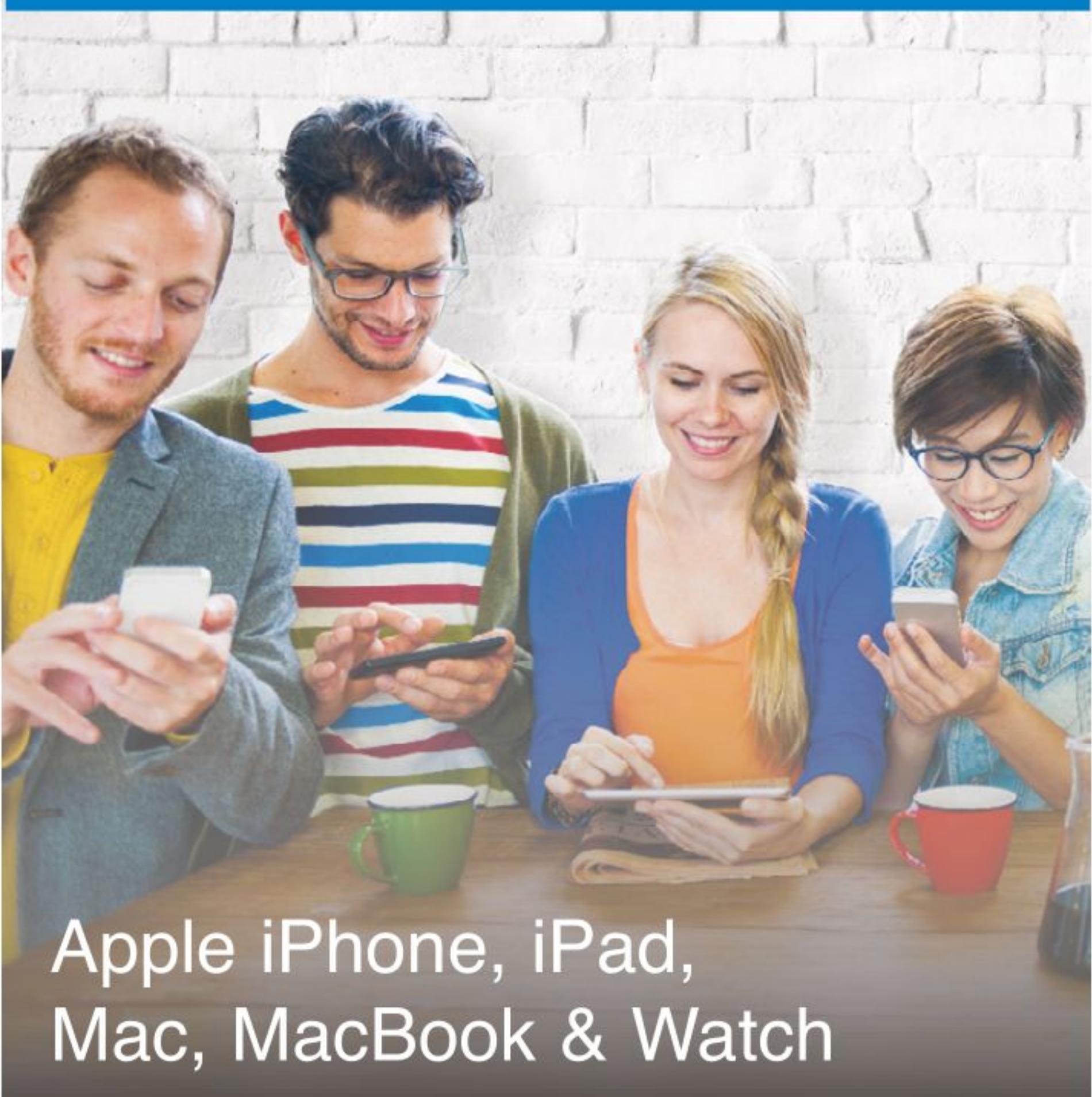
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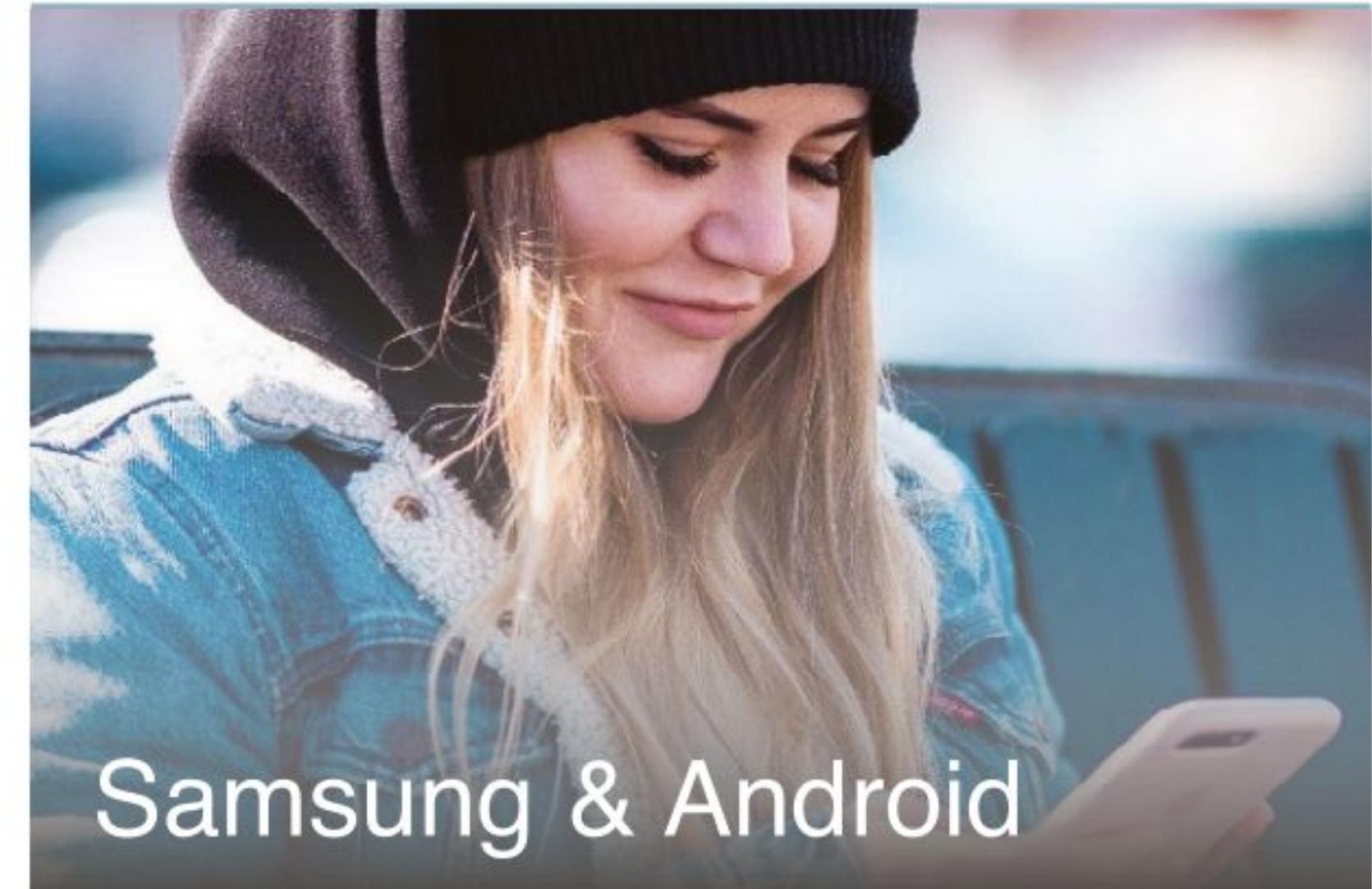
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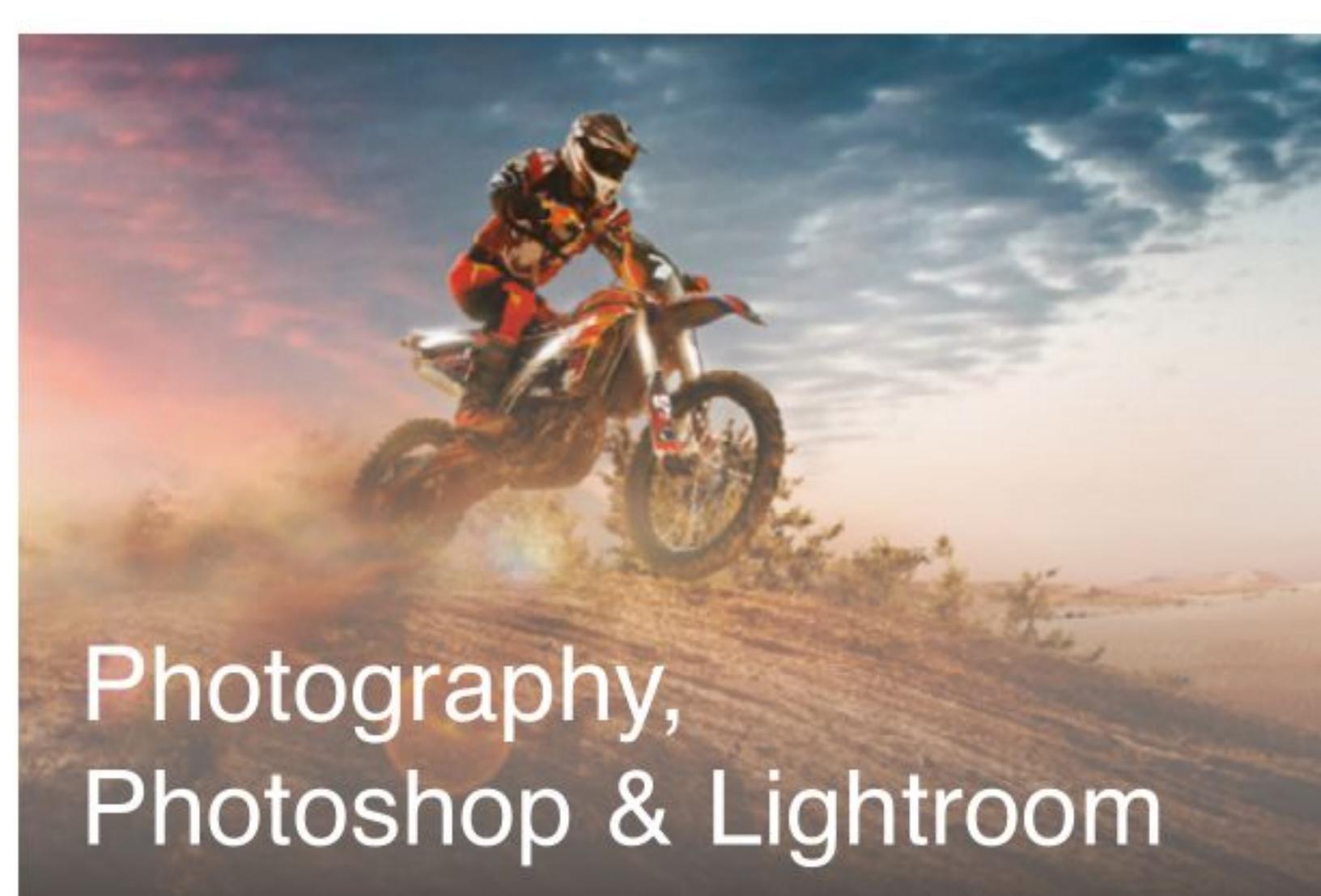
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