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BETTER FONT RENDERING IN LINUX WITH INFINALITY

Author: **Andrew** | Posted: **June 06, 2013** | Updated: February 08, 2017

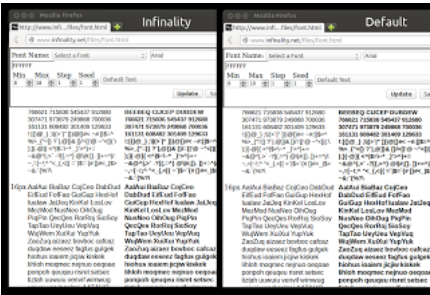
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Many of you have probably already heard of Infinality, but I've decided to write a post about it anyway, for those who aren't familiar with it yet, because it greatly improves the font rendering on Linux.

**Infinality** is a set of FreeType patches that try to provide an improved font rendering for Linux and also, to allow easy customization so the users can adjust the settings to their taste. Using it, you can easily set the font style to emulate **OSX**, **OSX2**, **Windows 98**, **Windows XP** or **Windows 7** or you can use the **"Linux"** or **"Infinality"** (default) styles.

While Infinality is very useful for most Linux distributions, the Ubuntu font rendering is pretty good already, but even so, there are quite a few Ubuntu users who install Infinality, like Miroslav Hadzhiev (Мирослав Хаджиев), the Ubuntu Bulgarian Translators admin, who says that: "[...] this [Infinality] project has brought me back to Linux. I work with documents all day long so the fonts are *VERY important to me*". He adds that using Infinality, the fonts are *sharper and more vivid* on large screens - [here's a screenshot](#) from Miroslav's Ubuntu computer (on the left: Ubuntu default; on the right: Infinality with "Linux" style).

Using Infinality in Ubuntu, the fonts are easier on the eyes and while you may not notice a major or even any difference at all in the screenshot below, you should see the difference after you've used Infinality for a while on your computer:



On the left: Infinality (using the Linux style); on the right: the default Ubuntu font configuration

Click [HERE](#) to zoom in so you can better see the details.

The screenshot above uses the Linux Infinality style, but there are many other style you can choose from, as I was saying above.

The differences in the above screenshot are not very clear because like I was saying, the fonts in Ubuntu look good already, but you should notice a big difference between the default Debian font rendering and Infinality, in the screenshot below:

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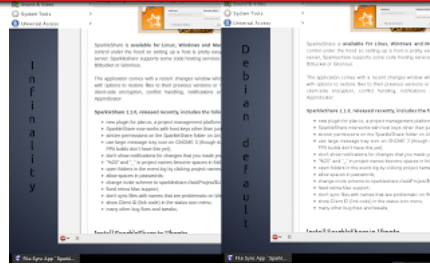
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و ابو الحمد

very useful thanks a lot

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If you want to use or just try out Infinality, here's how to install it in Ubuntu and Debian (with links to installation instructions for other Linux distributions) and set it up.

## Install and configure Infinality for better font rendering in Linux

**Ubuntu:** Freetype with the Infinality patches can be installed in Ubuntu by using a PPA. **To add the PPA and install the required packages in Ubuntu 16.04, 15.10, 15.04, 14.04, or 12.04 / Linux Mint 18, 17 or 13 use the following commands:**

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:no1wantdthisname/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get upgrade
sudo apt-get install fontconfig-infinality
```

Once installed, log out and log back in.

**Debian:** the PPA works on Debian 7 too (that's actually how I've installed Infinality in the screenshot above - I've used "raring" for the version), **but because I've only tested it for a few minutes, I can't say how stable it is.** If you want to use it in Debian, follow the instructions below on your own risk. **An alternative way of installing Infinality on Debian can be found [HERE](#).**

**To add an unofficial Infinality PPA and install all the required packages in Debian (32bit and 64bit), use the following commands:**

```
echo "deb http://ppa.launchpad.net/no1wantdthisname/ppa/ubuntu trusty main"
echo "deb-src http://ppa.launchpad.net/no1wantdthisname/ppa/ubuntu trusty main"
sudo apt-key adv --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys E985B27B
```

For another way of getting better fonts in Debian, see [THIS](#) article (it's in Spanish but you only need the commands).

**Installing Infinality in other Linux distributions:**

- [Fedora \(official Infinality repository\) and generic installation instructions](#)
- Arch Linux: [the easy way](#) | [the generic way](#) (AUR)
- [openSUSE repository](#)
- [Debian installation instructions](#) (build instructions and pre-built binaries)

Once you install Infinality, it's time to configure it. To set the style you want to use, run the following command:

```
sudo bash /etc/fonts/infinality/infctl.sh setstyle
```

And select the style you want to use. Available options are: debug, infinality, linux, osx, osx2, win7, win98 and winxp (I recommend using the **"linux"** style, obviously, but you can try any style, then remember to log out and log back in - you can easily select a different style later on by using the same command). **To use the Windows or OSX style you'll also need to use the Windows or OSX fonts.**



othbert

This doesn't work for Slack e. No modification of the X11 environment v. anything in fact.



ElectricPi

I can imagine how their cor out their reputation after su ment buying into the Ubuntu



Monster

ok thanks



ReddLFC

It's discontinued

FBMessenger: Stand-Alone Facebook For Linux

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Web Upd8

below:

```
sudo -H gedit /etc/profile.d/infinality-settings.sh
```

And in this file, search for **USE\_STYLE** (it should be `USE_STYLE="DEFAULT"` by default) and change it to one of the following styles (I recommend using "UBUNTU" here but you should also try the default to see which one you like better):

- **DEFAULT** - A compromise that should please most people;
- **OSX** - Simulate OSX rendering;
- **IPAD** - Simulate iPad rendering;
- **UBUNTU** - Simulate Ubuntu rendering;
- **LINUX** - Generic "Linux" style - no snapping or certain other tweaks;
- **WINDOWS** - Simulate Windows rendering;
- **WINDOWS7** - Simulate Windows rendering with normal glyphs;
- **WINDOWS7LIGHT** - Simulate Windows 7 rendering with lighter glyphs;
- **WINDOWS** - Simulate Windows rendering;
- **VANILLA** - Just subpixel hinting;
- **CUSTOM** - Your own choice;
- **Infinality styles**:
  - **CLASSIC** - Infinality rendering circa 2010. No snapping;
  - **NUDGE** - **CLASSIC** with lightly stem snapping and tweaks;
  - **PUSH** - **CLASSIC** with medium stem snapping and tweaks;
  - **SHOVE** - Full stem snapping and tweaks without sharpening;
  - **SHARPENED** - Full stem snapping, tweaks, and Windows-style sharpening;
  - **INFIMALITY** - Settings used by the Infinality developer;
  - **DISABLED** - Act as though running without the extra infinality enhancements (just subpixel hinting).

In this file you can change many other settings but if you don't know what they do, only change the style. Then, save the file, log out and log back in to see the changes.

For discussion, bug reports and so, visit the [Infinality forums](#).

**Update:** for improved font rendering in Java / Swing applications (OpenJDK 7), see this article: [Install OpenJDK Patched With Font Fixes \[Ubuntu PPA\]](#)

## Reverting the changes

For **Ubuntu**, to remove Infinality and revert all the changes made by using the instructions above, use the following commands:

```
sudo apt-get purge fontconfig-infinality
sudo apt-get install ppa-purge
sudo ppa-purge ppa:no1wantdthisname/ppa
```

Once the PPA is purge, log out and log back in.

For **Debian**, if you've added the PPA and want to revert the changes, use the following commands:

```
sudo apt-get purge fontconfig-infinality
sudo rm /etc/apt/sources.list.d/infinality.list
sudo apt-get update
```

Then (still for Debian), downgrade the Freetype package using the following command, presuming you're using Debian stable:

- 32bit:

WebUpd8

google.com/+WebUpd8

Ubuntu / Linux news and appli

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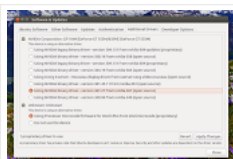
- 64bit:

```
sudo apt-get install libfreetype6/stable libfreetype6:i386/stable
```

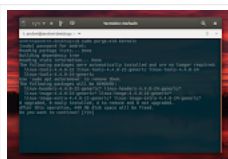
Note: you also need to downgrade libfreetype6-dev if it's installed and also, libfreetype6:i386 may not be installed. You may want to check if those packages are installed by using "apt-cache policy" (example: "apt-cache policy libfreetype6-dev").

Thanks to Miroslav Hadzhiev for the tip and info and to "[slow](#)" for maintaining the PPA!

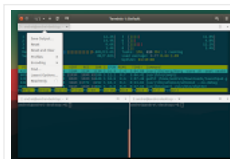
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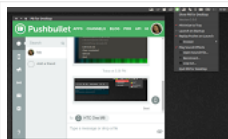
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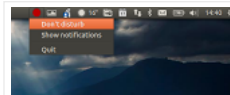
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