Congratulations, you have installed a brand new Linux Mint 17.2 Rafaela, with the Cinnamon desktop! What's best for you to do, first of all?  
  
I've made a list of the things to do, which I've divided into three categories:  
- 10 absolutely essential ones (part 1);  
- the recommended ones (not essential, part 2);  
- the maybe useful (part 3).  
  
It's quite a list, but it'll give you a polished, nearly maintenance-free operating system that you'll be able to enjoy for years to come! Plus it's also a crash course in the use of Linux Mint.  
  
***Note:*** you'll find only relatively safe tips and tweaks here, because I think that the stability and reliability of your operating system should never be endangered. This website is serious about Linux Mint, so my approach is conservative.  
  
I try to mention it whenever some risk is unavoidable, so that you can always make a balanced decision.  
  
***Note:*** this web page is only meant for Linux Mint 17.2 with the Cinnamon desktop environment; the [page for the Mate desktop is here](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/mint-mate-first) and the [page for the Xfce desktop is here](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/8).

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***Tip:*** you can [download a checklist here](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/file-closet/Checklist-Linux-Mint-Cinnamon_v17.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1), which you can print on paper. Then you can strike the items that you've done.  
  
***Are you unsure what Linux Mint version you have?****The version number on the default wallpaper should give you an indication, but you can also check that as follows:  
  
Launch a terminal window:  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste in order to avoid typing errors):  
lsb\_release -a  
  
Press Enter.*  
  
  
**Part 1**

***TEN ESSENTIAL ACTIONS:***

**Apply all available updates**

1.1. First the updates, then the rest...  
  
Click on Menu - Administration - Update Manager  
  
Let Update Manager check for available updates and apply them all.   
  
***Note:*** during the updates you might be asked whether you want to replace a configuration file. Don't replace it: although replacing is generally safe, it's usually unnecessary.  
  
Afterwards reboot your computer (not always necessary after updates, but in this case, do it just to make sure).

**Better settings for the terminal, Update Manager and the mechanism for installing software**

1.2. The terminal (terminal window), Update Manager and the mechanism for installing software are three very important tools. That's why it's important that their settings are optimal. You can achieve that as follows:

**Improve the terminal settings**

1.2.1. You're probably going to use the terminal from time to time, because it's the mighty "Swiss Army knife" of Linux. But the default appearance of the terminal window can be made more practical. You can do that like this:  
  
a. Unfortunately the **menu bar** of the terminal window is hidden by default. Mainly because the developers think it looks nicer that way, I'm afraid.... And possibly also because one or two hotkeys (keyboard shortcuts) in a couple of terminal applications, apparently might also activate features in the menu bar. I've yet to encounter those, though...  
  
In most cases, it's of course impractical and annoying that the menu bar is hidden. Like this you can make the menu bar of the terminal visible:  
  
Menu button - Accessories - Terminal  
Right-click with the mouse in the black space of the terminal - tick: Show Menubar.  
  
In order to make the menu bar permanent and not just for this one time, do the following:  
Right-click with the mouse in the black space of the terminal - Profiles - Profile Preferences  
  
Tab General: tick Show menubar by default in new terminals.  
  
b. Furthermore, the terminal window is **semi-transparent**. Again: beautiful, but impractical. Improve it like this:  
  
Menu bar of the terminal: Edit - Profile Preferences (or: right-click with the mouse in the black space of the terminal - Profiles - Profile Preferences).  
  
Tab Background: select Solid color.

**Consider improving the settings of Update Manager**

1.2.2. The default settings of Update Manager are very cautious; that's a characteristic of Linux Mint. Stability first and foremost.  
  
In itself that's good, although Ubuntu (on which Mint is built) is less cautious with updates. And Ubuntu is also stable and reliable.  
  
It might be worthwhile to make Mints Update Manager a little less cautious: that gives you the advantage of extra bug fixes and extra security updates.  
  
***Note: if you're an absolute beginner with Linux, then maybe you'd rather change nothing in Update Manager. That's OK, too. Without any changes you still have a secure system. Much more secure than Windows, for example....  
  
It's therefore not strictly necessary to change things. But it is important that you understand these aspects of Update Manager. That's why this is listed among the essential things to do.  
  
If you don't want to change the settings of Update Manager (yet), you can simply skip this.***  
  
You can change the settings of Update Manager [like this (\*Click\*)](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/20).

**Improve the settings of the mechanism for installing software**

1.2.3. Mint deviates from the Ubuntu way, where the so-called "recommended" packages are concerned. When you install software yourself, Ubuntu installs the recommended packages by default, but Mint does not.  
  
This has two important disadvantages: in Mint, the features of the applications that you install yourself, can be needlessly crippled. And some how-to's for Ubuntu, don't work in Mint. All this for the sake of saving some disk space...  
  
You can make things right in the following way:  
  
Launch a terminal window:  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste):  
sudo mv -v /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/00recommends /  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.  
Press Enter again.  
  
Hereby you've moved the settings file that prevents "recommended" packages from being installed, to the root folder, which disables it.  
  
*Should you ever wish to undo this (but why?) then you can do the following:  
sudo mv -v /00recommends /etc/apt/apt.conf.d*

**Install missing drivers and firmware**

1.3. Installing drivers is usually not necessary, because they are already present in the Linux kernel. Exceptions are proprietary restricted drivers for (among others) Nvidia and AMD/ATI graphics cards.  
  
a. First install a firmware package that can't be in Mint by default, for copyright reasons. Even if you don't need it now, because it might come in handy in the future:  
  
Launch a terminal window:  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste):  
sudo apt-get install linux-firmware-nonfree  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.  
Press Enter again.  
  
Afterwards, reboot your computer.  
  
  
b. Install your printer and scanner [in this way (\*Click\*)](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/17).  
  
  
c. For optimal performance of your Nvidia or AMD/ATI video card, or your Broadcom wireless chipset, you'll want to install the closed source restricted driver (the proprietary driver). Like this:  
  
Menu - Administration - Driver Manager  
  
When available for your system, this tool will present you with one or more installable non-free drivers. Select them.  
  
The required drivers are then automatically downloaded from the internet, from the software repositories of Mint, and (also automatically) installed. Afterwards you'll have to do a full reboot of your computer.  
  
***Note:*** sometimes you're being offered several versions of the restricted driver for your video card. The order of preference is as follows:

**Preferred order for the non-free video drivers**

1.3.1. The preferred order for the non-free restricted drivers for your video card, is this:  
  
***NVIDIA:***  
1. nvidia-(346-331-319-313-310-304-173)  
2. nvidia-(346-331-319-313-310-304-173)-updates  
3. nvidia-experimental  
  
***AMD/ATI:***  
1. fglrx  
2. fglrx-updates  
  
Only choose from the versions that you're being offered, because only those support your video card! Start with the preferred number one, and only work your way down when it doesn't perform well.  
  
*Do you have a brand-new graphics card from Nvidia or AMD/ATI? Then it might be too new for the version of the proprietary restricted driver in the software repositories of Mint. In that case you won't be offered any proprietary driver by Driver Manager.  
  
If this happens, then you can look for*[*another solution for your Nvidia card on this page*](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/12)*. For an AMD/ATI card it's better to stick with the default open source driver and wait until the next Mint release, which will probably provide a newer proprietary driver.*

**Optimize your Solid State Drive (SSD)**

1.4. Do you have a Solid State Drive (SSD) instead of a conventional hard disk? Then[optimize it for Linux Mint](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/ssd).

**Install some useful tools for system management**

1.5. For file management with root authority, it's best to use a stand-alone simple file manager that's not embedded in your operating system. Because otherwise you run the risk of messing up the file permissions in your home directory. Such a simple stand-alone file manager is GNOME Commander.  
  
For the same reason it's best to use a simple stand-alone text editor, for editing system-wide configuration files with root authority. Such as Leafpad.  
  
Finally, a very useful tool for sound management is pavucontrol.  
  
Install them all like this:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal):  
  
sudo apt-get install gnome-commander libgnomevfs2-extra leafpad pavucontrol  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.  
Press Enter again.

**Decrease the swap use (important)**

1.6. This is especially noticeable on computers with relatively low RAM memory (1 GB or less): they tend to be far too slow in Linux Mint, and Linux Mint accesses the hard disk too much. Luckily, this can be helped.  
  
On the hard disk there's a separate partition for virtual memory, called the swap. When Mint uses the swap too much, the computer slows down a lot.  
  
Mint's inclination to use the swap, is determined by a setting. The lower the setting number, the longer it takes before Mint starts using the swap. On a scale of 0-100, the default setting is 60. Which is much too high for normal desktop use, and only fit for servers.  
  
A detailed explanation can be found [here](http://rudd-o.com/linux-and-free-software/tales-from-responsivenessland-why-linux-feels-slow-and-how-to-fix-that) (link dead? Then download [this pdf file](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/file-closet/swappiness.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1) with the same content).  
  
Now the how-to:  
  
a. Check your current swappiness setting:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to avoid errors):  
cat /proc/sys/vm/swappiness  
  
Press Enter.  
  
The result will probably be 60.  
  
b. Make sure that you have installed the applications gksu and leafpad:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal):  
sudo apt-get install gksu leafpad  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.  
Press Enter again.  
  
c. To change the swappiness into a more sensible setting, type in the terminal (use copy/paste):  
gksudo leafpad /etc/sysctl.conf  
  
Press Enter.  
  
Scroll to the bottom of the text file and add your swappiness parameter to override the default. Copy/paste the following blue lines:  
  
# Decrease swap usage to a more reasonable level  
vm.swappiness=10  
  
d. Save and close the text file. Then reboot your computer.  
  
e. After the reboot, check the new swappiness value:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste):  
cat /proc/sys/vm/swappiness  
  
Press Enter.  
  
Now it should be 10.  
  
***Note:*** your machine might benefit from an even bigger decrease in swappiness. A useful rule of thumb might be this:  
1 GB RAM or more: set swappiness to 10  
Less than 1 GB RAM: set swappiness to 5

**Solve some known bugs**

1.7. Have a look at the [solutions for 15 bugs](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/bugs). Don't skip this! There's a 90 % chance that you'll benefit from at least one of the workarounds presented at that page..... Written for Ubuntu, but applicable in Mint as well.  
  
Also relevant: [the release notes of Linux Mint 17.2 Cinnamon](http://www.linuxmint.com/rel_rafaela_cinnamon.php).

**Avoid 10 fatal mistakes!**

1.8. There are [10 mistakes that you definitely want to avoid](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/fatalmistakes), for the sake of the health of your system. Written for Ubuntu, but applicable in Mint as well.

**Turn on the firewall**

1.9. The firewall is disabled by default, but usually it's better to turn it on. Especially on mobile devices like laptops, which sometimes connect to other networks than your own.  
  
The firewall is called Uncomplicated Firewall (ufw), and can be operated from the terminal.   
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste):  
sudo ufw enable  
  
Press Enter. Type your password when prompted; this will remain entirely invisible, not even asterisks will show, which is normal.  
  
Uncomplicated Firewall (ufw) has a sensible set of default settings (profile), which are fine for the vast majority of home users. So unless you have special wishes: you're done!  
  
You can check the status of the firewall with this command:  
sudo ufw status verbose  
  
Press Enter.  
  
When enabled, the output should be like this:  
  
***pjotr@netbook:~$ sudo ufw status verbose  
[sudo] password for pjotr:   
Status: active  
Logging: on (low)  
Default: deny (incoming), allow (outgoing)  
New profiles: skip  
pjotr@netbook:~$***  
  
I've printed the most important message in red: this output basically means that all incoming is denied and all outgoing is allowed.  
  
There are sensible exceptions in the default settings: for example, with the default profile the use of Samba should be no problem. Also downloading torrents (fetch) should be possible; but seeding torrents (serve), might require a temporal disabling of ufw.  
  
It's easy to disable the firewall (should you wish to do so) with this command:  
sudo ufw disable  
  
Press Enter.  
  
If you're interested in the full set of rules, see the output of:  
sudo ufw show raw   
You can also read the rules files in /etc/ufw (the files whose names end with .rules).  
  
A further explanation about the firewall and security in general, [can be found here](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/security#TOC-Firewall).

**Improve multimedia and font support**

1.10. The multimedia and font support can use some improvements.  
  
a. Use Software Manager or Synaptic Package Manager for installing some extra fonts.  
  
Menu - Administration - Software Manager  
  
- Query: microsoft  
  
- Double-click ttf-mscorefonts-installer for installation and press the Install button.  
  
Funny detail: during the installation of the Microsoft fonts, which you definitely want to have, you'll be asked to check a box stating that you accept a license agreement of.... Microsoft.  
  
***Note:*** sometimes it may look like the installation has stalled. This is only seemingly so: simply wait. After a while (sometimes several minutes!) the installation should finish neatly.  
  
b. You might want to [install Oracle (Sun) Java](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/java) (if you need it, which is rare nowadays).

**Part 2**

***NINE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (NOT ESSENTIAL):***

**Remove Mono**

2.1. By default, Mono is installed. This package is a security risk, because it offers Windows applications a limited opportunity to run in Linux. Unfortunately also malicious Windows software, like viruses and such.  
  
It's only a limited risk, but a risk nevertheless. So it's better to remove Mono. You can achieve that as follows:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal):  
sudo apt-get remove mono-runtime-common  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.   
Press Enter again.  
  
This removal will also delete two Mono based applications, namely media player Banshee and notepad Tomboy. With the following terminal command you can install fine alternatives for them, that don't depend on Mono:  
  
sudo apt-get install gnome-mplayer xpad  
  
Press Enter.

**Optimize Firefox**

2.2. With a couple of changes in the settings, you can improve the performance of Firefox in Linux Mint. [These tweaks](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/firefox) will make this fine web browser leaner and cleaner.

**Tweak Libre Office**

2.3. The default office suite is the fine Libre Office. In order to improve it, you can [tweak the settings of Libre Office](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/libreoffice).

**Disable hibernation (suspend-to-disk)**

2.4. Unfortunately, "hibernate" (suspend-to-disk) is enabled by default in Linux Mint. Which is rather surprising, because in Ubuntu it's disabled by default...  
  
This aggressive sleep mode often leads to problems, because most manufacturers of BIOS and UEFI don't stick to the standards for implementing power saving. So your computer may experience malfunctions after waking up, or even enter a coma from which it can't awake at all.  
  
It's therefore best to disable hibernation.  
  
***Note:****the sleep mode "suspend" (suspend-to-ram) is much less aggressive and therefore far less likely to cause problems.*  
  
You can disable hibernation (suspend-to-disk) like this:  
  
a. Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
b. Copy the following command line and paste it into the terminal, in order to avoid typing errors (this is one line):  
  
sudo mv -v /etc/polkit-1/localauthority/50-local.d/com.ubuntu.enable-hibernate.pkla /  
  
Press Enter and submit your password. Please note that the password will remain invisible, not even asterisks will show, which is normal.  
  
With that, you've moved the settings file that enables hibernation, to the main directory **/**(root). Thus rendering it ineffective. The new location is a safe storage, from which you can retrieve it again, should you ever wish to restore hibernation.  
  
c. Reboot your computer. Hibernation should now no longer be one of the options in the shutdown menu.  
  
*(with thanks to riffbiker from the Linux Mint forum)*  
  
d. On a laptop, it's advisable to check the power manager settings: you'll have to select alternatives for hibernation now, for actions like closing the lid...  
  
**e. The troublesome hibernation shouldn't be enabled by default at all... So please help to improve Linux Mint, by supporting this idea of mine:**[**http://community.linuxmint.com/idea/view/5482**](http://community.linuxmint.com/idea/view/5482)

**How to undo**

2.4.1. Do you want hibernation back? The above hack is easily reversible. Undoing it is very simple:  
  
a. Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
b. Copy/paste the following line into the terminal (it's one line):  
  
sudo mv -v /com.ubuntu.enable-hibernate.pkla /etc/polkit-1/localauthority/50-local.d  
  
Press Enter and submit your password. Please note that the password will remain invisible, not even asterisks will show, which is normal.  
  
Reboot your computer. The hibernate option should be back now.

**Install an extra web browser**

2.5. It's useful to have an extra web browser available. Firefox is a fine application, but now and then (especially when you've installed too many extensions or add-ons in Firefox), it doesn't function entirely well.  
  
An excellent alternative to Firefox, is web browser Chromium. You can install it as follows, together with the latest Adobe Flash Player plugin:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal):  
  
sudo apt-get install chromium-browser chromium-browser-l10n pepperflashplugin-nonfree  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.   
Press Enter again.  
  
***Note:*** most plug-ins that you've installed for Firefox (not the add-ons and extensions, but things like Java) work automatically in Chromium as well. No need for further action for that.  
  
Adobe Flash Player is a notable exception, though. That's why you need the Pepperflash plugin which you've installed together with Chromium.  
  
Chromium is the open source "raw material" for Google Chrome (Google Chrome = Chromium with some adaptations). You can find tips and tweaks for Chromium [here](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/chrome).

**Speed up your Linux Mint**

2.6. You can probably speed up your Linux Mint noticeably, by applying [these safe speed tweaks](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/3).

**Improve Power Manager for a laptop**

2.7. The default settings of Power Manager for a laptop, can be improved.  
  
a. By default, the icon of Power Manager in the system tray of the panel, doesn't show the remaining percentage of battery charge. That's not handy. Fix it like this:  
  
Right-click mouse on the Power Manager icon in the system tray - Configure... - tick: Show percentage  
  
b. Furthermore, currently the "shutdown immediately" option is missing for critically low battery charge. You can add that option as follows:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal, it's one line):  
  
sudo sed -i '/critical\_options =/,+1 {s/("hibernate", \_("Hibernate")),/&\n ("shutdown", \_("Shutdown immediately")),/}' /usr/lib/cinnamon-settings/modules/cs\_power.py  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.   
Press Enter again.  
  
To set it: click on the icon of Power Manager in the system tray (this time an ordinary left-click) - Power Settings - When the battery is critically low: set it to Shutdown immediately.  
  
c. Finally, the "shutdown immediately" option is also missing for closing the laptop lid. You can add that option as follows:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal, it's one line):  
  
sudo sed -i '/lid\_options =/,+1 {s/("suspend", \_("Suspend")),/&\n ("shutdown", \_("Shutdown immediately")),/}' /usr/lib/cinnamon-settings/modules/cs\_power.py  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.   
Press Enter again.  
  
To set it: click on the icon of Power Manager in the system tray (an ordinary left-click) - Power Settings - When the lid is closed: set it to Shutdown immediately. Both for "On A/C power" and for "On battery power".

**Install a better DVD burning application**

2.8. The best DVD burning application is currently Xfburn, because the default burning app Brasero is rather unreliable and regularly spoils your DVD's. Xfburn on the other hand, is reliable, simple and easy. Install it like this:  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Type (use copy/paste to transport this magical incantation to the terminal):  
sudo apt-get install xfburn  
  
Press Enter. When prompted, type your password. Your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.   
Press Enter again.  
  
Now you can launch Xfburn like this:  
  
Menu button - Sound & Video - Xfburn

**Extra visual effects: the fewer, the better**

2.9. Not an action but a warning: in Mint Cinnamon you can enable a lot of extra visual effects. Nice, and some of them look bloody good indeed.  
  
But they can cause a considerable extra system load as well, which may make your computer slower. Apart from that, they might even make your system less stable.  
  
For the most reliable and stable system, it's therefore best ***not*** to enable extra visual effects. On the contrary: if you want to try to make your computer faster, it's even often worthwhile to disable some visual effects that are enabled by default.  
  
  
**Part 3**

***NINE NEUTRAL TWEAKS (MAYBE USEFUL):***

**Add a weather report to the panel**

3.1. Always nice: a weather report in the panel. You can have that in Mint Cinnamon, but it's a ...\*cough\*... rather cumbersome job to get it. This is how to do it:  
  
Right-click mouse on an empty space on the panel - Add applets to panel  
  
Tab Available applets (online)  
  
Click Weather  
  
Click on the button Install or update selected items  
  
Click on the tab Installed applets  
  
Click Weather  
  
Click on the button Add to panel  
  
Now you see a curved arrow appear in the panel. Not much use, because it'll be busy "loading" forever.  
  
Right-click on the curved arrow - Configure...  
  
Click the elongated button Get WOEID  
  
Now Firefox will open with a particular website. Fill out your location there: pick a nearby city with an airport, because the weather data are being supplied by the airfields.  
  
Fill out the acquired WOEID in the entry box of the settings of Weather.  
  
Tick the box: Show 5-day forecast  
  
When you click on the Weather panel icon now, you'll see a window with extensive meteorological data, plus a five-day forecast.

**Change the wallpaper**

3.2. Mint looks nice out of the box, but maybe you want to change some of its looks anyway....  
  
You can change your wallpaper in almost the same way as in Windows, but there's one important difference.  
  
So: select a picture that you want for wallpaper. Double-click the picture file.  
  
Now the picture is being shown in the image viewer Eye of Gnome. Then, in the panel of that application: click Image - Set as Desktop background. You're done.  
  
However, the important difference with Windows is this: Mint only creates a *shortcut* to the picture that you've set as wallpaper. When you move or delete the picture afterwards, then your wallpaper disappears also!  
  
So don't throw away the picture, but put it permanently in your home folder. For example in the folder Images. And only then set it as wallpaper.

**Access your network disk (NAS) with Gigolo**

3.3. You can [use Gigolo to access your network disk (NAS)](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/reserve-6).

**Migrate your e-mail from Outlook (Express) in Windows, to Linux Mint**

3.4. It's easy to migrate your e-mails and e-mail settings from Outlook (Express) in Windows, to Thunderbird in Linux Mint Cinnamon. Simply [apply this how-to](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/1).

**Install some simple games**

3.5. Always fun: install some simple games.  
  
Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
  
Copy/paste the following terminal command:  
  
sudo apt-get install aisleriot gnome-cards-data gnomine quadrapassel gnome-sudoku  
  
Press Enter. Type your password when prompted; your password will remain entirely invisible, not even dots will show, this is normal.  
  
After the installation you can find them like this: Menu - Games

**Make the Grub boot menu pretty**

3.6. The Grub menu, from which you choose what operating system to boot on a dual boot computer, is practical but ugly.  
  
Luckily, it's easy to make it prettier: [\*Click\*](https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/beautifygrub).

**Turn NumLock turn on automatically**

3.7. ***Note:*** this instruction is only meant for desktops and laptops that have a separate numeric keypad, as it's definitely not desirable to have the NumLock on by default on a laptop that has no such separate keypad.  
  
In some cases it's useful for NumLock to be switched on automatically when you start Linux Mint. You can achieve that as follows:  
  
a. Menu - Accessories - Terminal  
Copy/paste the following command into the terminal:  
  
sudo apt-get install numlockx  
  
Reboot your computer. The numeric keypad should turn on automatically after you log into your user account.  
  
***Note:*** it's possible that during login, Mint will turn NumLock off again (sigh). If that happens, you can counteract that irritating behaviour as follows:   
  
Menu - Preferences - Startup Applications  
  
Click Add - Custom command  
  
Give the new addition the name Numlockx and the command:  
numlockx  
  
Startup delay: set it at 20 seconds.  
  
Click Add.  
  
This will turn NumLock on, 20 seconds after login. The delay is necessary, because you have to make sure it happens ***after*** Mint has turned NumLock off.   
  
***Note:*** user preference, so repeat this in each user account.

**Make available updates more prominent**

3.8. Some people have difficulty noticing the blue icon in the system tray, that signifies that new updates are available.... In that case you can make available updates more prominent like this:  
  
Menu - Preferences - Startup Applications  
  
Click Add - Custom command  
  
**Name:** Update Window  
**Command:** mintupdate  
**Startup delay:** set it at 99. Because otherwise it may conflict with the existing startup application mintupdate-launcher, which launches after 20 seconds.  
  
Click Save.  
  
Now you should be presented with the window of Update Manager, 99 seconds after you log in. You can't overlook it: it's "in your face".  
  
The disadvantage is, that you also get to see it when there are no updates at all. But that's better than overlooking updates that need to be installed....

**Disable window tiling and the HUD**

3.9. Maybe you find window tiling and the HUD (Heads Up Display) an annoying feature (just drag an application window to the top of your display to see what I mean). If so, you can easily disable it like this:  
  
Menu button - Preferences - Window Tiling  
Enable Window Tiling and Snapping: set the switch to OFF.