



Linux Mint

Super Tips

By [Silver Moon](#)

On [Jun 15, 2014](#)

[27 Comments](#)

Linux Mint 17 Qiana Cinnamon

Linux Mint 17 has been [released](#) and is named Qiana. Mint is one of the best linux distros that targets desktop users with focus on usability and simplicity. It comes in various flavors with different desktop environments like Mate and Cinnamon and different base distros like Ubuntu or Debian.

In this post we are playing with the cinnamon edition of Linux Mint 17. More information about the Cinnamon edition (including download links) can be found at -

<http://blog.linuxmint.com/?p=2626>

Download the correct iso (32bit or 64bit) for your system, burn to a dvd or write to a usb drive and boot in. Once you install completes, its time to charge up the system with some tweaks and essential apps to get the best performance and experience.

1. Update the system

The first thing to do always is to make the system up-to-date. Run the following commands in a terminal.

```
$ sudo apt-get update  
$ sudo apt-get upgrade
```

Or use the Update Manager (mintUpdate) that can be found in Menu > Administration.



2. Get old wallpapers

Every release of Linux Mint comes with a new set of nice wallpapers. But you can also install wallpapers from the previous versions.

```
$ sudo apt-get install mint-backgrounds-*
```

3. Get more browsers

Linux Mint 17 has firefox installed by default. You can also install other browsers like Chromium and Google Chrome.

The chromium browser is available in the repositories.

```
$ sudo apt-get install chromium-browser
```

For Google Chrome visit [google.com/chrome](https://www.google.com/chrome) and download the deb files and install them using gdebi.

Or run the following commands

```
# 64 bit
$ wget https://dl.google.com/linux/direct/google-chrome-stable_current_amd64.deb
$ sudo gdebi google-chrome-stable_current_amd64.deb

# 32 bit
$ wget https://dl.google.com/linux/direct/google-chrome-stable_current_i386.deb
$ sudo gdebi google-chrome-stable_current_i386.deb
```

4. Install Flash Player

The adobe flash plugin package (adobe-flashplugin) is installed by default on Mint so should be able to play flash games and videos inside Firefox.

Google Chrome now uses the Pepper API based flash player which comes inbuilt with it, so you don't need to do anything for Chrome either.

For Chromium however, the Pepper based flash player is not included (being a non-free component) and has to be installed manually.

Install the following package to install the pepper flash player for Chromium. It will download the pepper flash player from Google Chrome browser and put it inside Chromium.

```
$ sudo apt-get install pepperflashplugin-nonfree
```

The above command should setup the flash player in Chromium. In case it fails to download, redo the process with the following command

```
$ sudo dpkg-reconfigure pepperflashplugin-nonfree
```

5. Install multimedia codecs

The restricted extras package would install most of the essential codecs for playing formats like mp3. It would also install the microsoft fonts.

```
$ sudo apt-get install ubuntu-restricted-extras
```

To enable playback of encrypted dvds, install the following package.

```
$ sudo apt-get install libdvdread4
$ sudo /usr/share/doc/libdvdread4/install-css.sh
```

6. Install proprietary drivers

If you are having an nvidia or ati graphics card or broadcom wireless card, then install the proprietary drivers provided by the

vendor. These drivers would get you the best hardware performance.

For installing nvidia drivers you can follow the previous post here

[How to install the latest Nvidia drivers on Linux Mint](#)

7. Install Dropbox

Linux mint repository already has the package for dropbox client, so you need not go elsewhere.

```
$ sudo apt-get install dropbox python-gpgme
```

If you still prefer to download dropbox from the official website then head straight to <https://www.dropbox.com/install?os=lnx> and follow the instructions and download the deb installers for Ubuntu.

Copy is another cloud storage solution that has a native Linux client. Check it out at copy.com. It also has a [ppa repository](#).

8. Skype

Skype is available in the Ubuntu canonical partner repositories.

```
$ sudo apt-get install skype
```

9. Install rar and other archiving utilities

To be able to create rar archives from the context menu in file managers like Nemo, install the rar utility. Along with rar, install a few more packages to add support for other archive formats.

```
$ sudo apt-get install unace p7zip-rar sharutils rar arj lunzip lzip
```

10. Install a clipboard manager

Clipboard managers allow you to maintain and access history of items that you copied in the past using Ctrl+C for example. There are many clipboard managers for gnome like diodon, clipit, glipper, parcellite.

Diodon seemd to have some issues on the cinnamon desktop, that scrollers would appear as the history list grows. Clipit and Glipper worked very well. You can install either

```
$ sudo apt-get install glipper  
# or  
$ sudo apt-get install clipit
```

Then launch them from the Application menu and they should start everytime you login.

11. Tweak the desktop

1. Fix the date format on the system tray

The time applet at the bottom right shows only the time. It can be made to show the date as well. Right click the date-time applet on the bottom right and click Configure

Check the box labelled "Use a custom date format" and fill in

```
%B %e, %l:%M %p
```

This would show the month name, date and time in 12 hour format with AM/PM

2. Install Themes, Extensions, Applets, Desklets

Get some goodies for your desktop. You have desklets for the desktop area, applets for the panel, extensions for desktop effects and themes for the desktop design.

Go to system settings, click on the specific icon and you would see a list to select from. Click the "Get more online" tab to download more such goodies.

3. Change Firefox search engine

You might notice that Firefox has the Yahoo search engine selected by default and the search engine list does not have Google in it. Click "Manage Search Engines" > Get more search engines. It will take you to <http://www.linuxmint.com/searchengines.php>.

Scroll down to the section of commercial search engines and find the Google logo and click on it. Once you are on the next page, click on the search engine list again and this time you would see an option "Add Google". Click on it and Google search engine would be available.

12. Guake dropdown terminal

Dropdown terminals allow you to access terminals at the press of a single key. Guake is one such dropdown terminal for gtk based desktops. Dropdown terminals show/hide upon request and keep running so you do not need to open the terminal from the menu or launcher.

This is a must have tool for terminal addicts

```
$ sudo apt-get install guake
```

Guake needs to be configured to start everytime on Logon. First find out the path to the guake command.

```
$ which guake
/usr/bin/guake
```

Now add it to the list of startup applications. Go to system settings > startup programs and click Add. Fill the dialog

```
Name - Guake dropdown terminal
Command - /usr/bin/guake
```

Click Add. Now Guake is in the list of running applications and would start automatically everytime.

13. Uget download manager

Uget is a simple and robust cross platform download manager and works very well on Linux. It lacks the ability to download files in multiple parts, but is still a very stable download manager.

```
$ sudo apt-get install uget
```

14. Deluge BitTorrent client

Linux Mint comes with Transmission which is a simple and efficient torrent client. If you are looking for a more featureful torrent client, than you can try out the deluge or vuze (formerly azureus), or qbittorrent.

```
$ sudo apt-get install deluge-torrent
```

15. Hardinfo - System information tool

Hardinfo is a very convenient gui tool that reports a whole lot of information about various hardware parts on your system. You can check information about processor, memory, storage device, network configuration, printers, usb devices, sound/video adapters etc all in one place. It also has features to test and measure the performance of your system

```
$ sudo apt-get install hardinfo
```

16. Install MATE desktop environment

Apart from Cinnamon the other popular desktop environment that comes with Linux Mint is the MATE (Maatay) desktop. Install it if you want to try it.

```
$ sudo apt-get install mint-meta-mate
```

Now you can select the MATE session at the login screen.

17. Make other partitions writable

If you have other ext partitions, to store and backup files for example, then you need to make them writable to avoid using root privileges every time.

First open the partition mount directory in a file manager using gksudo.

```
$ gksudo nemo
```

Navigate to the partition directory. Right click and go to Properties > Permissions tab

Give "Folder access" - create and delete files to owner, group and others

Give "File access" - read and write to owner, group and others.

For Ntfs partitions you do not need to do this.

18. Install Conky

Conky is a lightweight system monitor that displays statistics about various system resources like cpu, memory, network etc on the desktop using graphical widgets. Its not a necessary thing, but gets you some eye candy for the desktop.

```
$ sudo apt-add-repository -y ppa:teejee2008/ppa
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install conky-manager
```

Launch Conky Manager from the applications menu and add widgets to the desktop. Also check the option to start Conky on system startup.

19. Install some games

Linux does have some cool games that are quite entertaining and yet free. Note that some of these games like supertuxkart and 0ad require dedicated graphics processors for optimal performance.

```
# 0ad - strategy game like age of empires
$ aptitude search 0ad

# supertuxkart - car racing game
$ aptitude search supertuxkart

# openarena
$ aptitude search openarena
```

There are a lot more games in the repository that you can install. Alien arena, secret maryo chronicles, supertux, frozen bubbles etc.

[amz-related-products search_index='All' keywords='linux mint' unit='grid']

20. Cleanup

After everything, cleanup the system by removing unnecessary packages.

```
$ sudo apt-get autoremove
```

21. More applications

If you are looking for still more applications for your Mint box, then here a small list of more good apps. All of them can be installed from Software Manager.

Opera - Web browser
Gnome Encfs Manager - Manager files and folders encrypted with Encfs
Smplayer - Multimedia player
Rhythmbox, Clementine - Music players
Openshot, Kdenlive - Video editor
Audacity - Audio editor
Inkscape - Graphics and image editing
Gparted - Partition editor
Gufw - Firewall configuration tool
qBittorrent, Vuze - Torrent clients
Gwenview - Image viewing

Team viewer - remote desktop
Tv-maxe - view tv channels
Grub Customizer - Modify GRUB boot menu settings
Linrunner TLP - Power management tool. Useful to save power on laptops
Virtualbox - Virtualization
Kazam, recordMyDesktop - Desktop recording/screencasting
Bleachbit - Free disk space by deleting old/temporary files.
Cheese - Take pictures using webcam
Shutter - Screenshot tool with loads of features

So grab your favorite ones and enjoy Linux Mint !!

Notes

[Support for Java applets on Google Chrome/Chromium](#)

The "icedtea-plugin" is already installed which enables firefox to play java applets.

However Chrome and Chromium no longer support NPAPI based plugins. So java applets would not work in those browsers till a Pepper api based java plugin is available. More information [here](#).

Resources

Download latest Linux Mint

<http://www.linuxmint.com/download.php>

Community Tutorials

<http://community.linuxmint.com/tutorial>

Linux Mint forums

<http://forums.linuxmint.com/>

Last Updated On : 9th March 2016

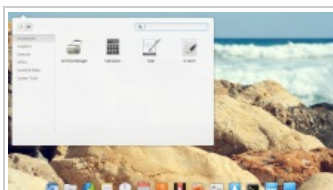
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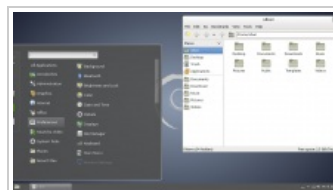
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About **Silver Moon**

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Jihadur Rahman Noyon September 16, 2016 at 10:52 pm

Reply

I am new Ubuntu User. Should I use Linux Mint? Actually, I don't know what's different between Ubuntu and Linux Mint.



Jihadur Rahman Noyon September 12, 2016 at 10:48 pm

Reply

I am new Ubuntu user so It's a very helpful post for me. Good Job.



Vlad August 31, 2016 at 2:55 pm

Reply

0. Install mate
Seriously, cinnamon is a disaster, and they didn't fix a single thing in 18 too.



Sam June 30, 2016 at 9:28 am

Reply

great one



wewa April 17, 2016 at 9:05 am

Reply

One of the best 'after you install LM' lists I have seen. Kudos!

You didn't explain how to get date/time/sysinfo to appear on the desktop background like you show:
<http://www.binarytides.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/linux-mint-17-qiana.png>

Cheers.



win kan March 12, 2016 at 3:01 am

Reply

mister siver moon, i have lots of pcs working with linux mint, how can i update them all with just iso or dvd without losing files, not through internet online updates, bcz its quite impossible for me, internet cost and lots of time !?!!



Silver Moon March 12, 2016 at 10:27 am

Reply

Currently its not possible to upgrade Linux Mint using a dvd.
Your only option is to take a backup of all data, install latest linux mint using dvd and then restore data.



Tom February 28, 2016 at 8:18 am

Reply

The instructions (linked to from here) for putting gorgeous fonts on the desktop will break the window manager on Mint. I just had it happen to me on Mint 17. Install and configure those fonts at your own peril!



SEB February 18, 2016 at 9:41 pm

Reply

You lost me at "install flash player ". Specially since its step 4 and install updates is not even on this list.



Silver Moon February 19, 2016 at 7:16 pm

Reply

Step 1 is about installing updates



Matouš Ejem January 21, 2016 at 4:19 am

Reply

I love this article!



matheusml June 29, 2015 at 12:49 am

Reply

How do I get that clock widget from the first picture?

Thanks!



Silver Moon February 19, 2016 at 7:16 pm

Its a Conky widget

Reply



jwhite February 15, 2015 at 4:24 pm

Great summary – I like to add media data into nemo for mp3 bitrate
sudo apt-get install nemo-media-columns
you may have to reboot to make active, then right click on columns in list view and choose loads of info.

Reply



Gelek December 19, 2014 at 12:56 am

Hi – tried to install pepperflash. But something went wrong. I get the following warning

Unknown configuration key ‘foreign-architecture’ found in your ‘dpkg’
configuration files. This warning will become a hard error at a later
date, so please remove the offending configuration options and replace
them with ‘dpkg –add-architecture’ invocations at the command line.

How can I resolve this.

thanks

Gelek

Reply



Samizdata November 2, 2014 at 2:56 pm

Just a thought, and I am spitballing here... Perhaps bring up nice tools like apt-fast and Tixati also?

Reply



Calvert October 20, 2014 at 5:52 am

I think the article should have mentioned Guayadeque, a extremely unrated music player. It is very stable, can do nearly everything, very easily
customized, and by far and away (I’ve tried them all) the best player for dealing with large music collections. Banshee can’t handle a music
collection my size...it just lags and eventually freezes.

Guayadeque...check it out!

Reply



Hapoy ending October 14, 2014 at 2:26 pm

With aria2 plugin, uget can download any files in multiple parts.

Reply



Freedom October 12, 2014 at 3:19 am

This desklet is “Conky” with its theme “Gotham”
see german wiki:
http://wiki.ubuntuusers.de/Conky_Manager
a GUI (Conky Manager) can be used, too (via PPA)

Reply



Yada Khov September 10, 2014 at 8:08 pm

If you can remove the \$ from every line of the console code it will make copy and pasting easier.

Reply



Stratos Laspas July 20, 2014 at 6:31 pm

Great article. What is the desklet on your desktop’s screenshot? Is it part of conky?

Reply



Prashanth June 26, 2014 at 11:04 pm

Hello! Great inputs, thank you. One question, how do I get the kind of settings that you have on your wallpaper? with time and harddisk space
displayed?

Reply



John Doe July 1, 2014 at 8:01 pm

Reply

It is conky! sudo apt-get install conky conky-all
And then you configure it by your needs..



AlanRochester June 19, 2014 at 11:28 pm

Reply

@Tractorman2011:disqus . There is command line (where you simply copy and paste from the webpage) and there is command line (where you have to do things by yourself.

Tip: You do not need to type commands into the Terminal. Highlight the command written on the web page. Move your cursor anywhere in the Terminal and press your mouse wheel or mouse middle button. Automatic Copy and paste! No spelling mistakes! No Typos! No other errors!



colin June 29, 2014 at 6:36 am

Reply

I think that Tractorman has a very good point. Sure, we can cut N paste because we are familiar with the command line and are un-scared by it. However most Oldbie's I know get very nervous with the command line, even if it is within windows.

Lastly, cinnamon has been extremely buggy for me. I completely regret downloading it and using it as my default Mint desktop. Mate is also having stability issues and I am trying to get the bug reports in. The XFCE desktop is incredibly spartan, almost blank. Switching to KDE.



humair Saqib October 10, 2014 at 12:26 pm

Reply

i recently install the Linux mint Qiana Cinnamon. now i want to change the cursors but i am unable to do it. Can any can help me out with this.
i am new to Linux environment and enjoy it than window.



Tractorman2011 June 17, 2014 at 7:34 am

Reply

Great suggestions for additions, but why the command line? I think if I were a newbie, I'd be totally scared off. Can't most of this be done with the update manager and software manager? I'm old enough I've used the command line, compiled applications I couldn't get any other way, fought with drivers, created a database and written PHP and Visual Basic (I am soooooo ashamed) to access it... But when I installed Mint (12, 13, 14, 15, 16) I took the easy way out. I probably will with 17 as well.



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