



How to Set Up Bluetooth in Linux

By [Ayo Isaiah](#) / Updated Jun 4, 2020 / [Linux](#)



Bluetooth is still very important in the world today given that a wide range of devices rely on its protocol to perform various operations. Most laptops come with built-in Bluetooth adapters, but even if yours doesn't, external Bluetooth dongles are cheap and plentiful in supply.

Having Bluetooth properly set up on your machine allows you to use a

Bluetooth mouse, keyboard, headset or any Bluetooth accessories you might own. Usually once you've installed a few packages and made a few tweaks, everything works flawlessly.

Related: [5 of the Best Linux Distro for Windows Users in 2019](#)

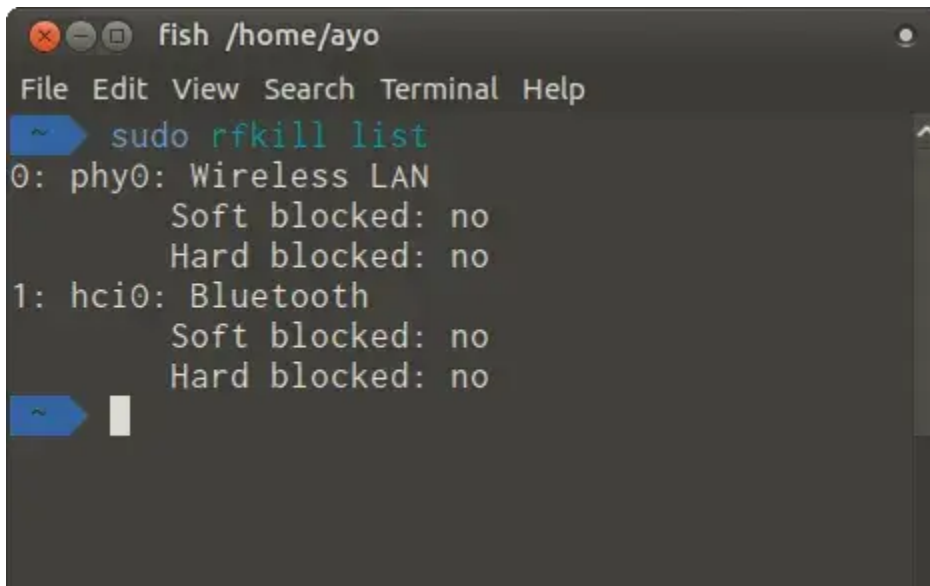
Getting Started

First, you need to install the required packages on your computer. If you're on Ubuntu or an Ubuntu-based distro, run the following command:

```
sudo apt-get install bluetooth bluez bluez-tools rfkill
```

Next, make sure your Bluetooth device is not blocked. You can verify that using the `rfkill` utility:

```
sudo rfkill list
```

A terminal window titled 'fish /home/ayo' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The command 'sudo rfkill list' has been executed. The output shows two radio interfaces: '0: phy0: Wireless LAN' and '1: hci0: Bluetooth'. For each, it indicates 'Soft blocked: no' and 'Hard blocked: no'. A cursor is visible on the line following the output.

```
fish /home/ayo
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
~> sudo rfkill list
0: phy0: Wireless LAN
    Soft blocked: no
    Hard blocked: no
1: hci0: Bluetooth
    Soft blocked: no
    Hard blocked: no
~> 
```



As you can see from the screenshot above, my Bluetooth device is neither soft-blocked or hard-blocked. If yours is blocked for some reason, you can unblock it using the same `rfkill` command.

```
sudo rfkill unblock bluetooth
```

Finally, make sure the Bluetooth service is active by running the following command.

```
sudo service bluetooth start
```

Scanning for Bluetooth Devices

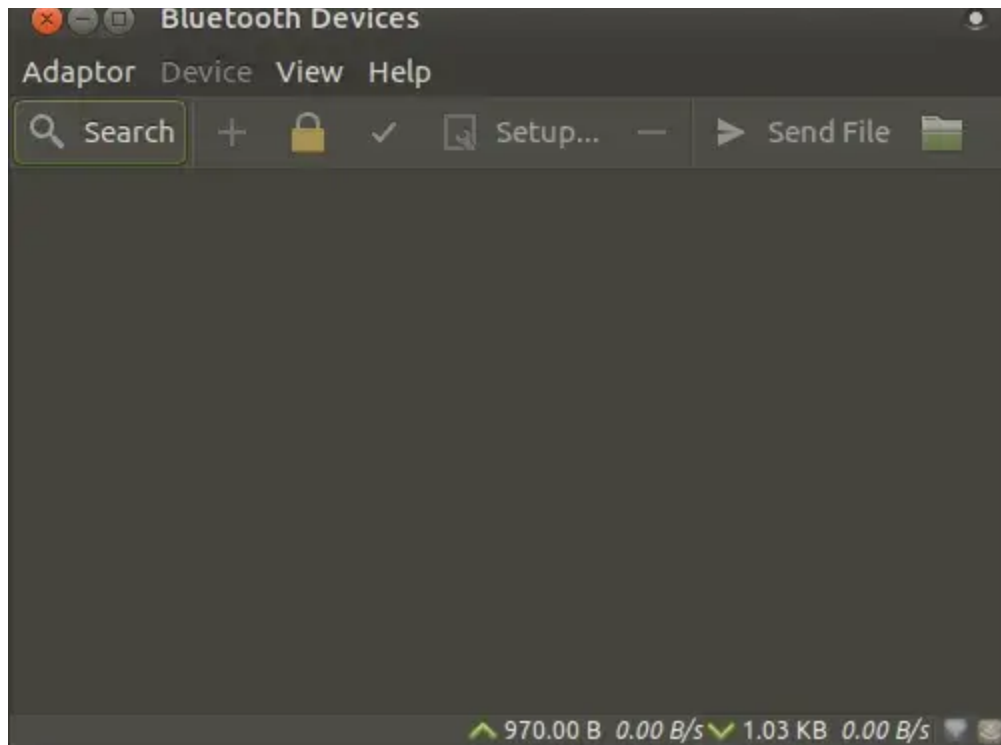
Before you start scanning for devices, install the `blueman` package which helps you pair and manage Bluetooth devices.

On Ubuntu use the following:

```
sudo apt-get install blueman
```

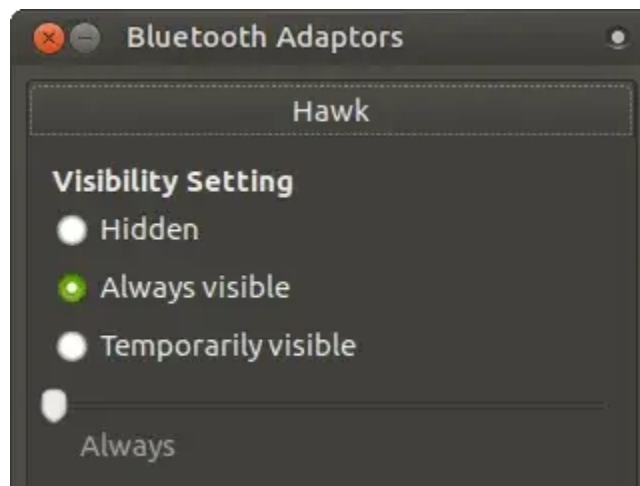
Once the installation is complete, launch the Bluetooth Manager from your applications launcher.

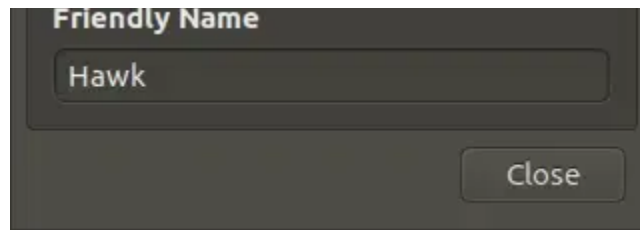




By default, your Bluetooth device is hidden. You need to make it visible so that it can be discovered by other devices.

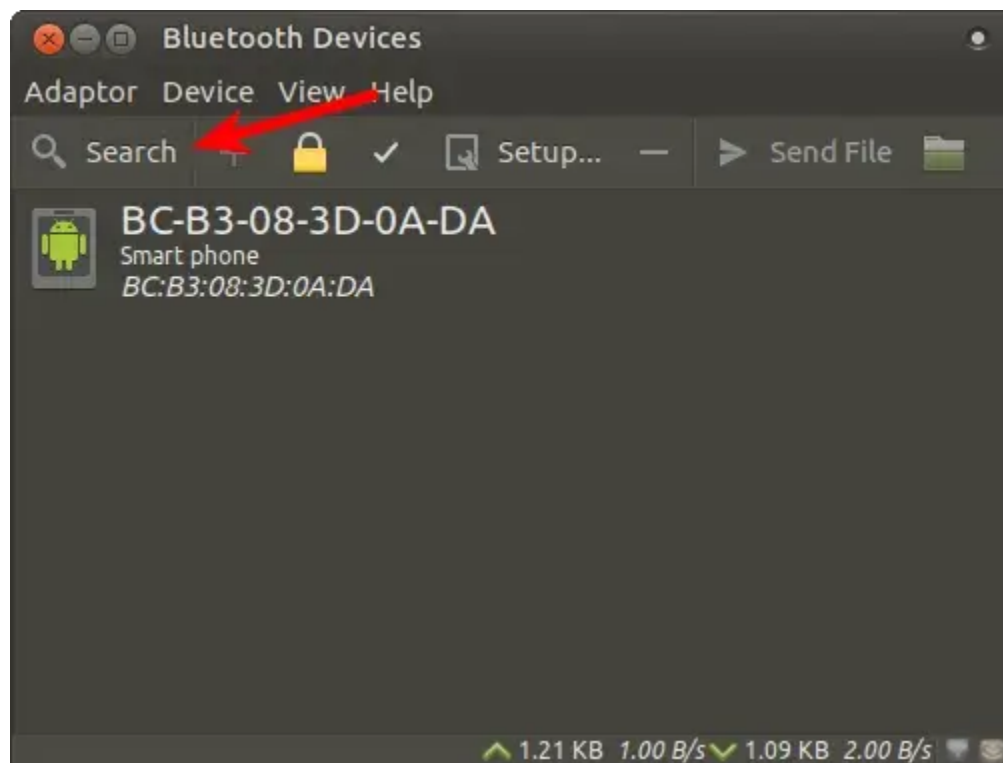
Go to "Adaptor → Preferences" and change the visibility setting to "Always visible" or "Temporarily visible," whichever you prefer. You can also set a name for your Bluetooth device. This name is what will show up when other Bluetooth devices discover your PC.





Next, start scanning for Bluetooth devices by clicking “Search” and wait for a few moments for the scan to complete.

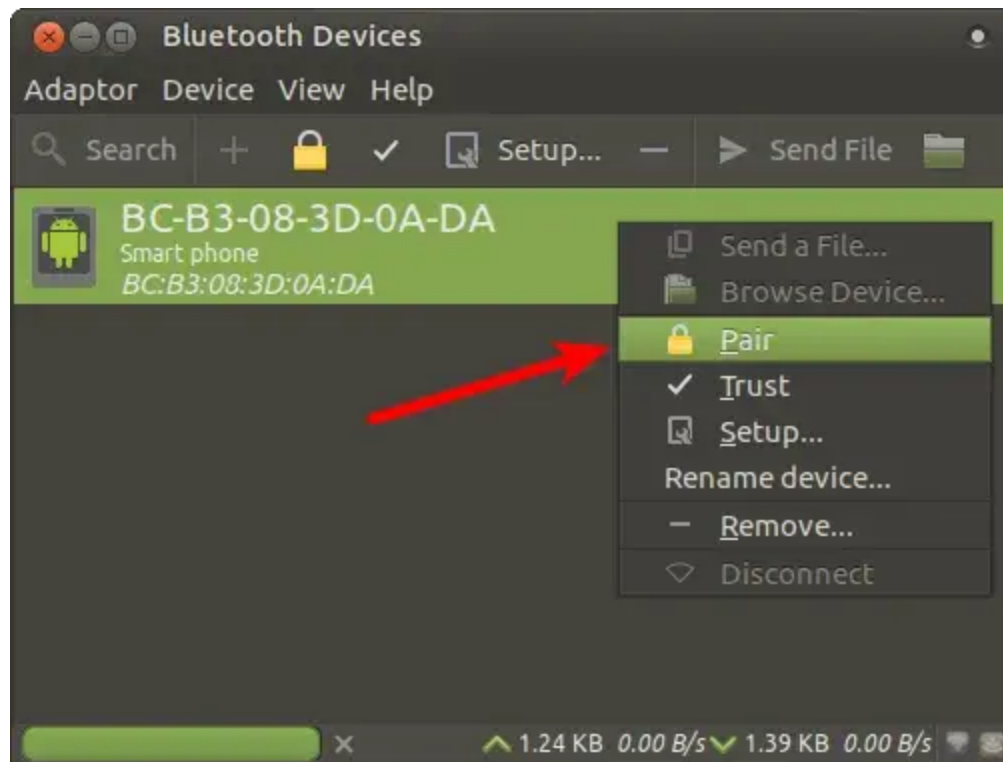
All visible and discoverable Bluetooth devices will be listed in the Bluetooth manager.



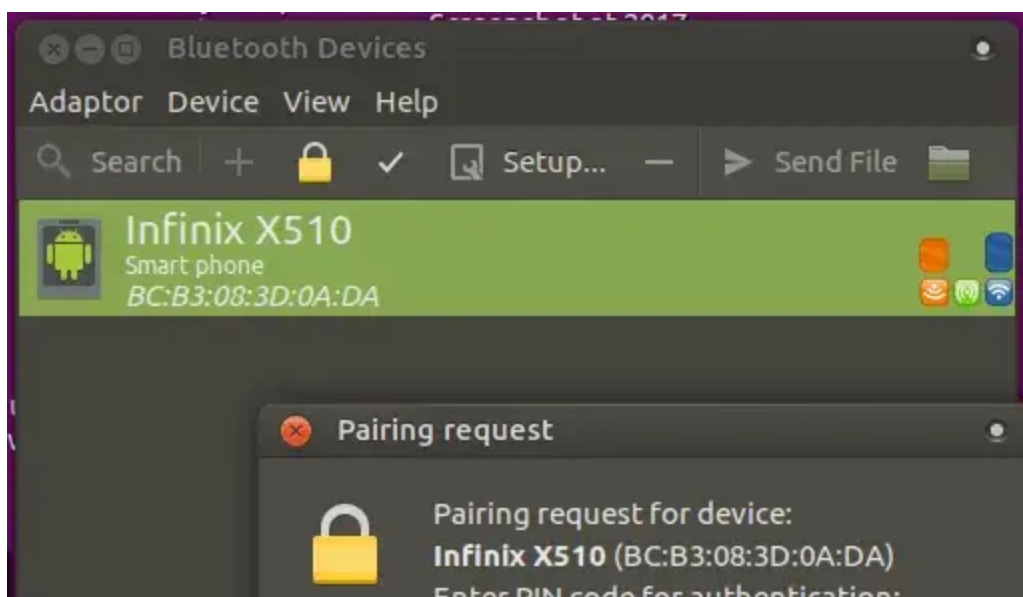
Pairing and Connecting to Devices

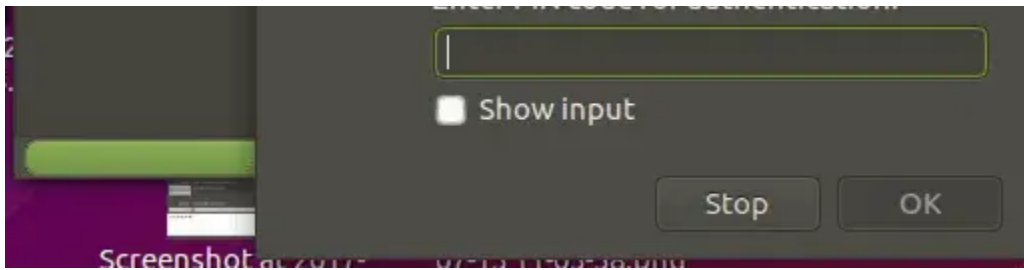
Now you should be able to pair and connect to your Bluetooth devices without breaking a sweat. Here’s how to connect to an Android device, for example.

1. Right-click the relevant entry on the list and click “Pair.” This will initialise a pairing request which the other device will have to accept.

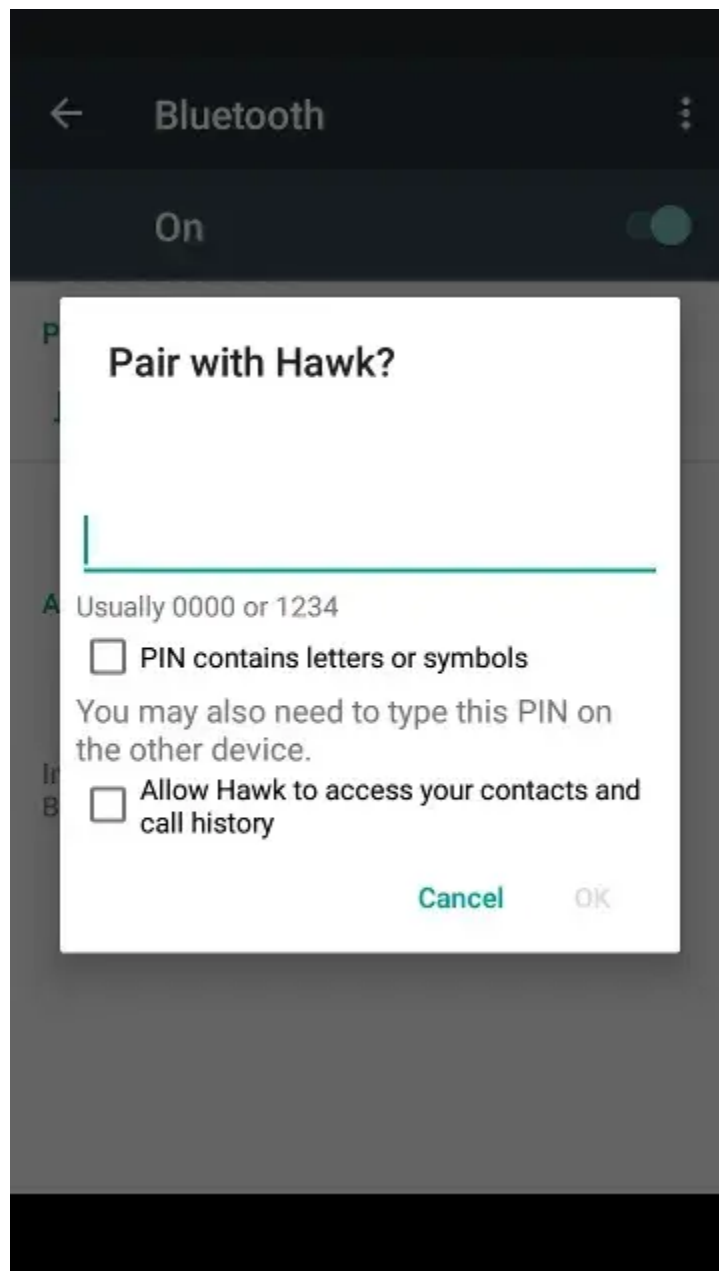


2. Next, enter a PIN code in the dialog box and click OK. A four digit number should do.

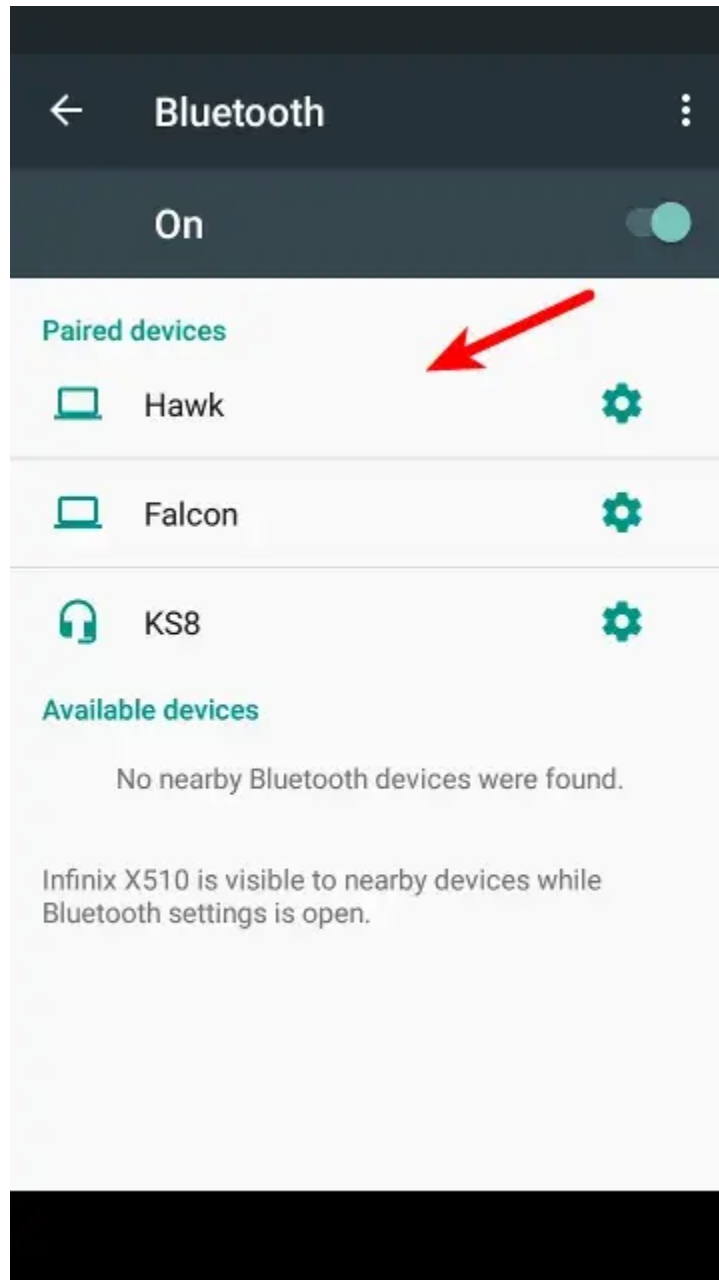




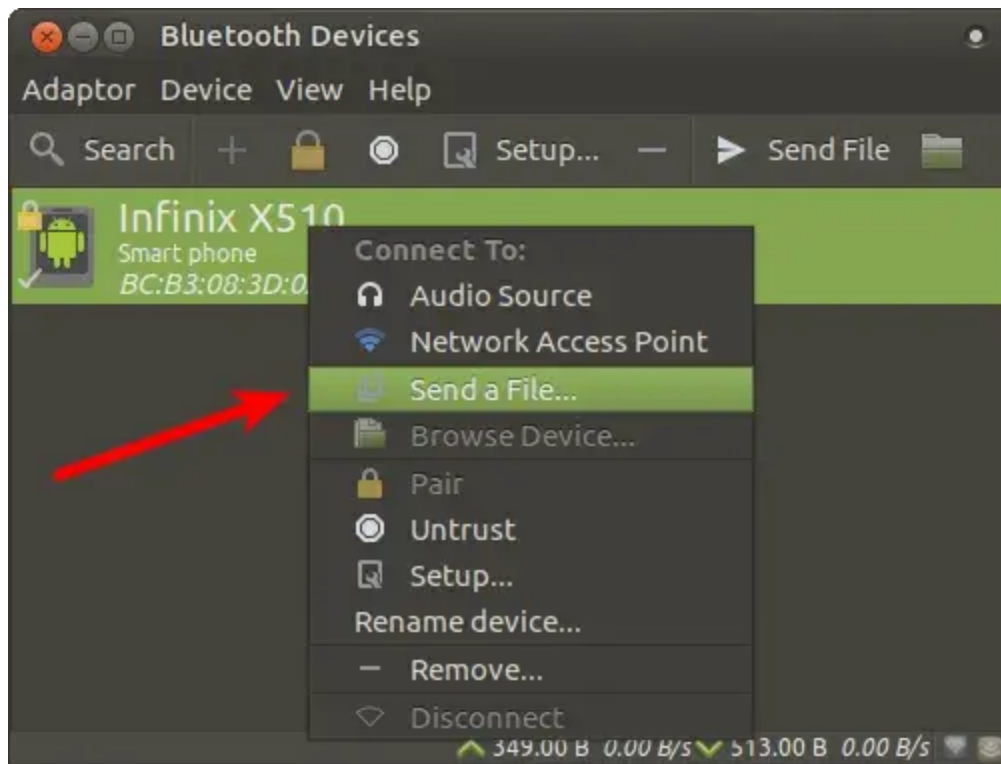
3. Finally, go to your Android device and enter the same pin to confirm the pairing.



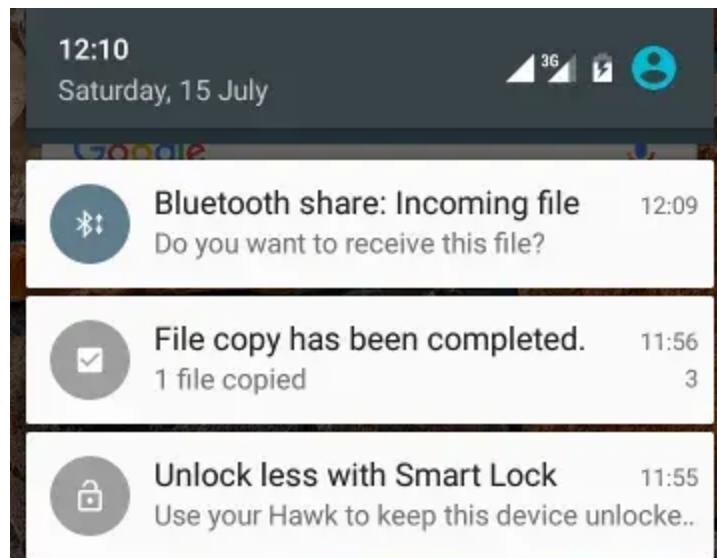
If everything goes well, the devices will be paired, and a new lock icon will appear on the device's entry. On your Android device, your laptop should also appear under the "Paired devices" section.



Sending and Receiving Files



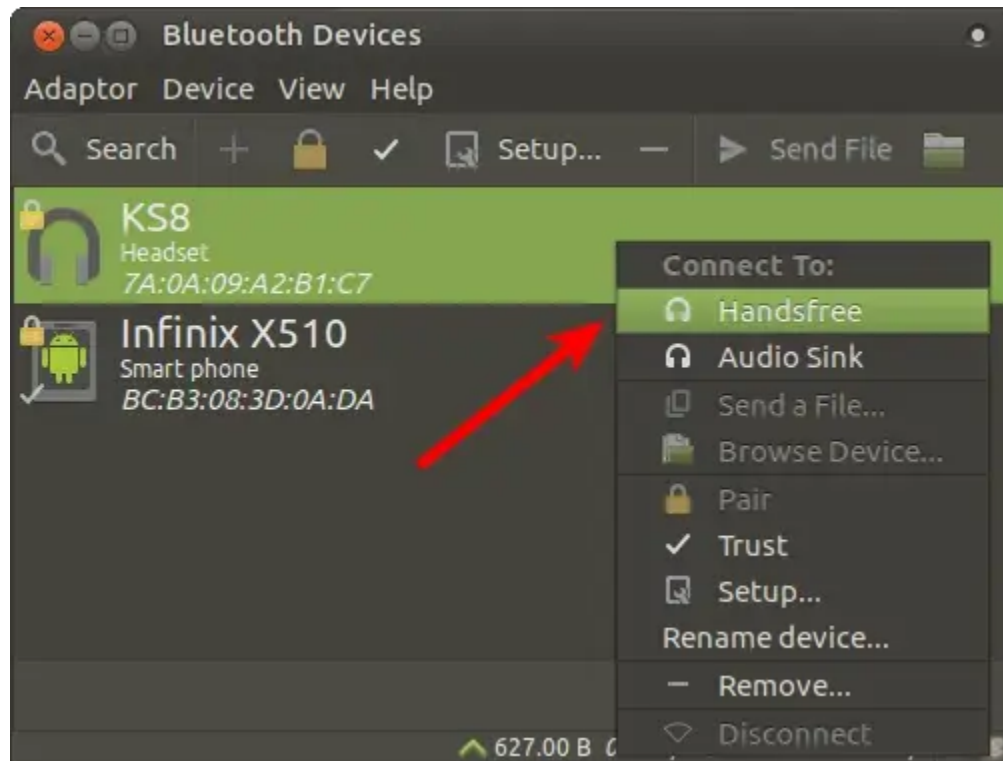
To send files to your smartphone, right-click the device and click “Send file” from the context menu. Next, select the file you want to send. A notification will appear on your phone asking you to confirm you want to receive the file.



You can also receive files from your smartphone in a similar manner. Just make sure to initialise the transaction from your smartphone and confirm receipt on your computer.

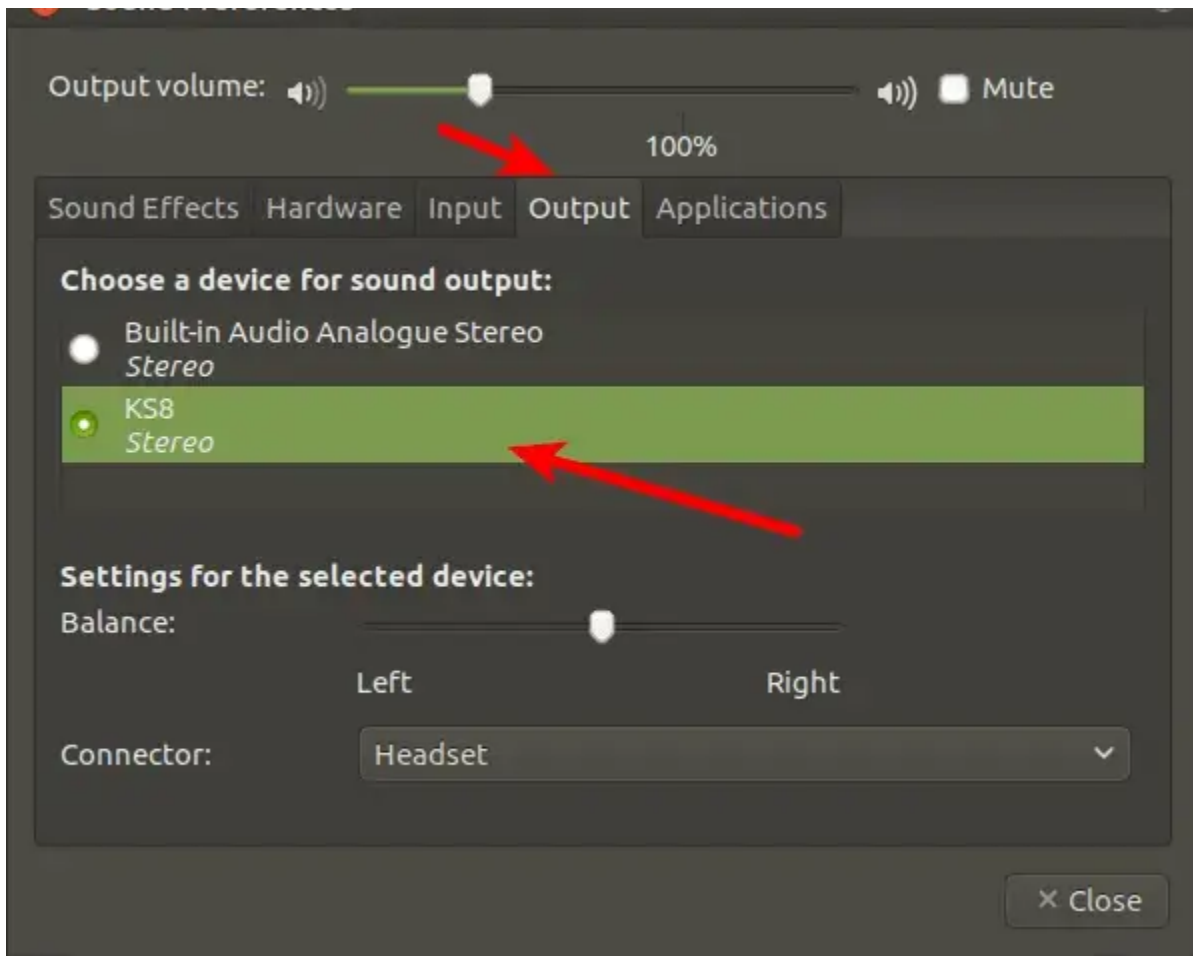
Using a Bluetooth Headset

Pairing with your Bluetooth headset should be easy enough. You do not need a PIN code here, so it should pair automatically once you send the request to pair the devices. Next, right-click the entry for the headset and connect to “Handsfree.”



Once it's connected, you may have to go to your sound settings and switch the output device to your Bluetooth headset before it begins to work.





Another valuable step to managing and understanding your Linux PC is controlling the root password. Here's our guide on [how to reset the root password](#). If you're a user of Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage service, then you may also want to know [how to sync OneDrive with Linux](#).

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