

# Wasta-Offline Illustrated Guide for Wasta Linux Users

by Bill Martin – 10 January 2019



This illustrated guide is for advisors and users of Wasta Linux who are working in regions where Internet access is not available or is prohibitively expensive. It is for Wasta Linux users that can get periodic access to a portable USB drive that contains an up-to-date, full Wasta-Offline Mirror of Linux software. This guide shows ordinary users and advisors how to update their Wasta Linux software using one of the portable USB drives supplied by branch administrators. Another illustrated guide document called “Wasta-Offline Illustrated Guide For Administrators” is designed for use by the branch administrators in charge of maintaining and distributing “Full” Wasta-Offline mirrors on portable USB drives. Those who receive a USB drive may want to follow this guide.

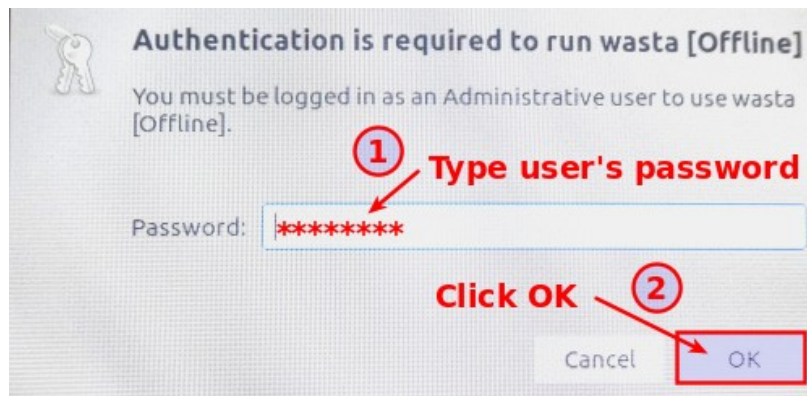
This guide also shows how to run the **wasta-offline** program (with the portable USB drive plugged in) and – while **wasta-offline** is running - run the **Software Updater** program provided in Wasta Linux to update the software – and/or use the **Synaptic Package Manager** program to install new Linux software. This guide assumes you are using a Wasta-Linux computer.

## Updating your software using the Full Wasta-Offline Mirror

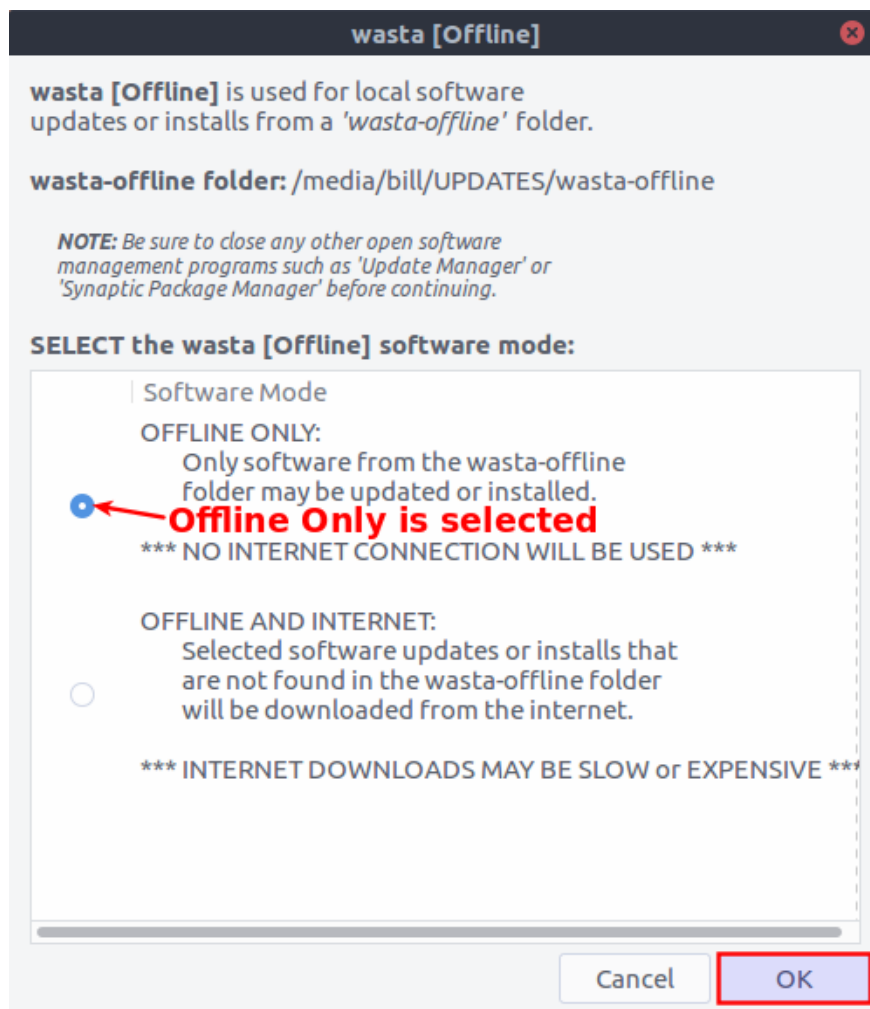
**Step 1: Plug USB drive containing the Full Wasta-Offline Mirror into any Wasta-Linux computer.** The **wasta-offline** program should start automatically in about 10 seconds.



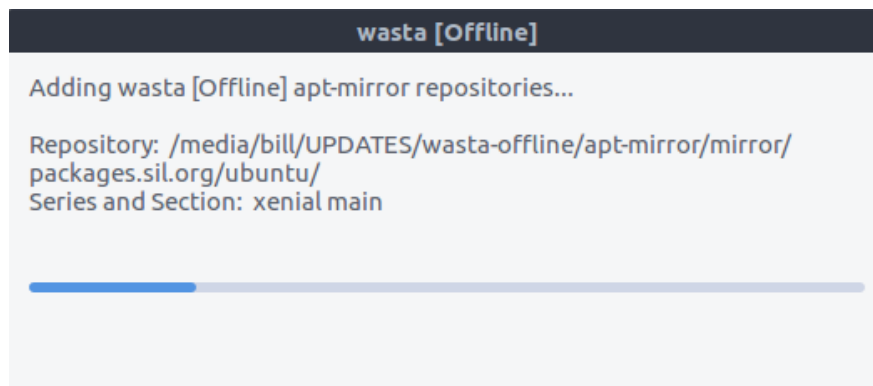
**Step 2: Enter the computer user's password and click OK.**



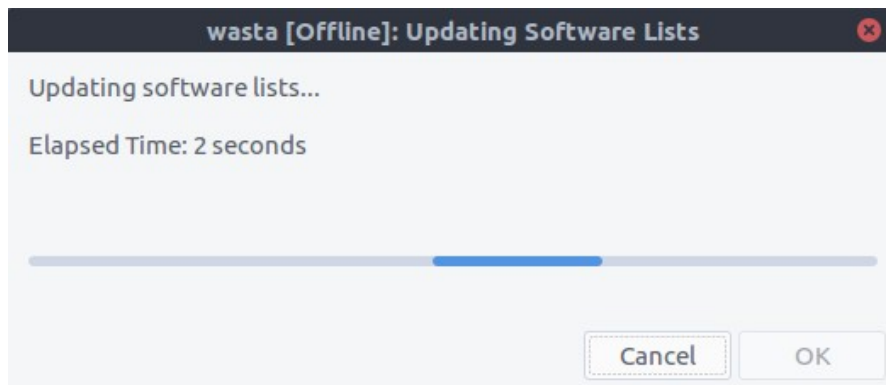
**Step 3: Click OK.** When the initial **wastaOffline** dialog appears keep the default selection set to **OFFLINE ONLY** and click **OK**.



At this point wasta-offline will examine the status of the software on your computer. Two successive progress dialogs will appear while wasta-offline checks your computer. The first progress dialog that appears is the **Adding wasta [Offline] apt-mirror repositories...** dialog:

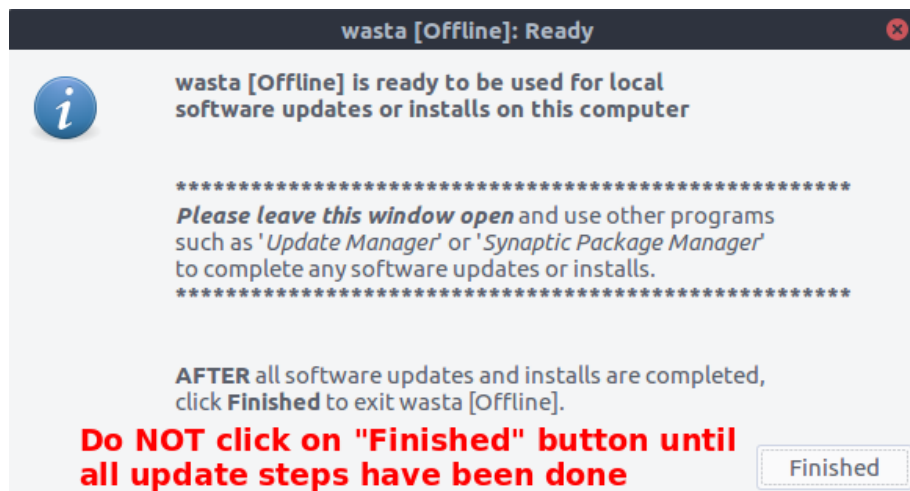


and it will soon be followed by the **Updating software lists...** dialog:



The above dialogs will work from 30 seconds to 2 minutes, and will close automatically when finished. They will be followed by the appearance of the **wasta [Offline]: Ready** dialog shown below.

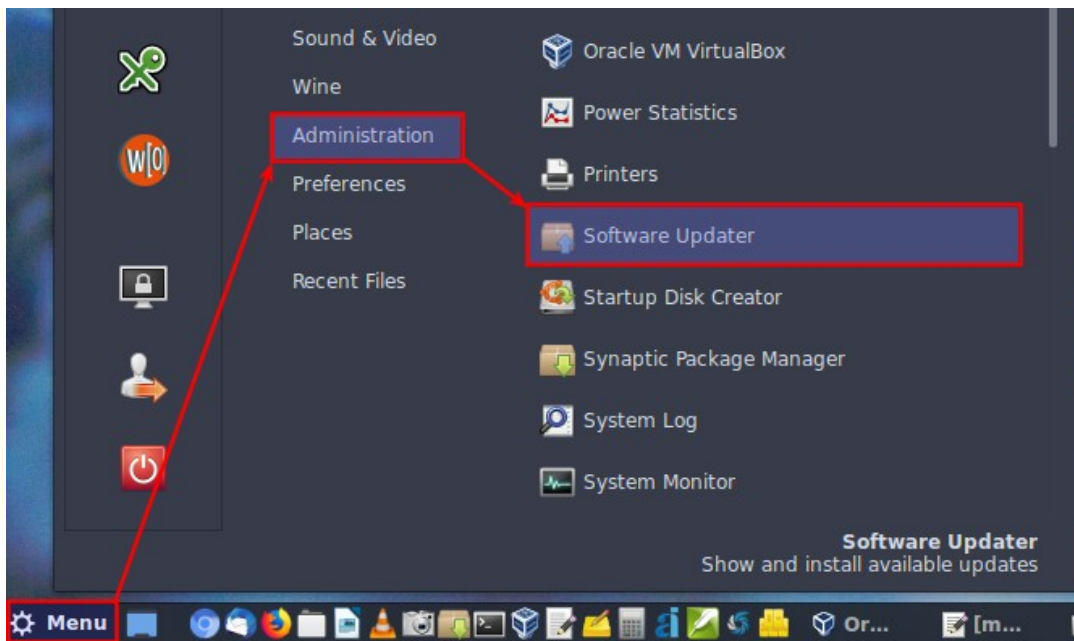
**Step 4: Leave the wasta [Offline]: Ready dialog open.** When the **wasta [Offline]: Ready** dialog appears **do NOT click on the Finished button until you have completed the steps described below.**



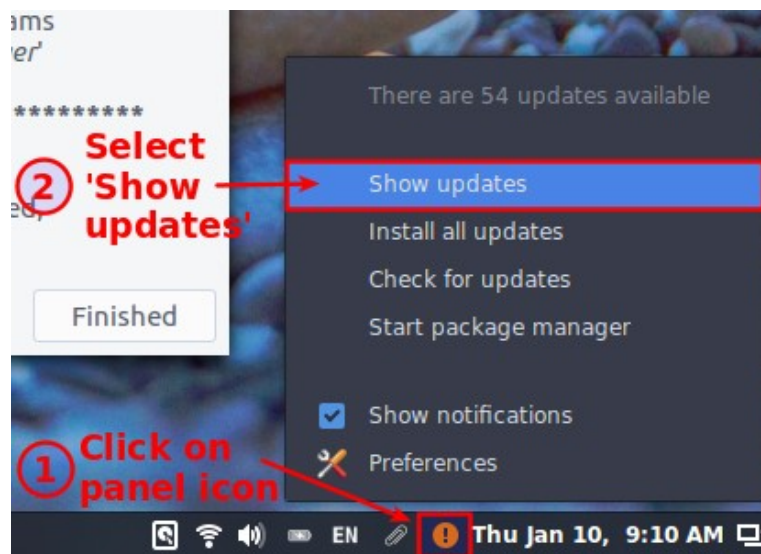
You will leave this **wasta [Offline] Ready** window **open** while using other programs such as **Software Updater** or **Synaptic Package Manager** to process your software updates or installs. No Internet

connection will be used as this is an entirely offline process – as long as you **do NOT** click on the **Finished** button of this dialog while doing the remaining steps below.

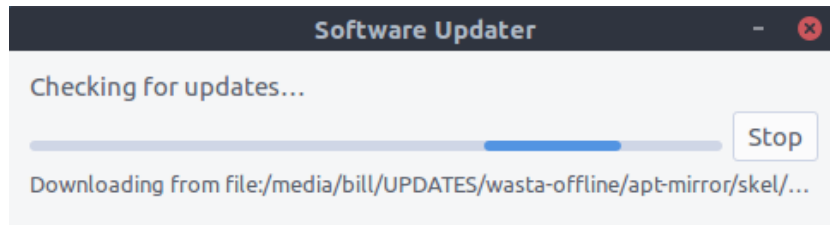
**Step 5: Start up the Software Updater.** Select **Software Updater** from the Wasta Linux' **Administration** category of the main **Menu**:



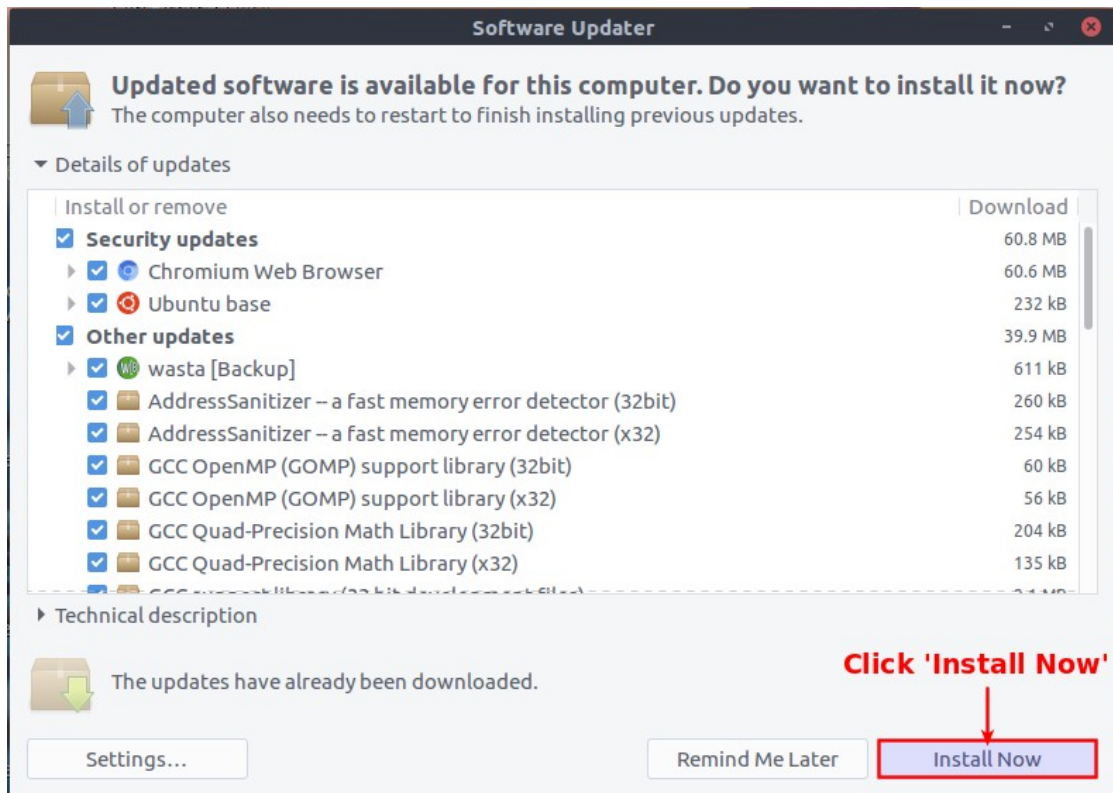
Another way to start the **Software Updater** is by clicking on its **icon** in the panel, and selecting **Show updates** as shown below:



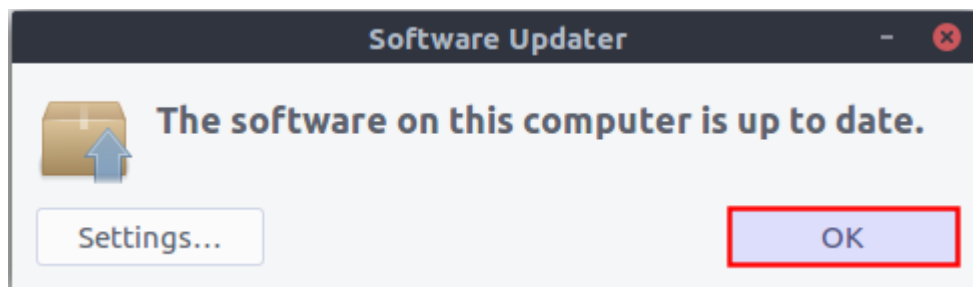
If you start Software Updater from the **Administration** menu (or if you were to click on the **Check for updates** option in the panel icon's pop-up menu above), the following **Check for updates...** message will temporarily appear:



and, if there are updates available, the Software Updater's main window will appear:



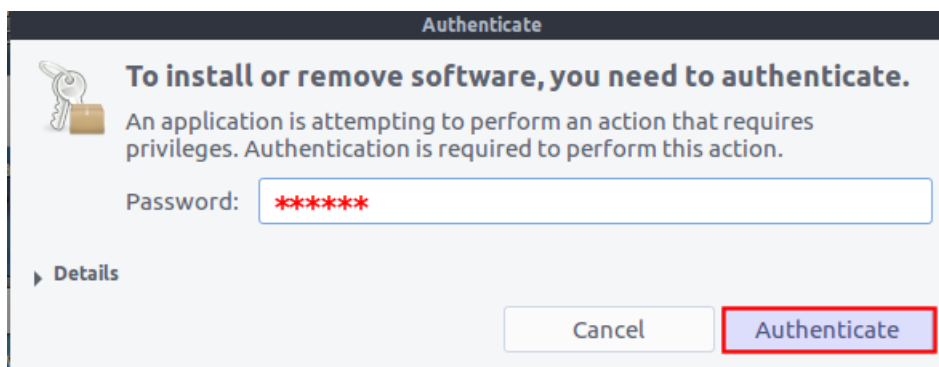
The software updates, if any, appear in the Software Updater's list as illustrated above. The list of updates will vary from what is shown above. The list will depend on what updates are available at the time for your computer, and how many updates are available. If there are no updates available for your computer you will see this "The software on this computer is up to date" message:



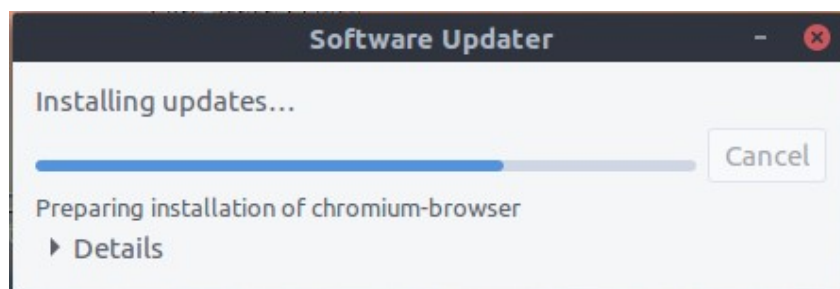
If this message appears, simply click on the **OK** button, and skip to [Step 9](#) below.

**Step 6: Install Updates.** If the Software Updater's main window shows that software updates are available, click on the **Install Now** button on the tool bar.

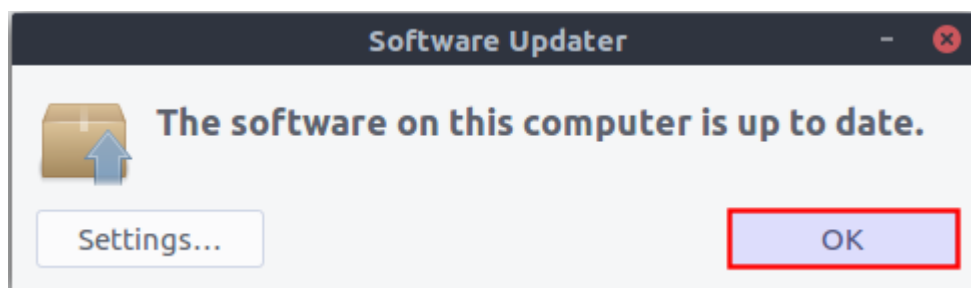
**Step 7: Enter the computer user's password and click OK.** Generally, you will be asked to provide your password in order for Software Updater to install updates. So, type the computer's password and press OK:



The updates will then be downloaded directly from the external hard drive to the computer - not from the Internet - and then they will be installed. The process may take a few minutes depending on the number of updates.

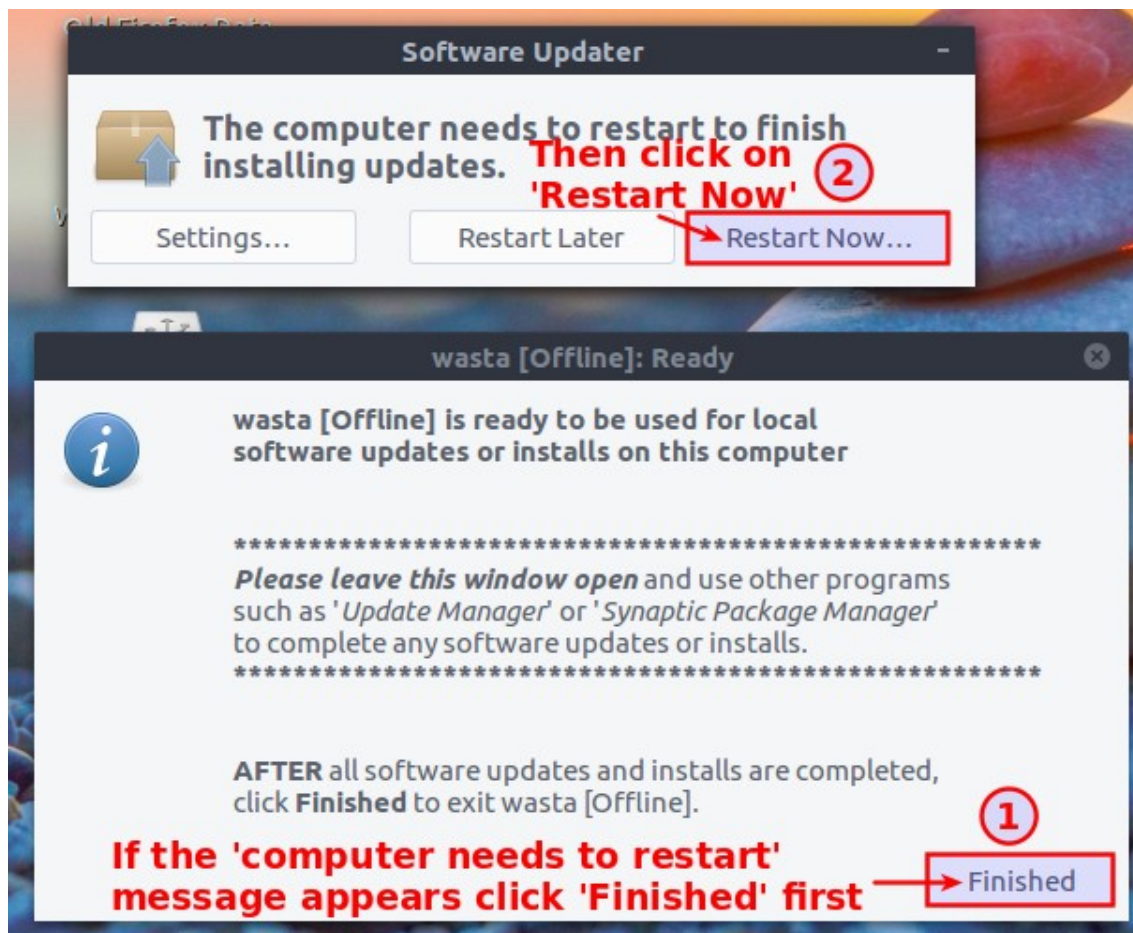


When the updates have been installed, you may see the "The software on this computer is up to date" message, and you can just click on the **OK** button:



and the software update part of this guide is finished. After clicking **OK** you can skip to [Step 18](#) below to remove the USB drive.

Note that in some cases (depending on what software updates are installed) it may be necessary to restart your computer. If that is the case you will see a “computer needs to restart” message instead:



**Step 8: Restart your computer if needed.** If you see “The computer needs to restart to finish installing updates” message shown in the upper part of the screen shot above, and you are not planning to install any other Linux software (while wasta-offline is running), then look for the **wasta [Offline] Ready** message (it may be partially hidden on your desktop by other dialogs) and first click on its **Finished** button. Then, you can go ahead and click on the Software Updater’s **Restart Now...** button. Your computer will then restart to “finish installing updates” and the software update part of this guide is finished. You can skip to [Step 18](#) below to remove the USB drive.

In rare circumstances (when there are a large number of updates to process), the Software Updater's main window may appear a second time with some additional software updates to install. If that happens you can click on its **Install Now...** button a second time.

If you did not see “This computer needs to restart to finish installing updates” message, you may see “The software on this computer is up to date” instead (shown previously above). Now proceed with [Step 9](#) below.

**Step 9: Click on the Finished button unless you want to install new software.** If you are not going to install any new software, you can click on the **Finished** button back on the **wasta Offline: Ready** message window. At this point the wasta-offline program will silently point your software sources back to their previous repositories. You can skip to [Step 18](#) below to remove the USB drive.

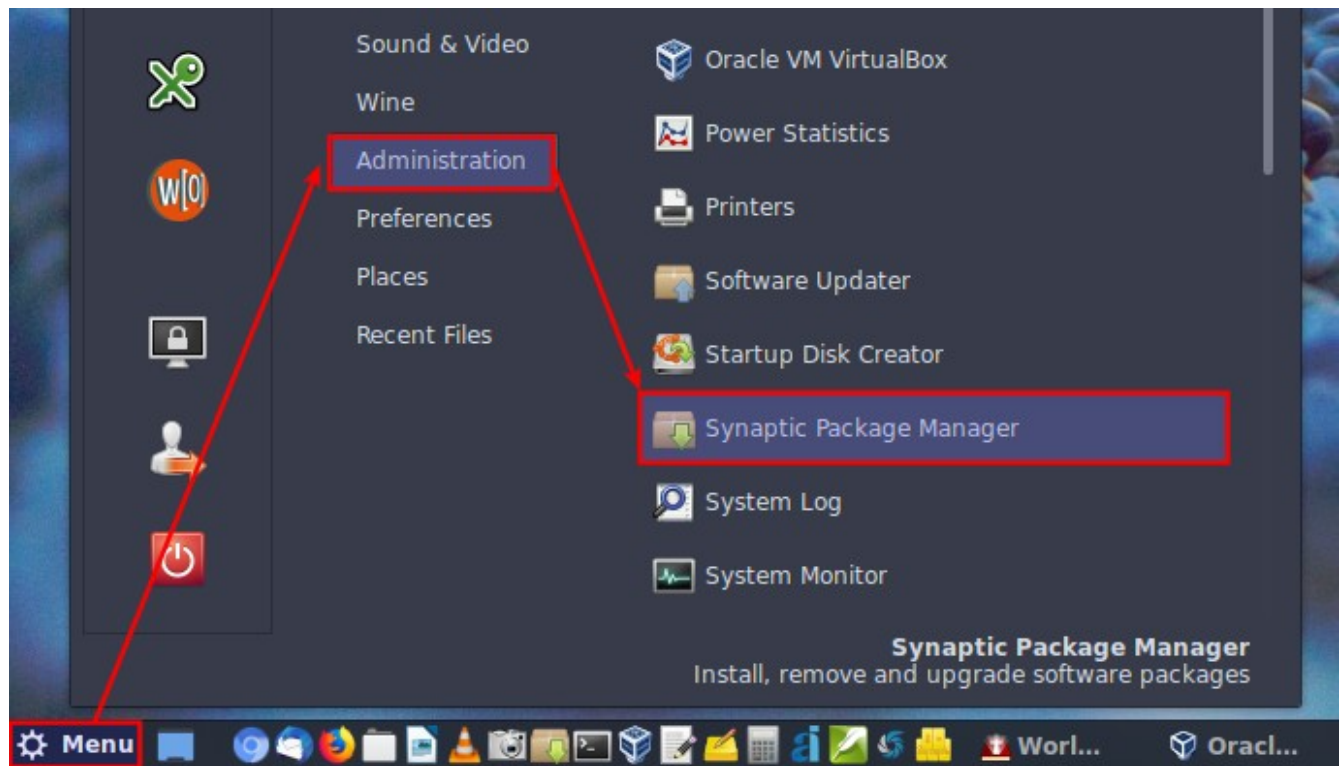
If you want to install new or additional software, continue with the next set of steps.

## Installing New Software using the Full Wasta-Offline Mirror

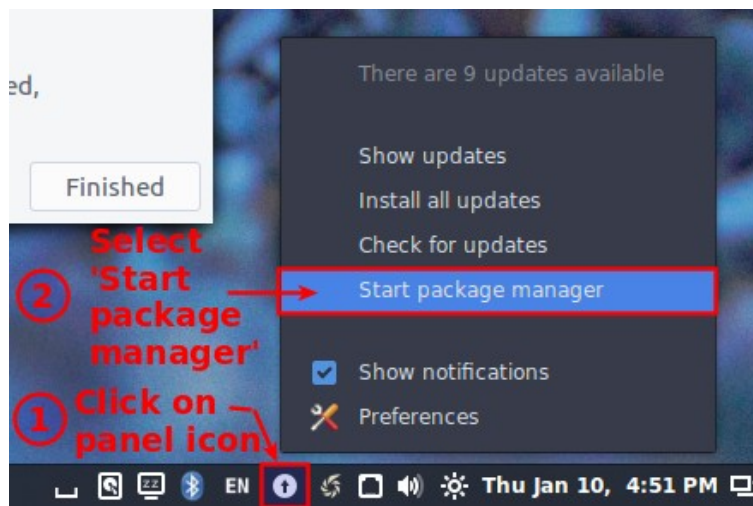
Follow the steps below only if you want to install a new Linux program on your Wasta Linux computer using the USB drive with the full Wasta-Offline Mirror.

**Step 10: Ensure the wasta-[Offline] ready dialog is still open.** If you want to install new software from the external hard drive mirror, leave the **wasta Offline: Ready** window open. If you already clicked on the **Finished** button, go back and repeat Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4, and then continue with the steps below, starting with [Step 11](#).

**Step 11: Start the Synaptic Package Manager.** To install new software from the external hard drive, start up the Synaptic Package Manager by selecting it from the Administration menu:

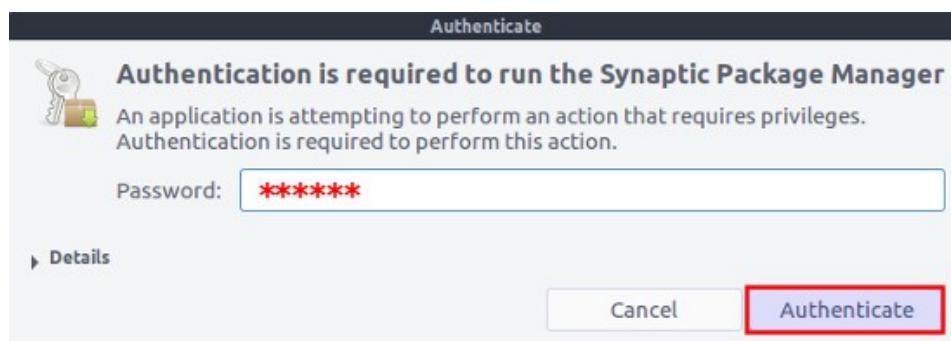


Alternatively, another way to start the **Synaptic Package Manager** is by clicking on the Software Updater's icon in the panel, and selecting **Start package manager** as shown below:

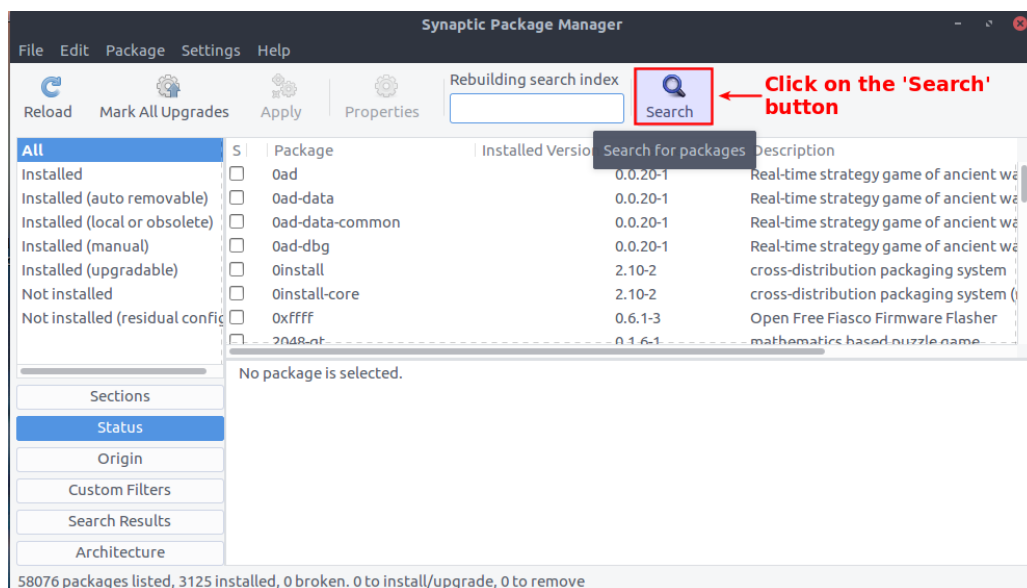


Before the Synaptic Package Manager will start running, you must type your password.

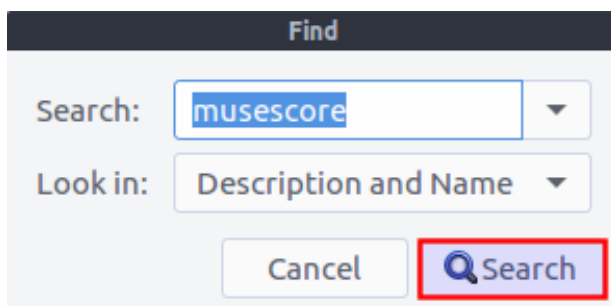
**Step 12: Enter the computer user's password and click OK:**



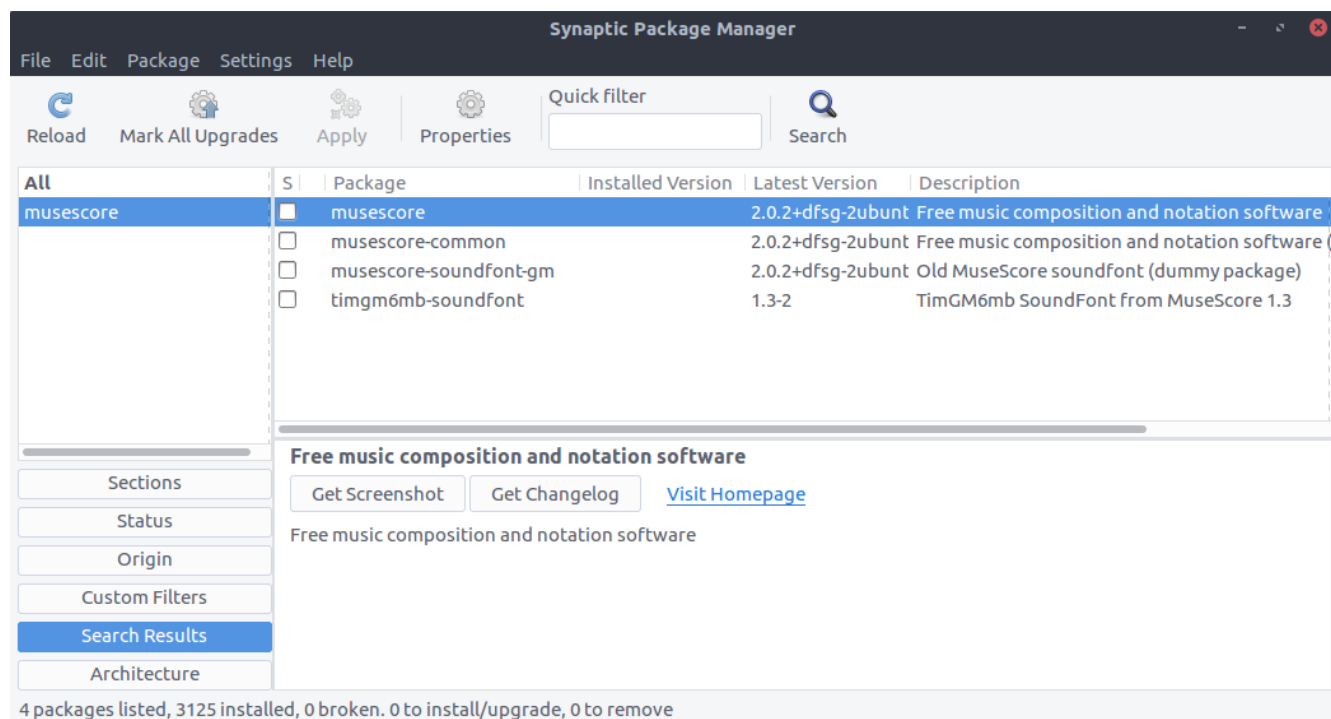
The Synaptic Package Manager's main window appears:



**Step 13: Find the software you want to install.** Click on the **Search** button on the tool bar as shown in the screen shot above. The Search box opens:

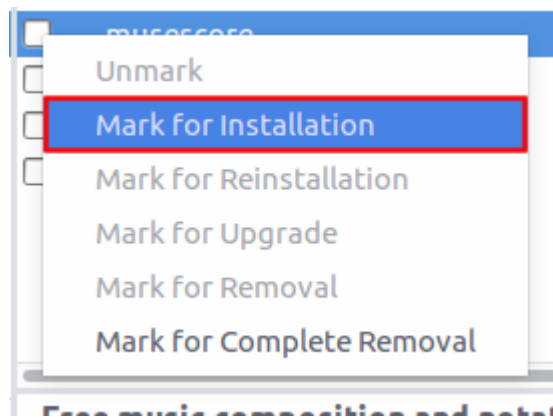


Type the name (or part of a name) of the software program you want to install. For example, in the search box above, we have typed in the name “musescore” which is a nice free music composition and notation/scoring program. After a few seconds you should see a list of software packages that were found matching your search criteria:

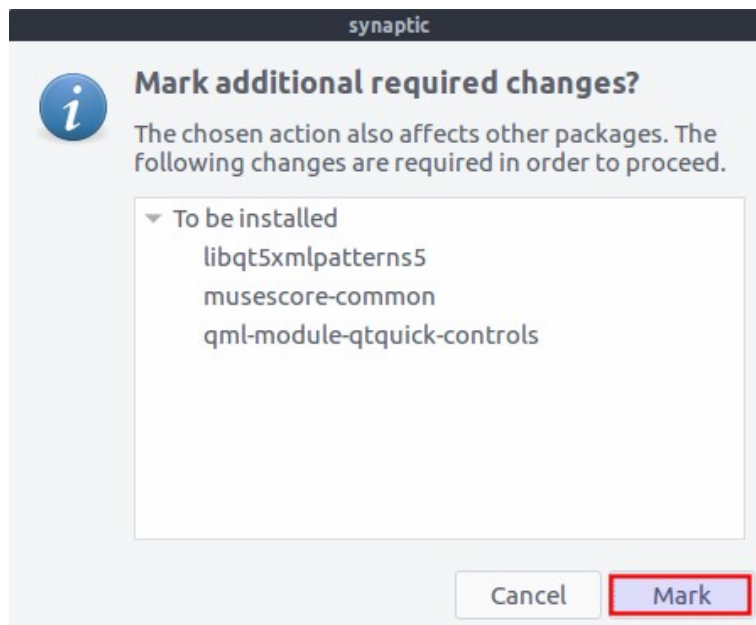


The empty check box beside **musescore** (top item in the list above) indicates that the software is not yet installed on the computer.

**Step 14: Mark the software for installation.** If the software you want to install is listed, click in the empty check box next to the software package, and select the **Mark for Installation** option:



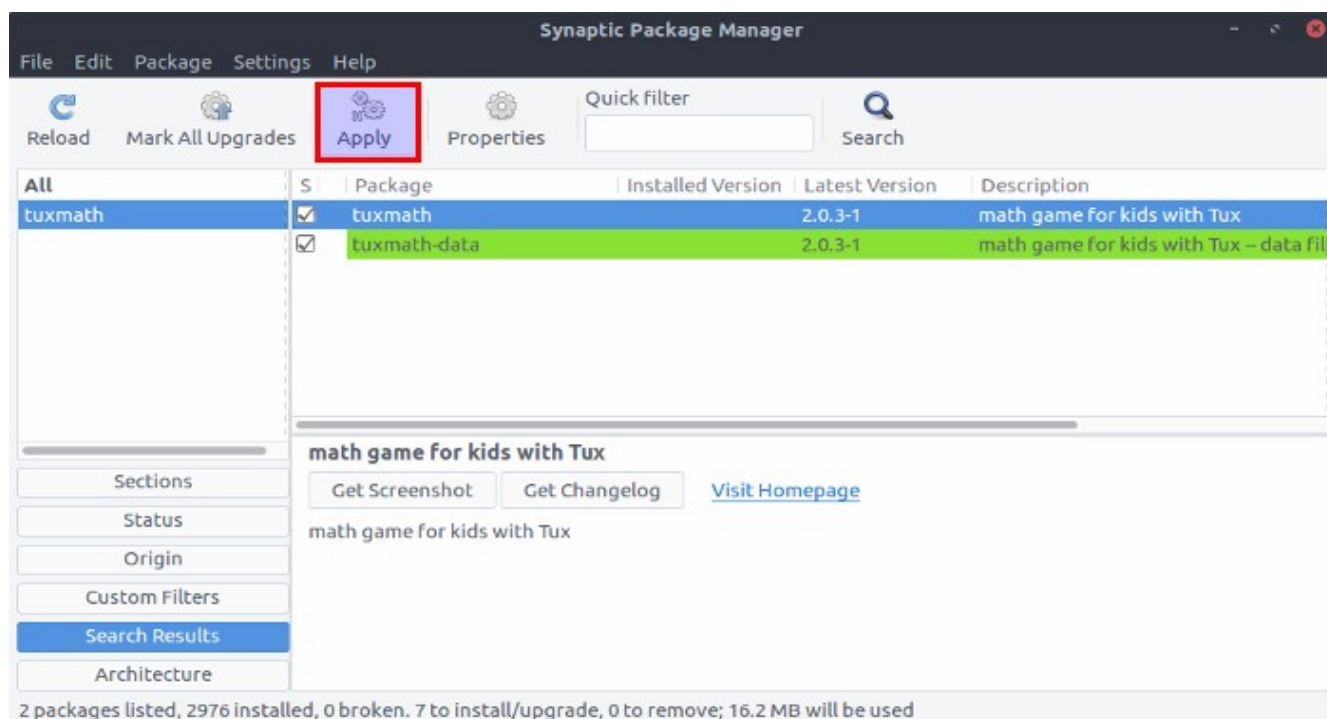
For some software installations, you may see another dialog that the software you are selecting, needs additional software packages installed at the same time. This is true for the musescore program as seen in the dialog below that appears when selecting musescore:



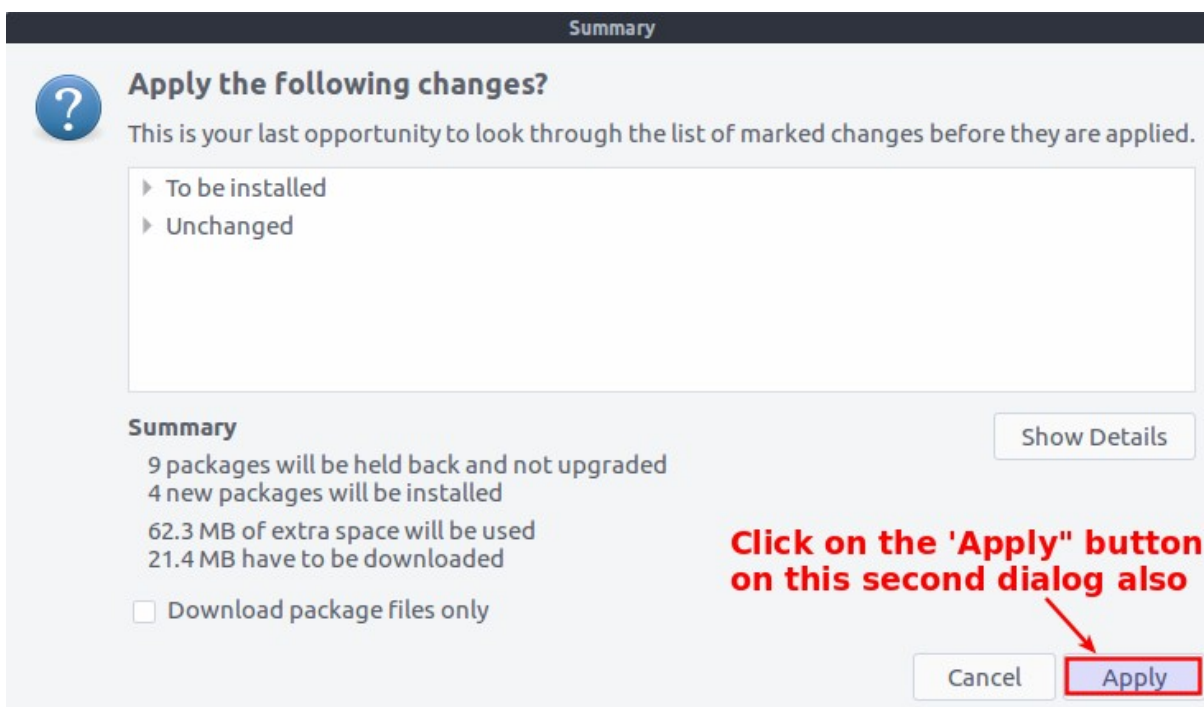
We go ahead and click on the **Mark** button to proceed with the installation of our software choice (musescore).

Back in the Synaptic Package Manager's main window, you will notice that a **tick mark** appears in the check box next to the software that we've selected – as well as in the check box(es) of any additional software packages listed that need to be installed along side the program we want to install (see the screen shot below).

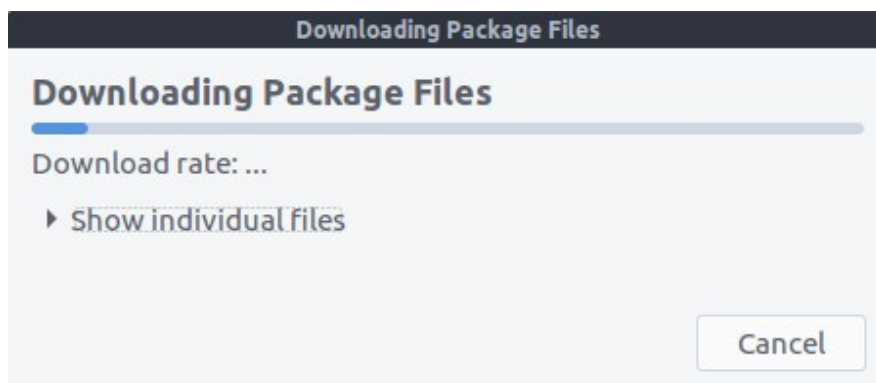
Note: At this point you can continue searching for, and selecting other software programs to install on your Wasta Linux computer using the Synaptic Package Manager. The Synaptic Package Manager is a powerful tool. You can also use it to **remove** or **re-install** software that was installed previously. When you are ready to move on to the actual installation, proceed to [Step 15](#) below.



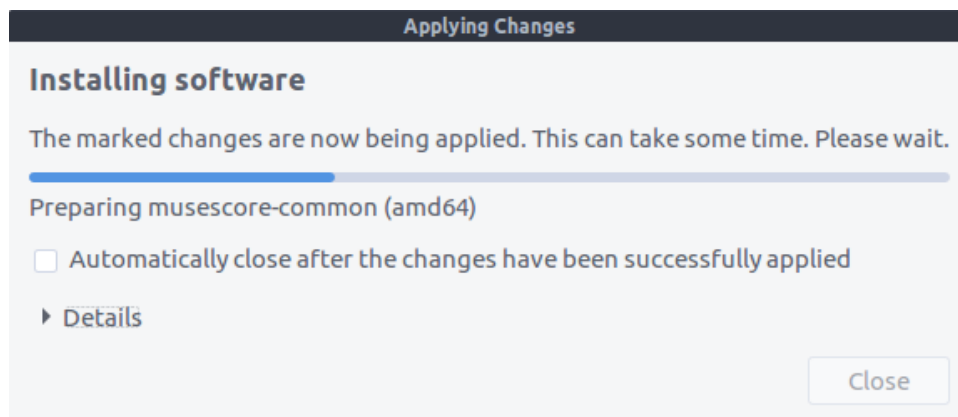
**Step 15: Click on the Apply button in the main tool bar** – as shown highlighted in the illustration above. Another dialog will open, asking "Apply the following changes?":



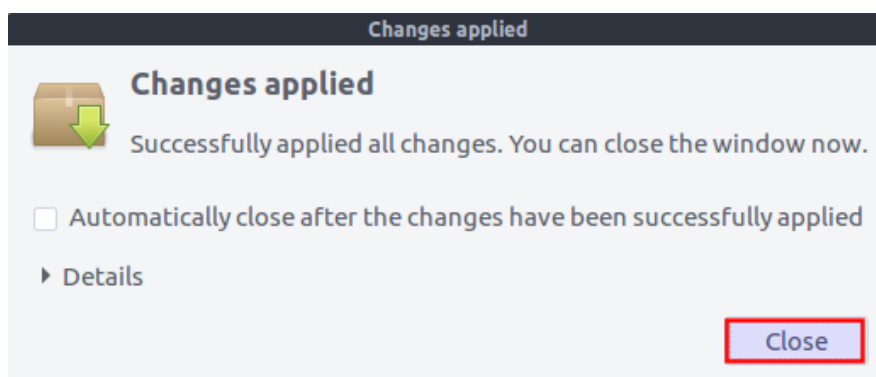
Click on the **Apply** button on this dialog. The package manager then downloads the software program(s) from the external USB hard drive to the computer and installs it on the computer. The downloading and installation progress is tracked by the following two dialogs :



and then:



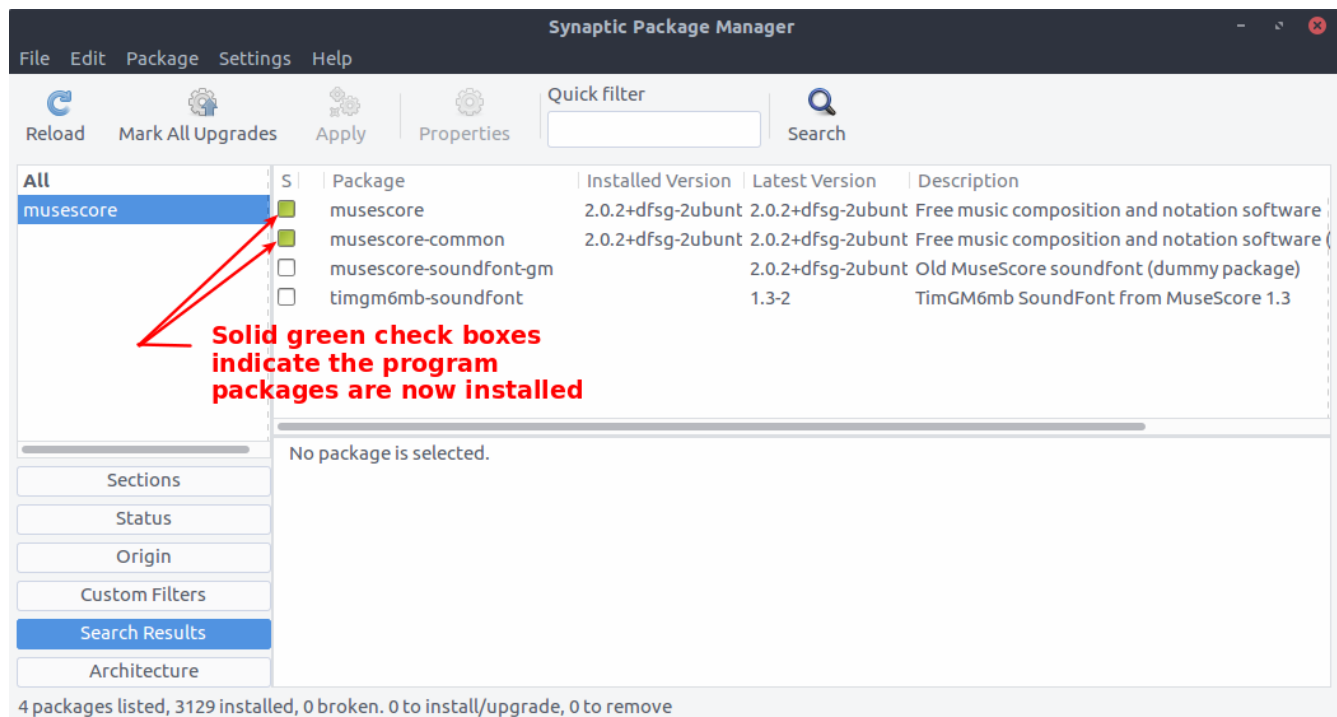
When Synaptic Package Manager has finished the installation process, the above progress dialogs will automatically close, and the following message will appear:




Click on the **Close** button of the “Changes applied” dialog.

Remember: Since we using the Synaptic Package Manager while wasta-offline is running in the background, the installation of new software is being done directly from the full Wasta-Offline Mirror on the USB drive, rather than from the Internet.

After the installation has finished, the Synaptic Package Manager shows the program(s) we just installed - having solid green-filled check box(es) – indicating that the programs are now installed (see the screen shot below):

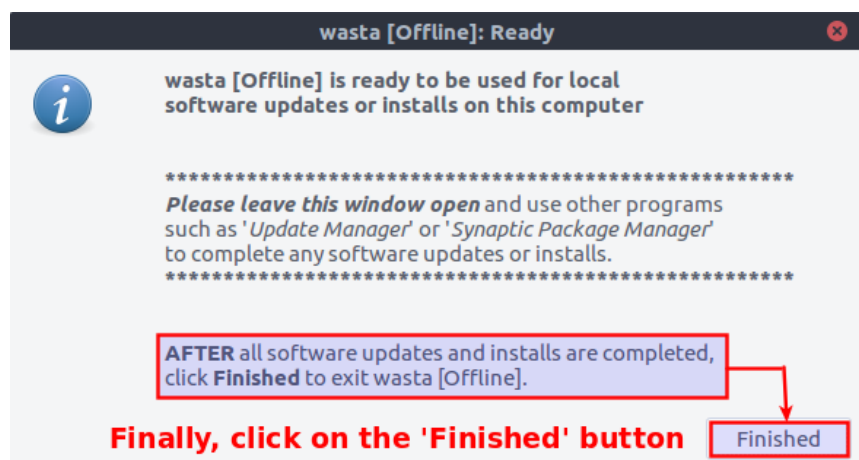


The Synaptic Package Manager stays open after the software you have selected has been installed. If you think of other software you would like to install at this point you can simply repeat [Step 13](#), [Step 14](#) and [Step 15](#) for any other Linux programs you wish to install. When you are finished, proceed to [Step 16](#) below.

**Step 16: Close the Synaptic Package Manager.** Click the  close button at upper right, or select **Quit** from the **File** menu to close the Synaptic Package Manager.

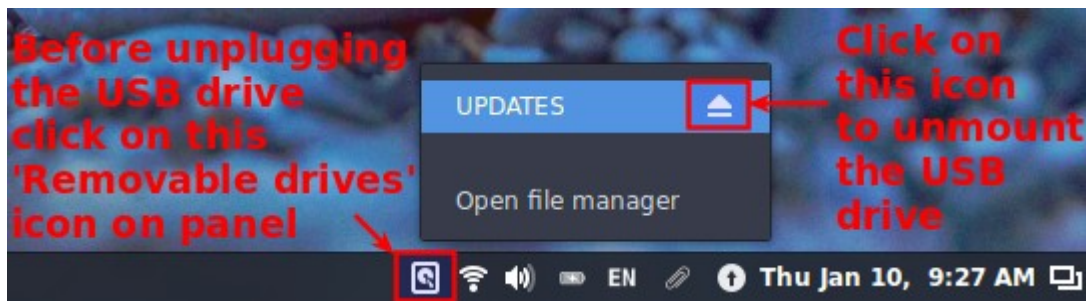
**Step 17: Finally, click on the wasta-offline program's Finished button.** When all updates and installs are finished, remember to click on the **Finished** button on the **wasta Offline: Ready** message window, to close it:

The wasta-offline program will silently point your software sources

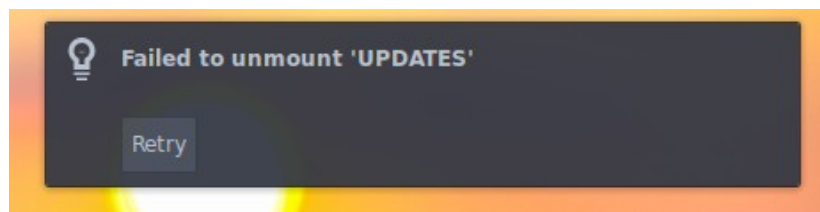


back to their previous repositories, rather than to the mirrored software sources on the external USB drive.

**Step 18: Safely remove the USB drive that contains the Wasta-Offline Mirror.** After you have used the USB drive to update your Wasta Linux software (and/or install any new Linux software), you should let your computer know that you are about to unplug the USB drive from your computer. Click on the **Removable drives** icon on the panel (as shown in the image below), and click on the icon next to the **name** of the external USB drive (in our case UPDATES).



In some cases you may see a “Failed to unmount ...” notification message in the upper right part of your desktop:



Although it sounds serious, when doing software updates with the USB drive containing the Wasta-Offline Mirror, the computer may think the USB drive is still “busy” even though the software update process has actually completed and nothing is being written to the USB drive at this point. Therefore, you can safely ignore this message – which will generally disappear anyway in after few seconds.

Remember to return the USB drive to the branch administrators so they can add new software updates to it, and sent it out to you again in the future with fresh software updates on it.