

How To Change Linux Console Font Type And Size - OSTechNix

by sk · Published August 8, 2019 · Updated August 8, 2019

It is quite easy to change the text font type and its size if you have graphical desktop environment. How would you do that in an Ubuntu headless server that doesn't have a graphical environment? No worries! This brief guide describes how to change Linux console font and size. This can be useful for those who don't like the default font type/size or who prefer different fonts in general.

Just in case you don't know yet, this is how a headless Ubuntu Linux server console looks like.

```
Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS ubuntu18.04.2 tty1
ubuntu18.04.2 login: sk
Password:
Last login: Thu Aug  8 17:32:34 IST 2019 on tty1
[ 42.211710] cloud-init[1271]: Cloud-init v. 19.1-1-gbaa47854-0ubuntu1~18.04.1 running 'modules:co
nfig' at Thu, 08 Aug 2019 12:08:44 +0000. Up 41.83 seconds.
[ 44.230735] cloud-init[1359]: Cloud-init v. 19.1-1-gbaa47854-0ubuntu1~18.04.1 running 'modules:fi
nal' at Thu, 08 Aug 2019 12:08:46 +0000. Up 43.55 seconds.
[ 44.231178] cloud-init[1359]: Cloud-init v. 19.1-1-gbaa47854-0ubuntu1~18.04.1 finished at Thu, 08
Aug 2019 12:08:47 +0000. Datasource DataSourceNoCloud [seed=/var/lib/cloud/seed/nocloud-net] [dsmode
=net]. Up 44.19 seconds
Welcome to Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-55-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage

System information disabled due to load higher than 1.0

 * Keen to learn Istio? It's included in the single-package MicroK8s.

      https://snapcraft.io/microk8s

44 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

sk@ubuntu18.04.2:~$
```

Ubuntu Linux console

As far as I know, we can [list the installed fonts](#), but there is no option to change the font type or its size from Linux console as we do in the Terminal emulators in GUI desktop.

But that doesn't mean that we can't change it. We still can change the console fonts.

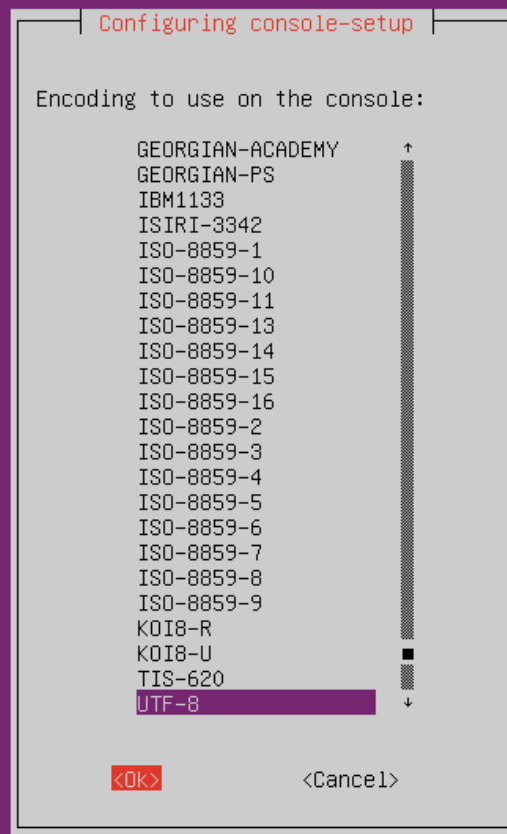
If you're using Debian, Ubuntu and other DEB-based systems, you can use “**console-setup**” configuration file for **setupcon** which is used to configure font and keyboard layout for the console. The standard location of the console-setup configuration file is **/etc/default/console-setup**.

Now, run the following command to setup font for your Linux console.

```
$ sudo dpkg-reconfigure console-setup
```

Choose the encoding to use on your Linux console. Just leave the default values, choose OK and hit ENTER to continue.

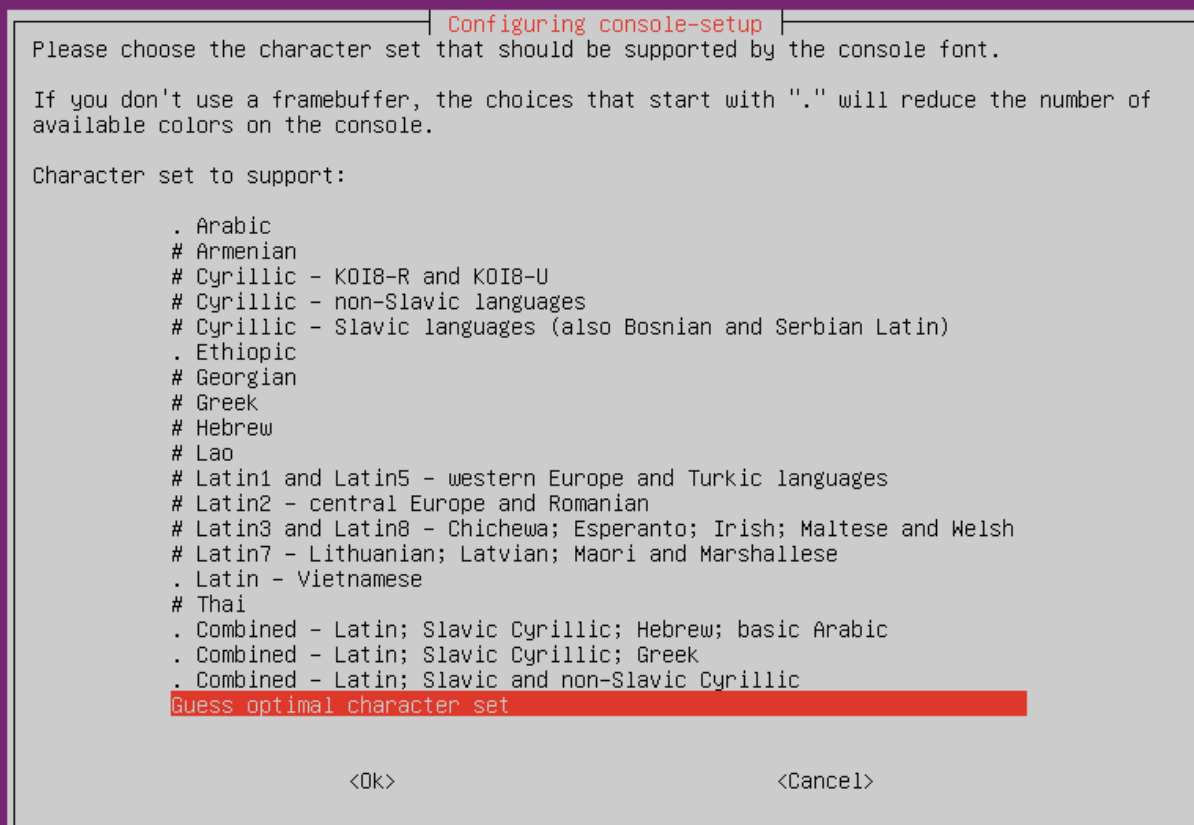
Package configuration



Choose encoding to set on the console in Ubuntu

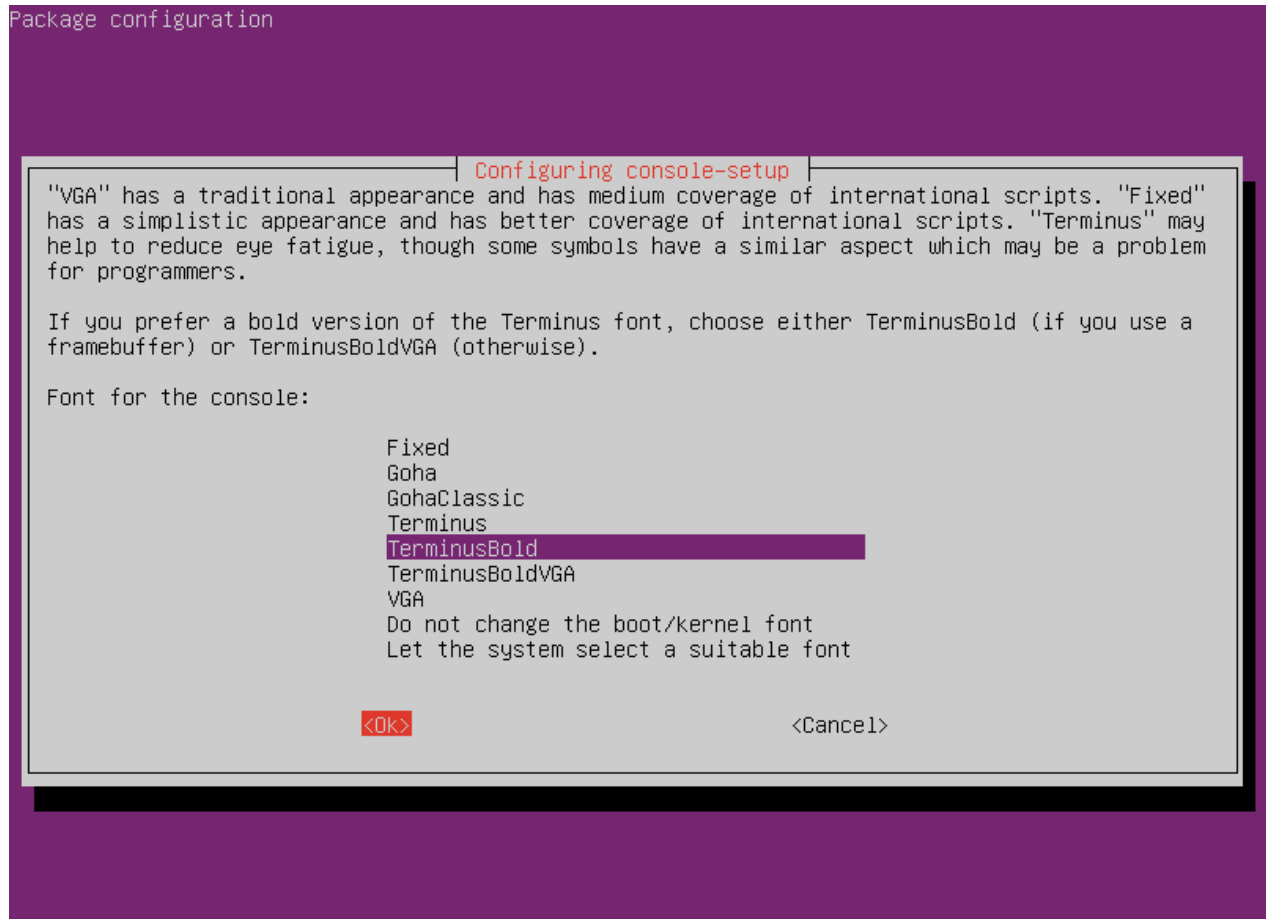
Next choose the character set that should be supported by the console font from the list. By default, it was the the last option i.e. **Guess optimal character set** in my system. Just leave it as default and hit ENTER key.

Package configuration



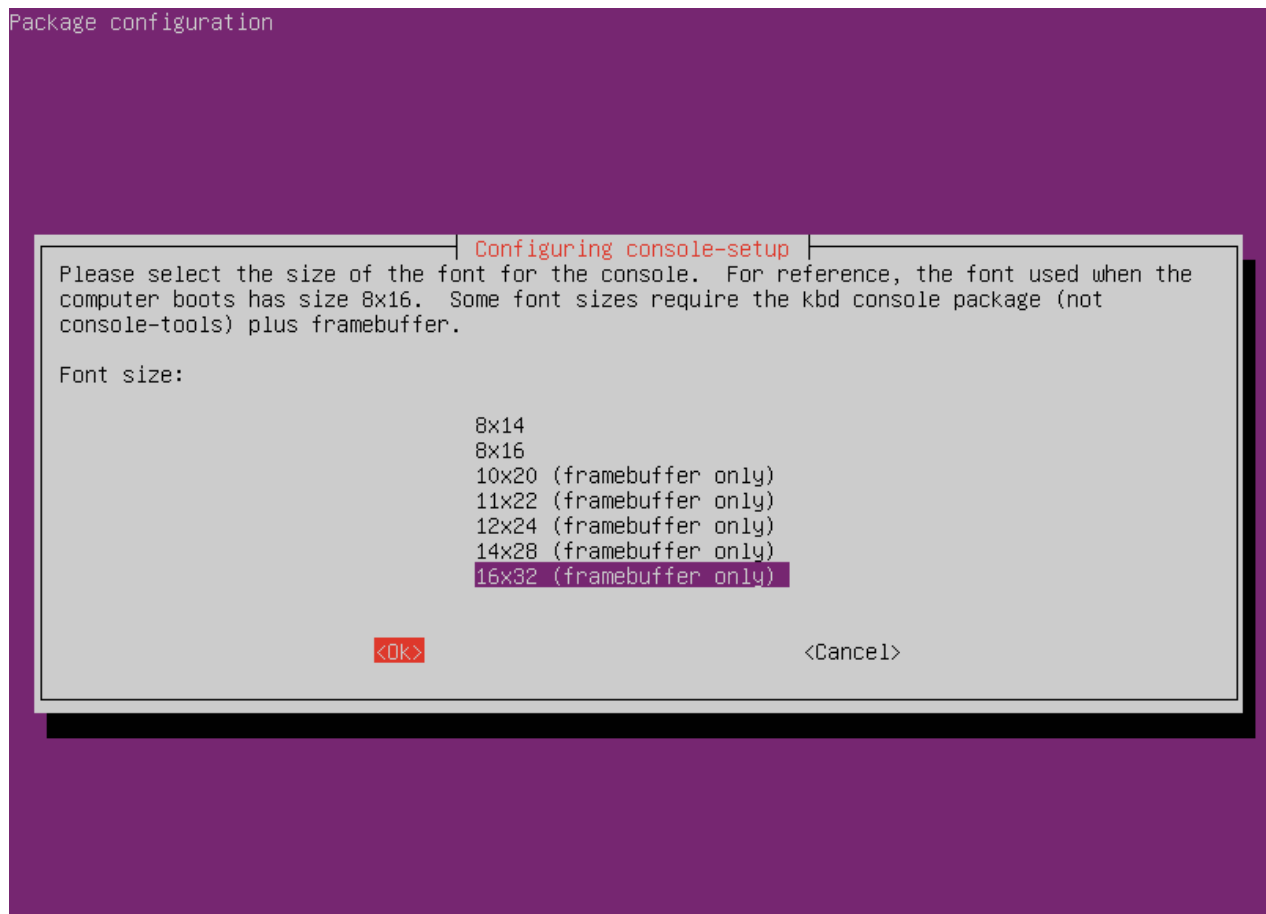
Choose character set in Ubuntu

Next choose the font for your console and hit ENTER key. Here, I am choosing "TerminusBold".



Choose font for your Linux console

In this step, we choose the desired font size for our Linux console.



Choose font size for your Linux console

After a few seconds, the selected font with size will applied for your Linux console.

This is how console fonts looked like in my Ubuntu 18.04 LTS server before changing the font type and size.

```
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$ lsb_release -a  
No LSB modules are available.  
Distributor ID: Ubuntu  
Description:    Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS  
Release:        18.04  
Codename:       bionic  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$ uname -a  
Linux ubuntuuserver 4.15.0-55-generic #60-Ubuntu SMP Tue Jul 2 18:22:20 UTC 2019 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64  
GNU/Linux  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$
```

This is after changing the font type and size.

```
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$ lsb_release -a  
No LSB modules are available.  
Distributor ID: Ubuntu  
Description:    Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS  
Release:        18.04  
Codename:       bionic  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$ uname -a  
Linux ubuntuuserver 4.15.0-55-generic #60-Ubuntu SM  
P Tue Jul 2 18:22:20 UTC 2019 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64  
GNU/Linux  
sk@ubuntuuserver:~$
```

As you can see, the text size is much bigger, better and the font type is different that default one.

You can also directly edit **/etc/default/console-setup** file and set the font type and size as you wish. As per the following example, my Linux console font type is “Terminus Bold” and font size is 32.

```
ACTIVE_CONSOLES="/dev/tty[1-6]"
CHARMAP="UTF-8"
CODESET="guess"
FONTFACE="TerminusBold"
FONTSIZE="16x32"
```

Suggested read:

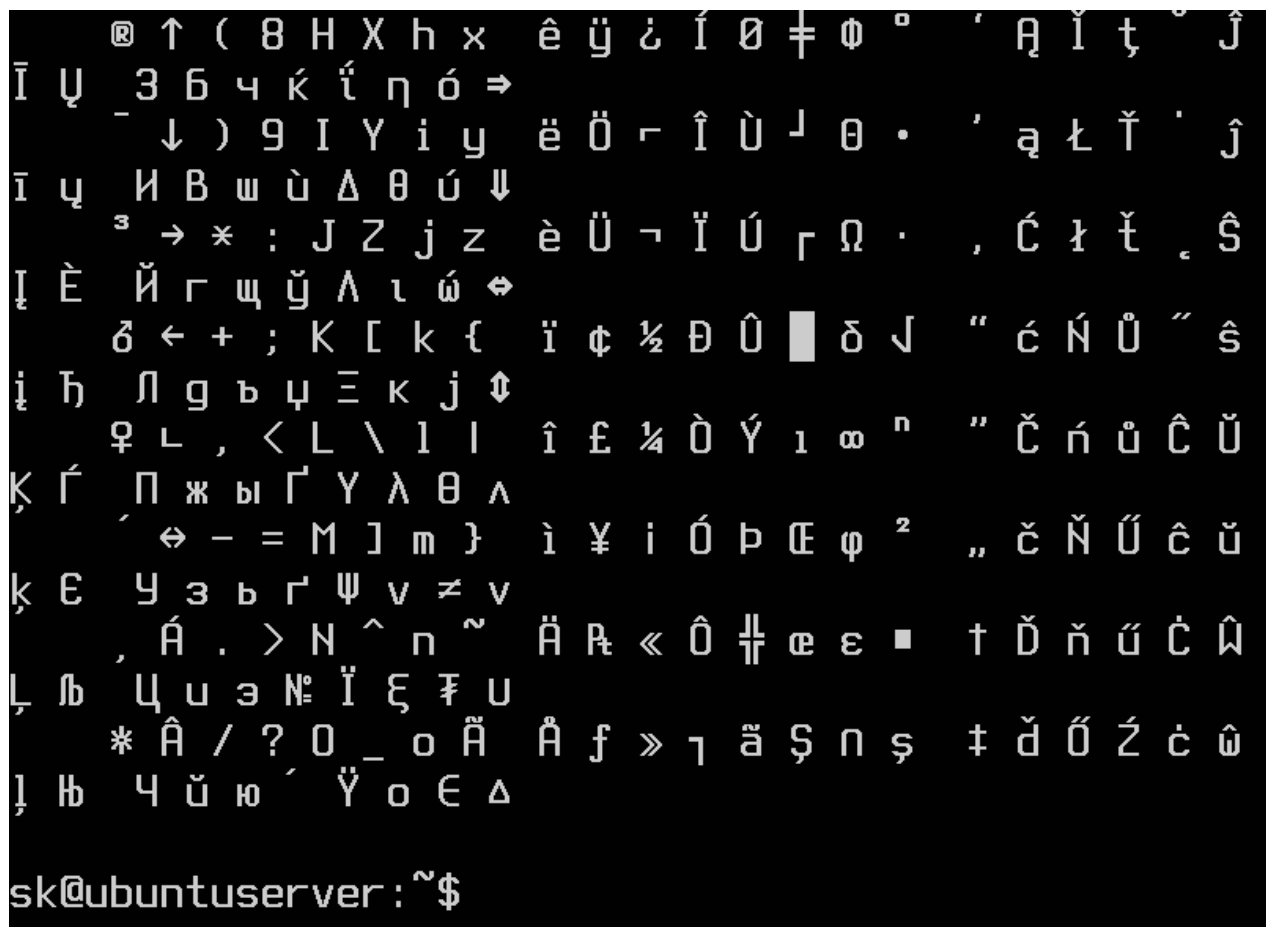
- [How To Switch Between TTYs Without Using Function Keys In Linux](#)
-

Display Console fonts

To show your console font, simply type:

```
$ showconsolefont
```

This command will show a table of glyphs or letters of a font.



Show console fonts

If your Linux distribution does not have “console-setup”, you can get it from [here](#).

On Linux distributions that uses **Systemd**, you can change the console font by editing “**/etc/vconsole.conf**” file.

Here is an example configuration for German keyboard.

```
$ vi /etc/vconsole.conf
```

```
KEYMAP=de-latin1
FONT=Lat2-Terminus16
```

Hope you find this useful.

Thanks for stopping by!

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Have a Good day!!