

Install Linux Mint on macbook Pro

A set of tips for installation and post install

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1 Introduction

1.1 Install Mint on a macbook pro

The target machine is a 2016 13-inch MacBook with four Thunderbolt 3 Ports.

To start the process get an `iso` file from the Mint website. The current “Vera” version of Mint `iso` file is 2.5 GB in size. The Vera download site is [here](#). The download torrent file is [here](#).

On a macbook pro running `macos` you can use one of a number of apps to download the `iso` via torrent. we suggest `Transmission`.

Once downloaded we can transfer the `iso` file to a USB drive using one of several methods. On `Macos` we suggest using the app `balanaEtcher`. Download `balanaEtcher` [here](#)

Insert the bootable USB flash drive into the target macbook and reboot. Hold the **ALT** key to allow booting from the external USB drive. Select the icon for the USB drive and a grub menu will appear. From the Grub menu choose **Start Linux Mint 21.1 Cinnamon 64-bit**. and the Mint install program will boot.

A linux mint desktop will appear. There is one icon on the screen labeled “install Linux Mint”. Double click it.

A setup dialog will start. Select in sequence

- Language (English for us),
- then Network (suggest skip),
- then codexes (suggest skip),
- then options for a fresh install or “something else” (choose fresh to devote full hard drive to Mint).
- next Location (Pacific region for us),
- then name a root user, a hostname, and assign a password.

Thats it. Reboot and login.

At a minimum use Panda Wireless modem for internet access since Mint 21.1 has **Ralink RT5372** drivers installed. (see appendix for Broadcom install instructions)

Add second monitor via **HDMI** or use Cinema display 27” via Thunderbolt adapter on older macbooks.

Open Display menu. Select 2560x1440 as the resolution for both monitors. Monitor scale at 150%.

Turn on Timeshift to provide hourly snapshots.

Set keyboard and trackpad preferences:

- Open **Mouse and Touchpad** in settings. Turn on **Tap to click** and **Reverse scroll**.
- Open **Keyboard > Layouts > Options > Caps Lock behavior** and select **Swap Esc and Caps-Lock**

Update base software. (NB upgrade may be an issue with 2013 macbook)

```
sudo apt-get update ; sudo apt-get upgrade
```

2 Next steps...

Install basic utilities `git`, `wget`, `curl`, `zsh`, `vim`, `zathura`

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install zsh wget curl git vim zathura -y
```

Install `oh-my-zsh` and `oh-my-zsh` plugins `z` and `z-autosuggestions`

```
sh -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ohmyzsh/ohmyzsh/master/tools/install.sh)"
git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-autosuggestions \
  ${ZSH_CUSTOM:~/.oh-my-zsh/custom}/plugins/zsh-autosuggestions
git clone https://github.com/agkozak/zsh-z \
  ${ZSH_CUSTOM:~/.oh-my-zsh/custom}/plugins/zsh-z
```

Don't forget to edit `.zshrc` to include `z` and `z-autosuggestions` in the plugins list.

Install `Dropbox`, `Zotero` and `Texlive-full`. The easiest way to install `Dropbox`, `Zotero` and `Tex` is with the `Mint` software manager.

Install `qutebrowser` and `firefox`.

```
sudo apt install qutebrowser firefox;w
```

Add `Vimium` extension to `firefox`.

Set up `Zotero` syncing.

3 Appendix 1. Script to set up links from local Home to Dropbox

`set_up_links.sh`

```
#!/bin/zsh
ff=( ".zshrc" ".vimrc" ".local" ".vim" ".config" )
for P in "${ff[@]}"
do
  echo "create a link for Dropbox/dotfiles version of $P in Home"
```

```
ln -v -s "$HOME/Dropbox/dotfiles/$P" "$HOME/$P"
done

dd=("sbx" "bin" "docs" "prj" "work" "shr")
for P in "${dd[@]}"
do
    echo "create a link for Dropbox/dotfiles version of echo $P in Home"
    ln -v -s "$HOME/Dropbox/$P" "$HOME/$P"
done
```

4 Appendix 2. Install Broadcom driver for wifi.

TBD