

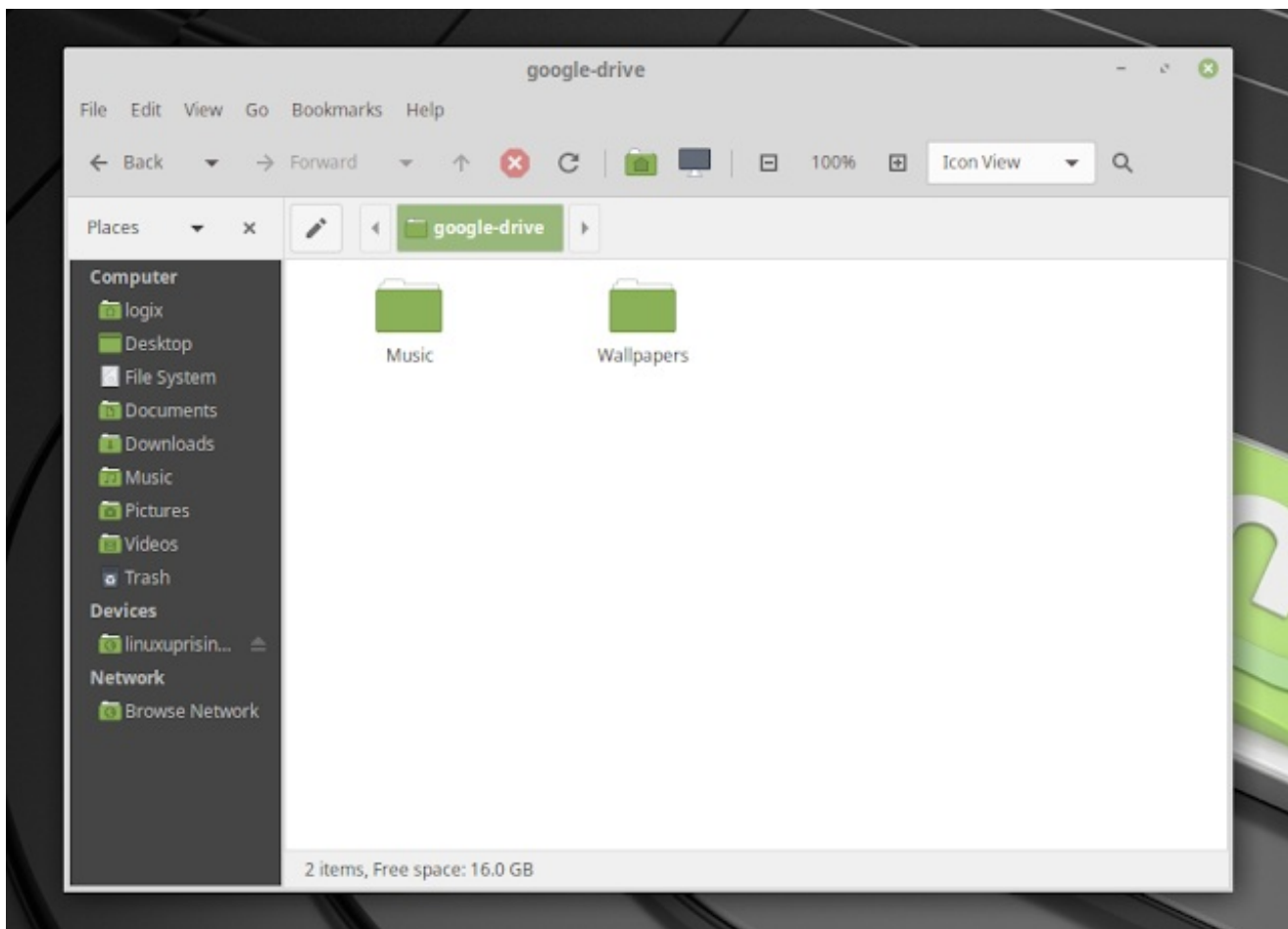
Mounting Google Drive On Xfce Or MATE Desktops (Ubuntu, Linux Mint)

linuxuprising.com/2018/07/mounting-google-drive-on-xfce-or-mate.html

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Gnome offers an easy way to access your Google Drive files from your Linux desktop - open Online Accounts, add your Google account and you'll be able to transfer files from / to your Google Drive directly from the Files (Nautilus) application. KDE Plasma 5 was includes similar Google Drive integration, and Cinnamon supports this as well.

But **what about other desktop environments? There are ways of mounting Google Drive on any desktop environment, and this article includes 2 such options: installing and using Gnome Settings (Control Center) and Gnome Online Accounts in other desktop environments, like Xfce or MATE, or using Google Drive OCamlFUSE**, a tool that achieves something similar to Gnome Online accounts, but without all the Gnome dependencies.



Using any of these 2 options, you'll be able to access Google Drive directly from your file manager of choice. It should work with Thunar, Nemo, Caja, and others. You'll be able to add new files to your Google Drive, delete or modify existing files, etc.

Compared to the Gnome Online Accounts method, Google Drive OCamlFUSE offers more flexibility, it doesn't have Gnome dependencies, but appears to be slower. That may depend on the way one uses Google Drive though, so this may not be accurate. In any case, try it and judge for yourself.

There are also various unofficial Google Drive clients, from command line clients (like [grive2](#)) to complete desktop solutions which include file manager integration (like [Insync](#), which costs \$29.99 per Google account / one time fee). This article is about mounting Google Drive on Linux desktops that don't have a built-in way of doing this though, and not about all those Google Drive clients.

The instructions below include some Ubuntu (Xubuntu, Ubuntu MATE, etc.), and Linux Mint (MATE, Xfce) specific installation commands. The tools (Google Drive OCamlFUSE and Gnome Online Accounts) themselves should produce the same result on any Linux distribution though.

Mounting Google Drive using Gnome Online Accounts in Xfce, MATE and others

To mount Google Drive using Gnome Online Accounts / Gnome Settings (Control Center) in desktop environments such as Xfce, MATE, and others, you'll need to install the `gnome-control-center` and `gnome-online-accounts` packages. They include multiple Gnome dependencies - if you don't want this, you can check out the Google Drive OCamlFUSE option below.

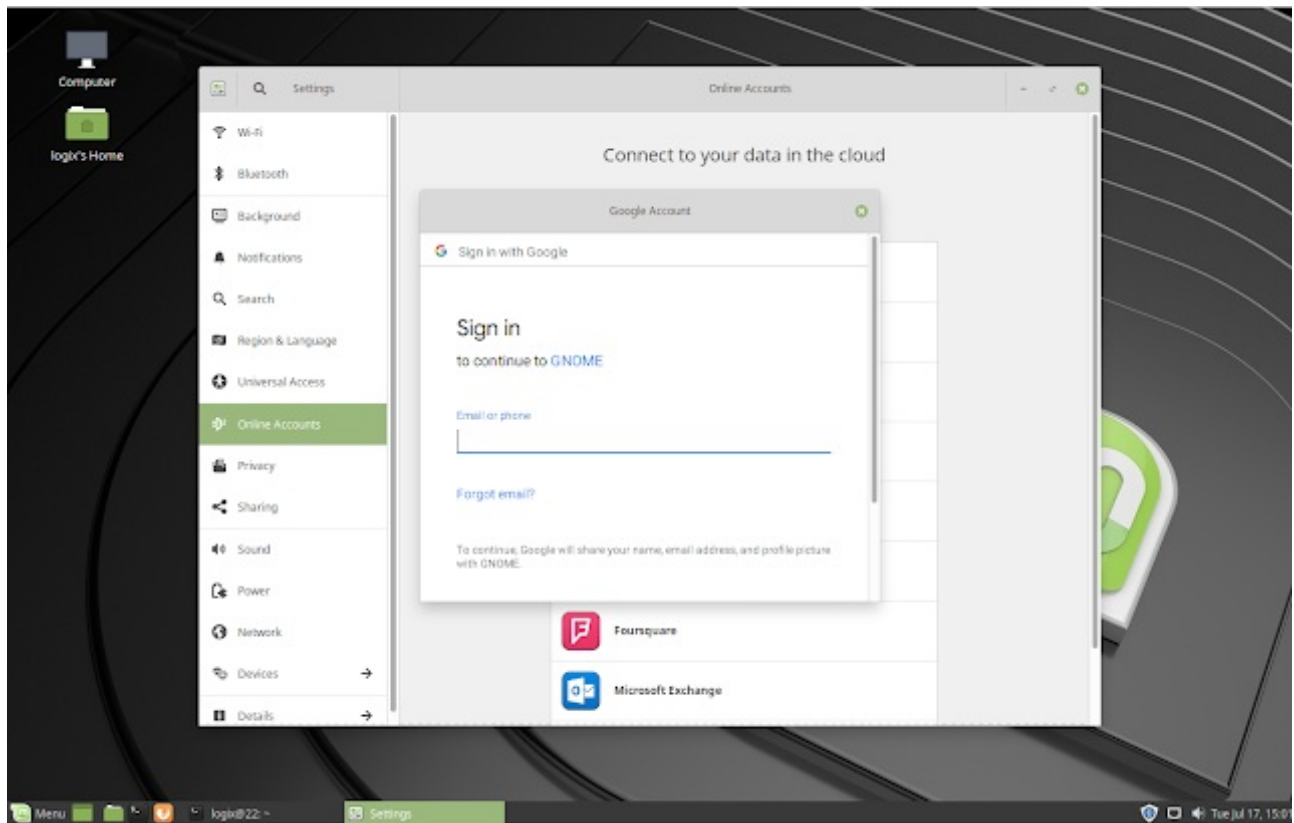
Open a terminal and type this command to install them:

```
sudo apt install gnome-control-center gnome-online-accounts
```

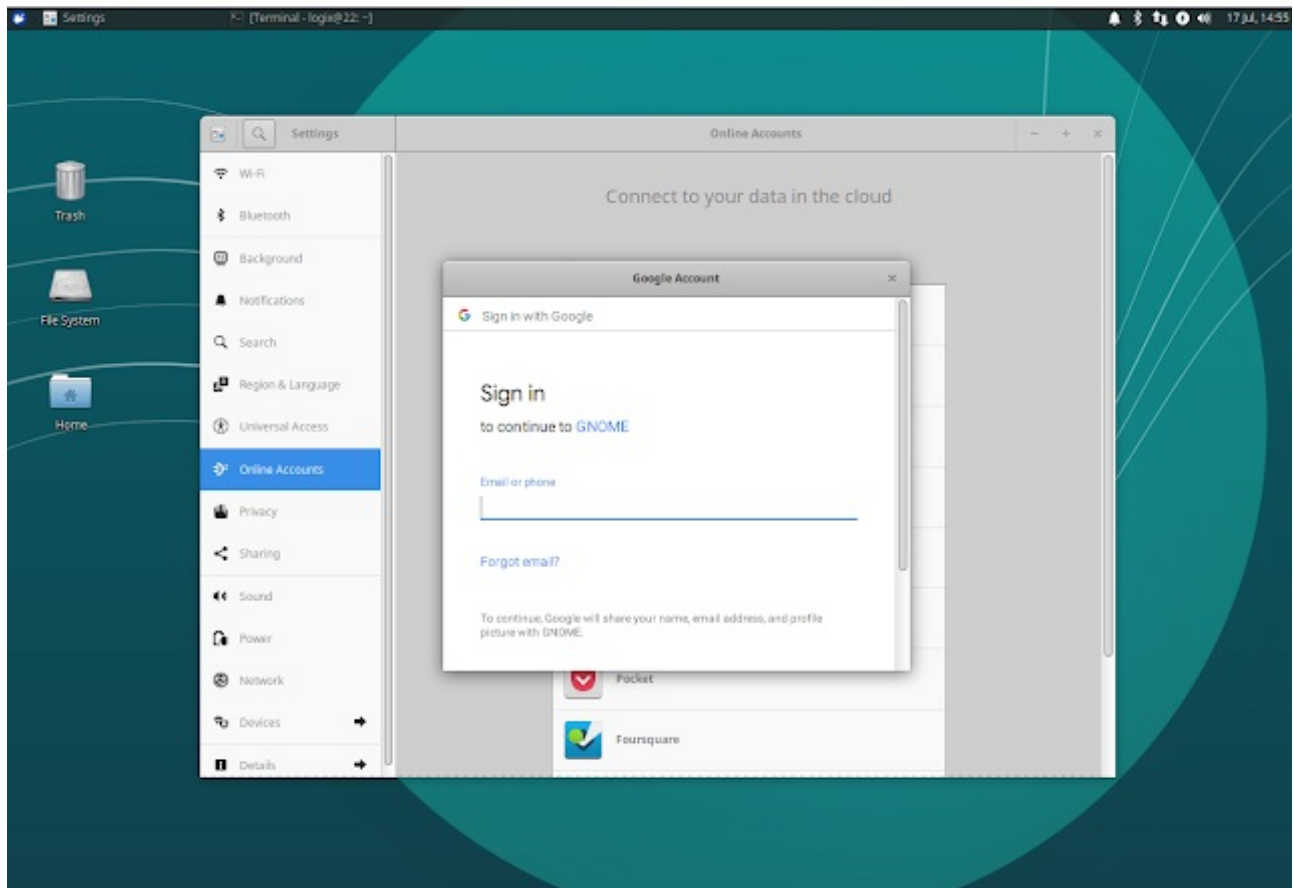
Gnome Settings is hidden and doesn't show up in the menu on non-Gnome desktop environments. So if you use Xfce, MATE or some other desktop environment you won't see Gnome Settings or Gnome Control Center in your menu. To run it, we'll need to use a terminal and add `XDG_CURRENT_DESKTOP=GNOME` before the executable, like this:

```
XDG_CURRENT_DESKTOP=GNOME gnome-control-center
```

Now go to Online Accounts, click Google and add your Google account:

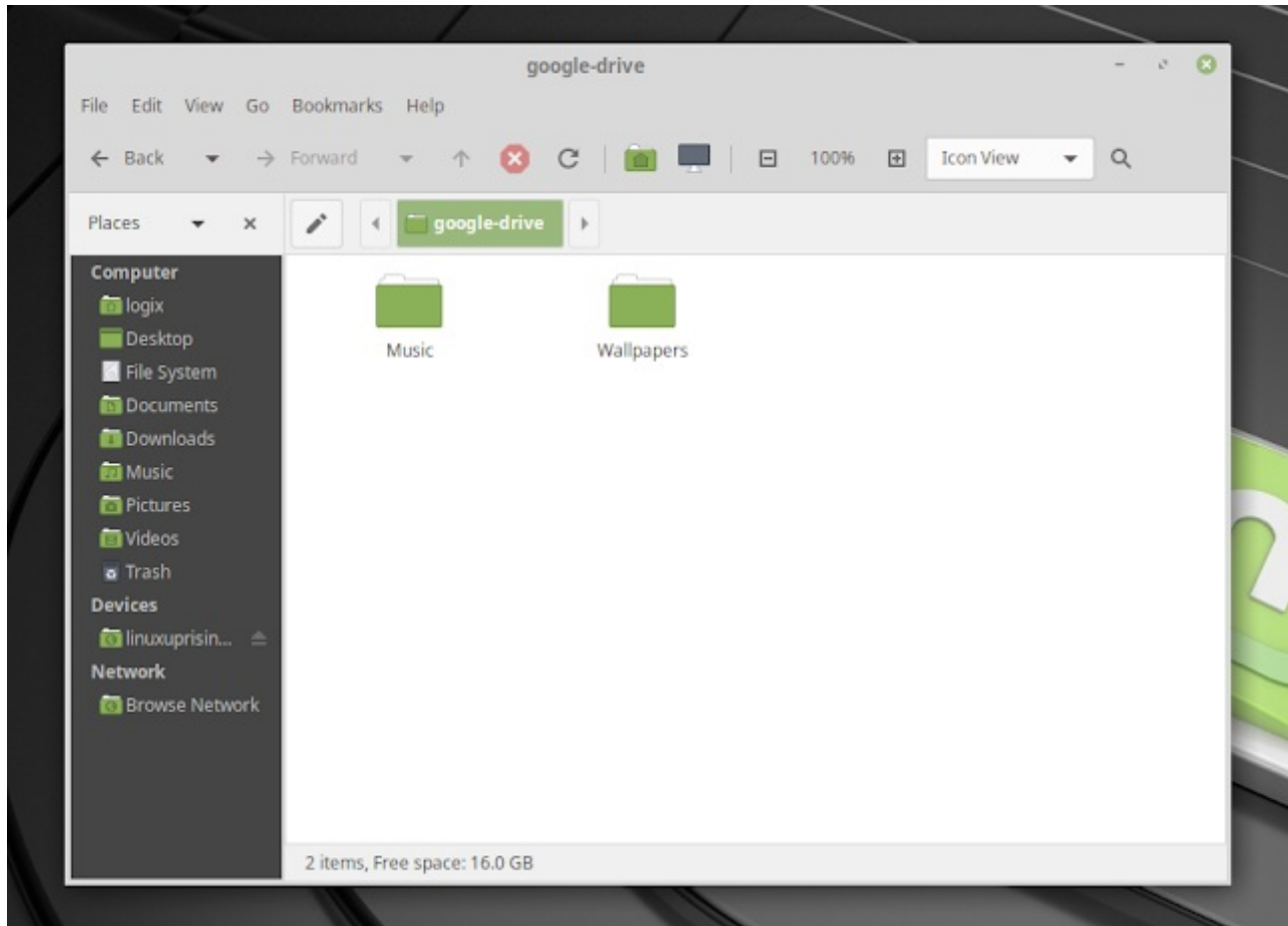


Gnome Online Accounts on Linux Mint 19 MATE

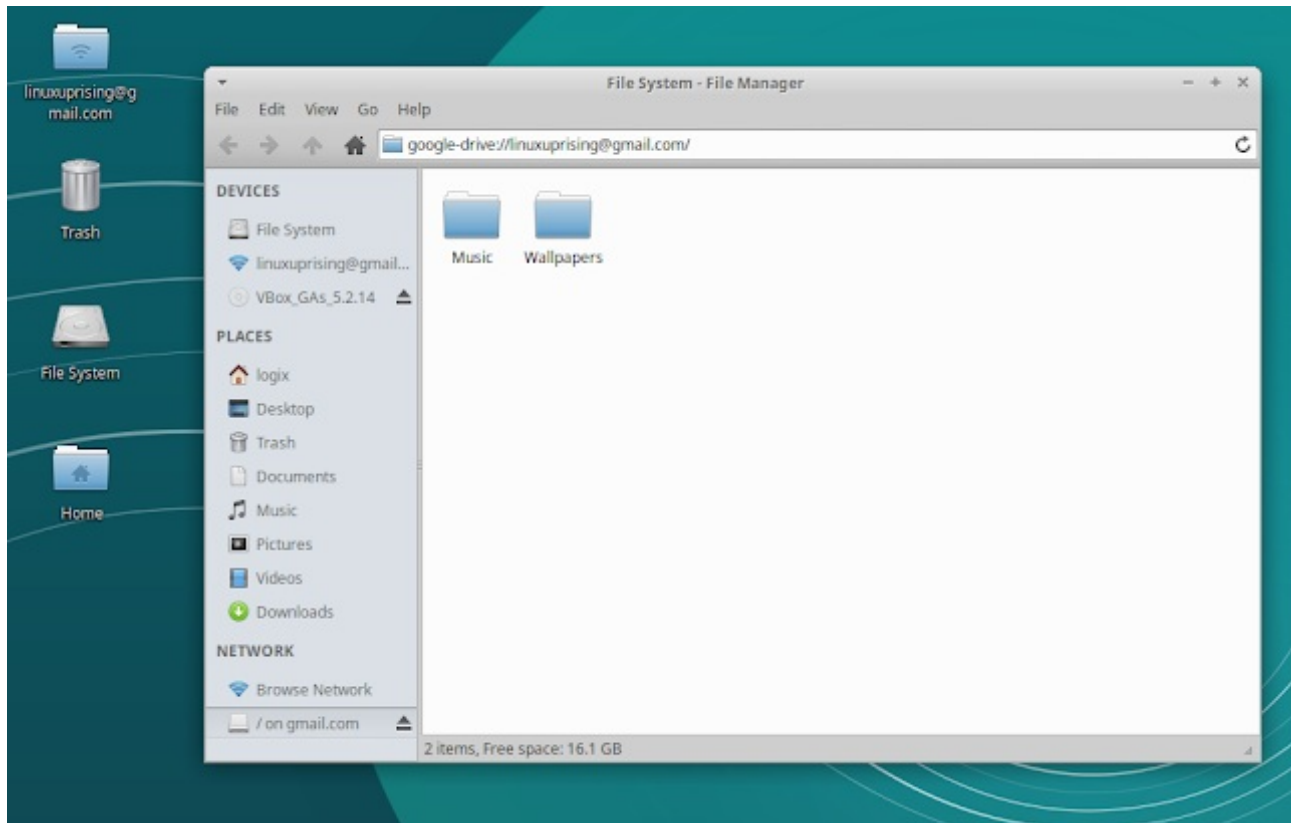


Gnome Online Accounts on Xubuntu 18.04

Immediately after adding your Google account to Online Accounts, you should see your Google Drive folder in the file manager (Caja, Thunar or whatever file manager you may be using):

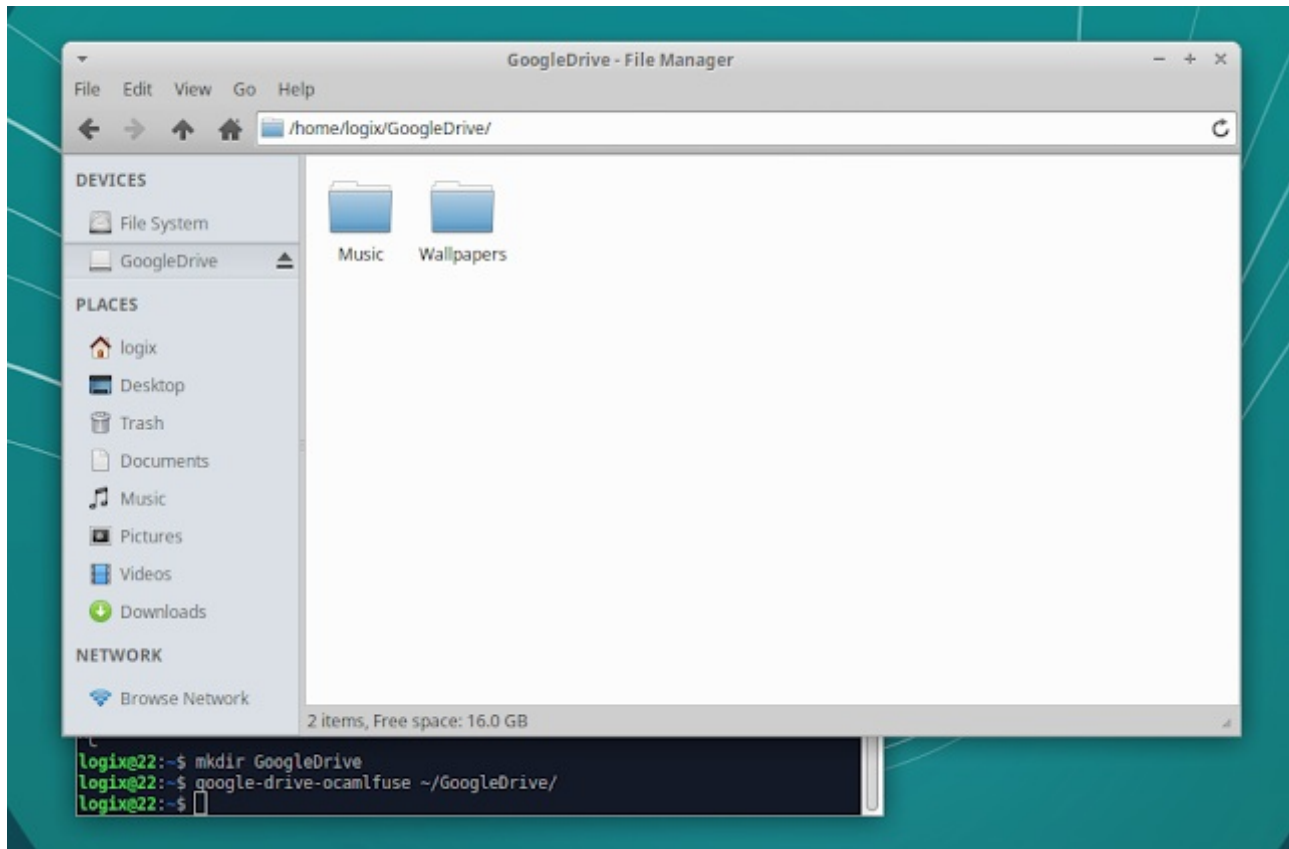


Google Drive mounted in Caja (default MATE file manager) using Gnome Online Accounts / Linux Mint 19 MATE



Google Drive mounted in Thunar (default Xfce file manager) using Gnome Online Accounts / Xubuntu 18.04

Using Google Drive OCamlFUSE to mount Google Drive in Linux



Google Drive mounted using google-drive-ocamlfuse is available using Thunar / Xubuntu 18.04

Another way of mounting Google Drive in Linux (for any desktop environment) is by using Google Drive OCamlFUSE. This tool implements a FUSE filesystem over Google Drive, and includes features such as full read/write access to regular files and folders, multiple accounts support, and more. As opposed to using Gnome Online Accounts, this does not come with specific Gnome dependencies.

In Ubuntu (Xubuntu, Ubuntu MATE, Lubuntu, etc.) or Linux Mint (Xfce, MATE) you can install Google Drive OCamlFUSE by using the official stable PPA:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:alessandro-strada/ppa
sudo apt update
sudo apt install google-drive-ocamlfuse
```

Users of other Linux distributions: see the installation instructions from [here](#).

Now you'll have to authenticate google-drive-ocamlfuse with your Google account. To do this, run `google-drive-ocamlfuse` in a terminal, without appending any options, like this:

A new tab should open in your default web browser, which asks you to allow google-drive-ocamlfuse to access your Google account. You'll need to allow it and proceed to the next step.

Next, you'll need to create an empty folder in your home directory, which will be used as your Google Drive folder. Something like `GoogleDrive` should do it. Note that all the instructions below assume you're using `~/GoogleDrive` as your Google Drive mount point (if you use a different mount point, remember to change it in all the commands that follow).

After creating this folder in your home directory, run the command below to mount Google Drive to this folder, like this:

```
google-drive-ocamlfuse ~/GoogleDrive
```

You'll also need to add google-drive-ocamlfuse with the mount point as an argument to your startup applications. You can access your startup applications as follows:

- Xfce: launch `Session and Startup` from the menu, go to the `Application Autostart` tab and click `Add`
- MATE: launch `Startup Applications` and click `Add`

After clicking `Add`, use the following:

- Name: google-drive-ocamlfuse
- Command: `sh -c "google-drive-ocamlfuse ~/GoogleDrive"`

It's similar for pretty much any desktop environment as long as it has a way of adding applications to startup.

Instead of adding google-drive-ocamlfuse to startup, you can also automatically mount it in various ways, as explained [here](#).

For advanced google-drive-ocamlfuse configuration you can check out [this](#) page.