Ubuntu - Tweaks for better performance

Ubuntu, by default, provides cool desktop environment with some default settings which may consume much resource in the system. Tips here are to speed up Ubuntu, and they are valid for most versions of Ubuntu and can also be applied in Linux Mint and other Ubuntu based distributions.

#notes #linux

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1. Animation

Ubuntu comes with cool effects, but it consumes system resource. Turn it off is a good way to increase system performance.

Command line

Open a terminal and enter this command:

```
gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.interface enable-animations false
```

GUI tools

Either use `dconf-editor` by installing:

```
sudo apt install dconf-editor
```

Then navigate to `/org/gnome/desktop/interface/` and toggle the `Enable-Animations` option to OFF.

Or use `gnome-tweak-tool` :

```
sudo apt install gnome-tweak-tool
```

Then on the first tab Appearance, toggle the switch `Animations` .

2. Grub load time

The grub gives you 10 seconds to change between dual boot OS or to go in recovery. This time can be reduced, by entering below command to open grub configuration:

```
sudo gedit /etc/default/grub &
```

Then change `GRUB_TIMEOUT=10` to `GRUB_TIMEOUT=1` .

And update the settings:

```
sudo update-grub
```

3. Startup applications

Look for Startup Applications and run it. There is a list of startup applications:

- Remove if you don't need to run a startup, or
- Delay the execution by editing the application start command:
  - Add `sleep x;` to delay `x` seconds

4. Package installation

4.1. Mirror server

Ubuntu contacts to many repos to download, update its packages. Choose the best mirror server is a good way to speed up system update or application installation.

In **Software & Updates** » **Ubuntu Software** » **Download From** and choose **Select Best Server**.

4.2. `apt-fast`

`apt-fast` is a shell script wrapper for `apt-get` that improves updated and package download speed by downloading packages from multiple connections simultaneously. Install `apt-fast` via official PPA using the following commands:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:apt-fast/stable
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install apt-fast
```

4.3. Remove language translation

Suppressing the language translation while updating will slightly increase the `apt-get` update speed. To do that, open the following file:

```
sudo gedit /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/00aptitude
```

And add the following line at the end of this file:

```
Acquire::Languages "none";
```

5. Unattended Update

Ubuntu has a feature named Unattended Upgrades, which installs the latest security (and others) updates automatically whenever they are available. It comes pre-installed and enabled by default in the recent Ubuntu versions. While this feature helps to keep the Ubuntu system up-to-date, it is also quite annoying sometimes.

To disable unattended upgrades on Ubuntu and its derivatives, run:

```
sudo dpkg-reconfigure unattended-upgrades
```

Then choose **No** and hit `ENTER` to disable unattended upgrades.

6. Change network connection priority

If machine is connected to Wi-Fi and Ethernet simultaneously, here is a method to set priority connection.

Install `ifmetric` tool:

```
sudo apt-get install ifmetric
```

This command can be used to change the metric of any interface. The interface with lower metric is preferred for Internet.

To use this, first see the metrics using route command:

```
route -n
```

```
Kernel IP routing table
Destination     Gateway         Genmask         Flags Metric Ref    Use Iface
0.0.0.0         10.42.0.1       0.0.0.0         UG    100    0        0 eth0
0.0.0.0         10.42.0.2       0.0.0.0         UG    600    0        0 wlan0
```

Here, `eth0` has lower metric, so it will be preferred over `wlan0`. If you want to prefer `wlan0`, then lower its metric:

```
sudo ifmetric wlan0 50
```

Now, the routing table would look like:

```
route -n
```

```
Kernel IP routing table
Destination     Gateway         Genmask         Flags Metric Ref    Use Iface
0.0.0.0         10.42.0.2       0.0.0.0         UG    50     0        0 wlan0
0.0.0.0         10.42.0.1       0.0.0.0         UG    100    0        0 eth0
```

Now Linux will be using `wlan0` for Internet. The change will be reflected immediately.

7. Further improvement

Look at https://easylinuxtipsproject.blogspot.com/p/speed-ubuntu.html.