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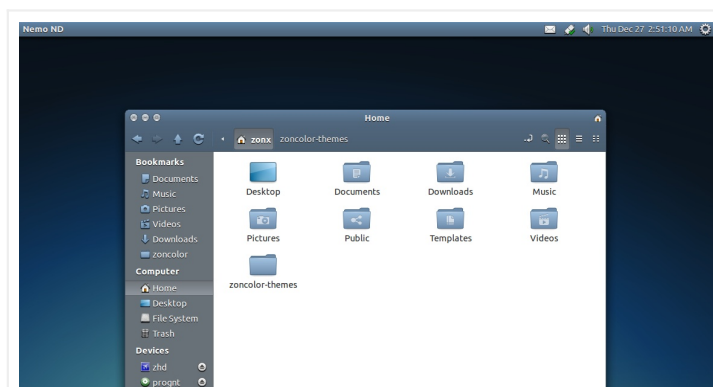
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Sunday, January 6, 2013

## Set Nemo as Default File Manager in Ubuntu

Nemo is a file manager application developed by Linux Mint team. It is a fork of Nautilus, the GNOME's file manager. In the beginning, Nemo was just Nautilus 3.4 (Nautilus version which is forked to become Nemo) with different name.

With rapid development and improvement, Nemo now become a full-featured file manager with lots of features, more customizable, and looks beter (in my opinion) than its original (Nautilus).



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Nemo is the default file manager in Linux Mint, to handle folder and also handle the desktop. You can also easily install Nemo in Ubuntu if you want which is just apt-get away using a PPA (read more: [Howto install Nemo in Ubuntu](#)),

When you install Nemo in Ubuntu, it doesn't set itself as the default file manager, Nautilus remains as the default one. If you want to integrate Nemo into Ubuntu system (as the default folder handler), you have to do it manually.

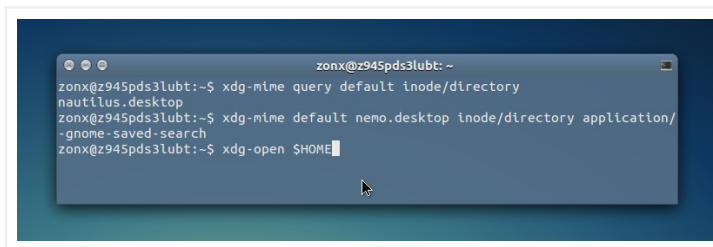
Here I want to share simple command to set Nemo as the default file manager in Ubuntu.

We will invoke the `xdg-mime` command from freedesktop.org, which is standard command and installed by default in most Linux distribution including Ubuntu. It can be use to set an application (\*.desktop file) as the default file opening a certain file type(s) (mime-type). You can also use it to find out what application on your system to handle type(s) of file.

You can run this command in Terminal to showthe default app for folder:

```
xdg-mime query default inode/directory
```

By default, the output of the command in Ubuntu should be `nautilus.desktop`.



## Set Nemo As Default File Manager

If you have Nemo installed on your system and want to set Nemo as the default file manager, run

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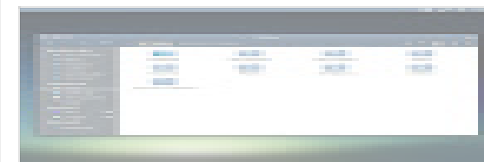
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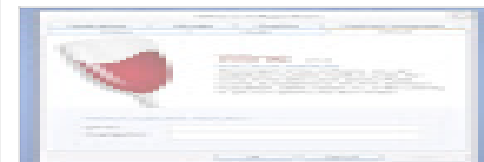
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this command in Terminal:

```
xdg-mime default nemo.desktop inode/directory application/x-gnome-saved-sear
```

Now Nemo ( `nemo.desktop` app launcher to be exact) should be the default file manager (folder handler). To test the result, run this command:

```
xdg-open $HOME
```

That command should launch Nemo showing your home directory.

The `xdg-mime` command should be available and can be used in most Linux distribution, not only in Ubuntu. If you want to know more about the `xdg-mime` command, simply run this command in Terminal: `xdg-mime --help` or `man xdg-mime`.

\*\*\*

## Set Nemo To Handle Desktop

In Ubuntu, Nautilus is set to handle desktop by default (to manage desktop icons, menu, etc), and if you have Nemo installed, there will be a conflict, both will be automatically loaded every time you logging in, to take control of the desktop.

If you want to stop Nautilus from handling the desktop and want to set Nemo instead, you can do the followings:

1. Disable desktop handling by Nautilus

Run this command in Terminal:

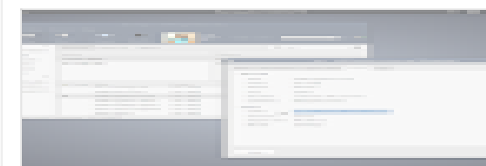
```
gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.background show-desktop-icons false
```

2. Make sure Nemo is set to handle desktop

Run this command:

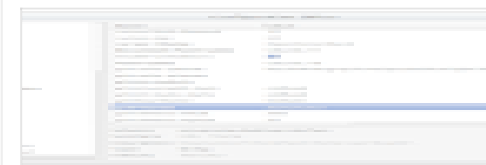
```
gsettings set org.nemo.desktop show-desktop-icons true
```

We love Linux and free/open source softwares. Unfortunately, we live in a world where most people are still using proprietary software in Wi...



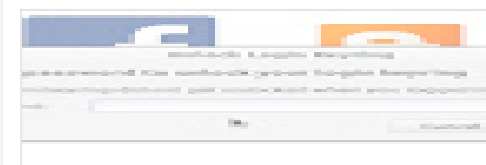
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This is a list of command line to change various theme-related settings in GNOME based desktop. These include commands for GNOME 3 based des...



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One of the benefits of using Ubuntu OS is it comes with build-in security/safety/privacy feature. One of

Thanks to Cursor (see comment below) for pointing this out.

[Set Nemo as Default File Manager in Ubuntu](#) by fanDigital

PS: Still, sorry for my English :)

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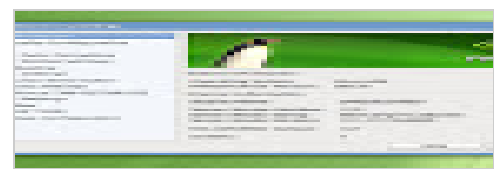


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**Ben Knisley** 2 years ago - [Linux \(General Discussion\)](#)

I like Nemo so much better than Nautilus

+5

+1



**fanDigital** via Google+ 2 years ago - Shared publicly

Updated with steps to set nemo as the default desktop handler

+1

· Reply



**Washington Indacochea Delgado** 1 month ago - Shared publicly

Working fine thanks Ubuntu 14.04 x386

+1

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**Carl Draper** shared this via Google+ 1 year ago - Shared publicly

+2

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**Keith Patton** 1 year ago (edited)

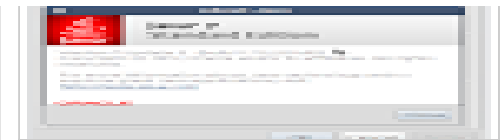
That desktop thing happens with pretty much all file managers. Need to use dconf (or gconf?) to change the setting.

Nemo is literally Nautilus prior to Gnome 3 (nautilus before they started removing



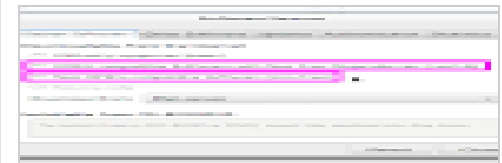
**Arti Zirk** 1 year ago +1

didn't they forked Nautilus 3.2 or some other early version ?  
nemo seems to use gtk3 like nautilus but it isn't using any newer gtk3 widgets that nautilus is using right now



[Install Latest Java in Debian / Ubuntu / Linux Mint](#)

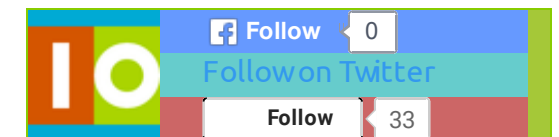
In previous versions, many Linux distributions including Debian-based systems (Debian, Ubuntu, Linux Mint/LMDE) have official Java included ...



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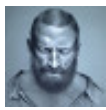
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**jean valjean** 1 year ago - Shared publicly

If you set Nemo to handle the desktop you will not be able to change the desktop wallpaper on right click contextual menu, let Nautilus handle it, but set the Nemo as default file manager.....this is my advise to you, for me they work together just fine.I love Nemo, in my opinion is much better than Nautilus on my Ubuntu 14.04.Cheers.

+1



**Jan Wegner** via Google+ 2 years ago - Shared publicly

Great work, nice look ...

· Reply



**Mauricio Carrasco** 1 year ago - Shared publicly

Thank you! I needed this guide for set Nemo totally controlling Cinnamon because Caja of Mate was executing too.

+1 · Reply



**Lisseth Saldivar** 1 year ago

Es mejor que Nautilus?

· Translate



**Mauricio Carrasco** 1 year ago +1

**+Nathalia Saldivar** Por lo que he visto, creo que sí, porque muestra una línea de espacio usado en la lista de dispositivos. Lo noto más rápido incluso.

· Translate



**Sergi Collado** shared this via Google+ 1 year ago - Shared publicly

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**fanDigital** shared this via Google+ 2 years ago - Shared publicly



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+1 · Reply



**Carmine "CyanTeal" Rider** 1 year ago - Shared publicly

Nemo is cool for me, but nautilus has more support regarding ubuntu, i'm still confused, could someone help me!

+1 +1 · Reply



**Danny Niedrig** via Google+ 1 year ago - Shared publicly

y u take my F3 silly buntu

+1 · Reply



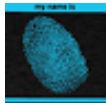
**Sigbjørn Tvedt** via Google+ 2 years ago - Shared publicly

Updated to Ubuntu 13.04 and found that nautilus has removed the shortcut for going "up" (backspace) and the split view (F3) in the 3.6 version.

Solution: install Nemo

<http://www.fandigital.com/2013/01/set-nemo-default-file-manager-ubuntu.html>

+1 +1 · Reply



**josip busljeta** 1 year ago - Shared publicly

I installed Nemo like stated in that other article, not to be my prime choice of file manager. Start Nemo from terminal, and it looks like Nautilus with a tree view capability. Works fine, just needed that tree view for moving files through my home network.

+1 · Reply



**Tobias Brohl** 2 years ago - Shared publicly

Nice guide!

Just one question: is it possible to remove the nautilus packages? I deleted many nautilus

packages and libs, perhaps too many, ending up with a broken Shell.

+1 · Reply



**Carl Draper** · 2 years ago

nope, I don't think it's possible, not without removing half of ubuntu



**Prashant Tiwari** · 2 years ago · Shared publicly

But still when i plug in usb drive ,it starts with nautilus  
how to change that....

+1 · Reply



**Iulian B** · 2 years ago · Shared publicly

thanks so useful !!!

+1 · Reply



**Cornelius Doom** · 2 years ago · Shared publicly

Tried Nemo on Linux Mint 15 Cinnamon and I think it is by far thee best file manager there  
is in any OS! Just reinstalled Ubuntu 12.04 and had to do this to get rid of Nautilus! Cheers  
:)

+1



**Felipe Martins (Kazumi)** · 2 years ago · Shared publicly

nice, it worked for me!

+1 · Reply



**Wenrui Li** · 2 weeks ago · Shared publicly

Works great on my Ubuntu. Now I have benefits from both mint and ubuntu.



+1 · Reply



**Juan Carlos Bustamante** · 1 year ago · Shared publicly

It's great, I updated to Ubuntu 14.04, and, since I have a quite old lapto, unity 3d is not for me... so back to classic gnome setting, these functionalities from nautilus were really appreciated!

Now I have a question : in the desktop I see a bunch of non desired icons (Home, trash, the mounted external drives...) How do I get rid of this?

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fanDigital

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**Pedro** · 4 months ago

thank you very much!

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**Marco** · a year ago



Not having compress option in the context menu after setting Nemo as default file manage

--> Compress and Extract Here in Nemo - nemo-actions

Place the following to files in /usr/share/nemo/actions

compress.nemo\_action

[Nemo Action]

Active=true

Name=Compress...

Comment=compress %N

Exec=file-roller -d %F

Icon-Name=gnome-mime-application-x-compress

Selection=Any

Extensions=any;

extracthere.nemo\_action

[Nemo Action]

[see more](#)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Matheus Mello** → Marco • 2 months ago

Hi Marco! Thx for these codes!

However, to improve it, I'm posting an "Escape-Safe" way to the Compress/Extract

1. Create a \*.nemo\_action file for each "[Nemo Action]" entry.

a. "compress.nemo\_action":

[Nemo Action]

Active=true

Name=Compress...

Comment=Compress %f

```
Exec=file-roller --add "%F"
Icon-Name=gnome-mime-application-x-compress
Selection=any
Extensions=any;
EscapeSpaces=true
```

b. "extract-here.nemo\_action":

[see more](#)

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**jean valjean** • a year ago

If you set Nemo to handle the desktop you will not be able to change the desktop wallpaper menu, let Nautilus handle it, but set the Nemo as default file manager.....this is my advise together just fine. I love Nemo, in my opinion is much better than Nautilus on my Ubuntu 14

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**John Nisbet** — Thanks. That solves an annoyance I was going to tackle later on.

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**vladislav20** — Could not afford an iPad 4 and bought this cheap iPad 2 - <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0047...>  
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**matfx** — Thanks working gre testing.

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**Tobsen** — Many thanks - I we and you've got the exact ans



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