

# GNOME Tracker Disable

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 [gist.github.com/vancluever/d34b41eb77e6d077887c](https://gist.github.com/vancluever/d34b41eb77e6d077887c)

## GNOME Tracker Disable

### Disabling GNOME Tracker and Other Info

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GNOME's tracker is a CPU and privacy hog. There's a pretty good case as to why it's neither useful nor necessary here: <http://lduros.net/posts/tracker-sucks-thanks-tracker/>

After discovering it chowing 2 cores, I decided to go about disabling it.

### Directories

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```
~/.cache/tracker  
~/.local/share/tracker
```

After wiping and letting it do a fresh index on my almost new desktop, the total size of each of these directories was a whopping 3.9 GB!

### Startup Files

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On my Ubuntu GNOME setup, I found the following files:

```
$ ls /etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-  
/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-extract.desktop  
/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-miner-fs.desktop  
/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-store.desktop  
/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-miner-apps.desktop  
/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-miner-user-guides.desktop
```

You can disable these by adding `Hidden=true` to them. It's best done in your local `.config` directory because 1) you don't need sudo and 2) you are pretty much guaranteed that your changes won't be blown away by an update.

### The `tracker` Binary

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Running `tracker` will give you a vast array of tools to check on tracker and manage its processes.

```
$ tracker
usage: tracker [--version] [--help]
      <command> [<args>]
```

Available tracker commands are:

daemon	Start, stop, pause and list processes responsible for indexing content
info	Show information known about local files or items indexed
index	Backup, restore, import and (re)index by MIME type or file name
reset	Reset or remove index and revert configurations to defaults
search	Search for content indexed or show content by type
sparql	Query and update the index using SPARQL or search, list and tree the ontology
sql	Query the database at the lowest level using SQL
status	Show the indexing progress, content statistics and index state
tag	Create, list or delete tags for indexed content

See 'tracker help <command>' to read about a specific subcommand.

## Non-Invasive Disable Cheat Sheet

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This disables everything but `tracker-store`, which even though it has a `.desktop` file, seems tenacious and starts up anyway. However, nothing gets indexed.

```
tracker daemon -t
cd ~/.config/autostart
cp -v /etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-*.desktop ./
for FILE in tracker-*.desktop; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done
rm -rf ~/.cache/tracker ~/.local/share/tracker
```

Note that `tracker daemon -t` is for graceful termination. If you are having issues terminating processes or just want to take your frustration out, `tracker daemon -k` immediately kills all processes.

After this is done, `tracker-store` will still start on the next boot. However, nothing will be indexed. Your disk and CPU will be better for wear.

```
$ tracker status
Currently indexed: 0 files, 0 folders
Remaining space on database partition: 123 GB (78.9%)
All data miners are idle, indexing complete
```

## Other References

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► ...

**paulochf commented on 29 Apr 2016**

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```
| for FILE in ls ; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done
```

Did you mean `for FILE in ls tracker-*` ?

► ...

**paulochf commented on 29 Apr 2016**

Another option: in Ubuntu, one can use this GUI. If it's not installed already, just do `sudo apt-get install tracker-gui`.

► ...

**jurikolo commented on 23 Nov 2016**

There is also **tracker-miner-rss.desktop** in Fedora 24.

► ...

**anisse commented on 14 Mar 2017**

Be careful, you'll add Hidden=true to all files in ~/.config/autostart ; this should be better:  
`for FILE in tracker-*.desktop ; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done`

► ...

**tonylambiris commented on 9 Sep 2017**

@paulochf has the right idea

```
for FILE in tracker-*.desktop; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done
```

► ...

**Mortal commented on 9 Oct 2017**

It appears tracker has been split into two packages, at least on Arch Linux: Everything depends on the `tracker` package, which only installs `/etc/xdg/autostart/tracker-store.desktop`, and the `tracker-miners` is recommended by `tracker` and installs all the other autostart files. As far as I can tell you can now simply remove `tracker-miners`.

► ...

**clumsyfingers commented on 14 Oct 2017**

NB use at your own risk

seems you can prevent tracker-store from starting by deleting (or backing up)

/usr/lib64/systemd/user/tracker\*.service

might be located elsewhere on your system

the files are called tracker-extract.service, tracker-store.service etc

at least tracker-store hasn't started since i killed those files. not seen any ill effects including searching in nautilus

► ...

**maysam-h commented on 22 Dec 2017**

this is a good tutorial but unfortunately this does not work for me. I made a simple script to kill the trackers process. It will surely kill the process before it exits. Here is the link: <https://goo.gl/7A23fK>

► ...OwnerAuthor

**vancluever commented on 5 Jan 2018**

WOW I never noticed this had so much traffic! I hope that everyone found it (somewhat) useful - I personally didn't intend it to be anything else other than personal notes. But yeah all these comments withstanding this is probably pretty out of date information. I actually switched to Arch and i3 for a long time a few months after writing this and haven't really bothered to touch it on my Fedora installs (I don't think I've noticed anywhere close to the same performance hit that I think led me to it in the first place).

► ...

**ghost commented on 3 Feb 2018**

You can use *Gnome Settings* -> *Search* to disable or restrict tracker.

When you start that GUI it shows which applications not which file system locations.

Click on the gear icon to access the controls for enabling/disabling file system locations.

Unfortunately, when I use an sshfs mount inside my home directory tracker access to it cannot be controlled via that GUI.

► ...

**grigio commented on 6 Mar 2018**

Thanks

► ...

**scruss commented on 14 May 2018**

Can't live without tracker. With an SSD, if it takes more than momentary time to index, there's something wrong. If it's chewing CPU, there's a chance it's found a file that's breaking the indexer. You can find and triage the offending file with this process: <https://askubuntu.com/a/914602/68093>

► ...

**soerensen3 commented on 8 Aug 2018**

Thanks!

► ...

**Mark-Booth commented on 14 Aug 2018**

Thanks for this gist, it was really useful, but please update it to use `tracker-*.desktop;` rather than `ls` since not everyone reads through all of the comments to find the corrections. I've just had to manually remove the lines added to all of my other `autostart` files.

► ...

**maage commented on 30 Sep 2018**

Thanks.

It seems I can't access: <http://lduros.net/posts/tracker-sucks-thanks-tracker/>

► ...

**tyagiakhilesh commented on 4 Feb 2019**

Thanks, found what I was looking for.

► ...

**nilands55s commented on 23 Apr 2019**

The easy solution is to open `/usr/lib/tracker/` and find the files `"tracker-miner-fs"` and `"tracker-store"` select properties and under the Permissions tab un-select the `"Execute: [ ] Allow Executing file as a Program"`. Without this property the programs will not load. Problem solved. This could also be done in a command line. `"chmod -x /usr/lib/tracker/tracker-store"` and `"chmod -x /usr/lib/tracker/tracker-miner-fs"` and could be made not to change these attributes with the `"chattr +i"` to add immutable. There are two other files in this directory I did this to but I am not sure of the necessity of changing them

► ...

**v-marinkov commented on 7 May 2019**

@nilands55s your solution and in particular "tracker-store" causes Files to not be able to launch on Pop OS 19.04. I went with the original solution and even added more services. Thanks to all!

► ...

**byroniac commented on 15 May 2019**

Another option: in Ubuntu, one can use this GUI. If it's not installed already, just do `sudo apt-get install tracker-gui`.

For whatever reason, this package is not (yet?) available in Ubuntu 19.04, where I'm having this problem.

► ...

**skuhl commented on 6 Jun 2019 • edited**

```
for FILE in `ls`; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done
```

Should be changed to the following to prevent it from adding "Hidden=true" to the end of any files already existing in ~/.config/autostart :

```
for FILE in tracker-*.desktop; do echo Hidden=true >> $FILE; done
```

I really wish tracker would skip indexing files can't be indexed with minimal cpu or memory. I understand that the goal is to index everything, but I'd rather it skip some file that requires even just 512MB of memory or more than a second of 100% cpu usage (even if it legitimately those resources to index the file). Worse, there isn't any obvious user-facing feedback that tracker is the cause (short of top or system monitor) and/or which file is causing the problem. I think tracker would be nice if they sorted out these issues.

► ...OwnerAuthor

**vancluever commented on 6 Jun 2019**

I can't believe that this is still being used! I've updated it with the oft mentioned fix to the pretty obvious oversight with the blind `ls`.

Again, I haven't touched or used this in years, and never messed with it on my most recent Fedora installs. YMMV.

► ...

**skuhl commented on 6 Jun 2019**

I think Ubuntu 19.04 was the first Ubuntu distribution to include tracker. This probably increased the number of tracker users in recent months and caused some of the interest in this. For me, there is(are) some file(s) that tracker occasionally touches that makes my machine crawl until the OOM killer decides to kill tracker. I don't know the tracker details, but it seems to regularly occur when I run a script which touches a lot of the files in my home directory.

► ...

**byroniac commented on 6 Jun 2019**

I've always been a GNOME guy, but I'm beginning to dislike GNOME in certain specifics if not in general, because of unnecessary (to me) tools like this (to be fair, these tools are appreciated and desired by some, apparently). I'm very thankful that this has been provided.

► ...

**zeus86 commented on 21 Jun 2019**

Thank you very much, this helped me out alot and saved me at least an hour of searching for this issue.

► ...

**zdyxry commented on 4 Jul 2019**

Thanks.

► ...

**rohanshukla9 commented on 18 Jul 2019 • edited** ▼

Thanks mate this worked perfectly for me on Pop OS.  
<https://gist.github.com/vancluever/d34b41eb77e6d077887c#non-invasive-disable-cheat-sheet>

► ...

**Joshfindit commented on 22 Oct 2019**

Interesting (possible new) quirk on a fresh install of Pop!\_OS 19.10:

I have an `sshfs` automount (through `fstab`) drive with ~80000 files, and even if I let it finish (15-30min, resulting in `Currently indexed: 108823 files, 28495 folders`), it will completely drop all that metadata on the next reboot (resulting in `Currently indexed: 149 files...`)

Currently watching all the logs as well as `/tmp/tracker-extract-files.1000/`, but preliminary results are not promising.

► ...

**logix2 commented on 1 May 2020**

Nowadays you can disable Tracker easier, by masking its systemd services, see here

► ...

►  
**gaellafond commented on 18 Jun 2020 • edited**

Ubuntu 20.04 user here. I tried all of these and still, the damn tracker was using 100% of a CPU core none stop. I look for over an hour, trying all the answers I could find. At the end, I had enough. I deleted the autostart files and rebooted the computer:

```
$ sudo rm /etc/xdg/autostart/tracker*
```

Still, the damn tracker process was sucking up my CPU. I can't uninstall the sucker since that would uninstall Ubuntu desktop binaries, so I deleted the tracker binaries and rebooted:

```
$ sudo rm /usr/libexec/tracker*
```

That did the trick. It's a radical solution, I know. I would not recommend anyone to do this, but it does work.

► ...

**alex4buba commented on 12 Sep 2020**

I am new to Linux, just moved here after 30+ years in Windows... Am afraid to follow things, maybe I will damage something...

Using KDE Plasma over Ubuntu 20.04 and am getting this error:

A start job for unit `fwupd-refresh.service` has finished with a failure.  
The job identifier is 2337 and the job result is failed.

What should I do?

Thanks