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TUTORIALS

Manual Installation of GNOME Extension from ZIP File [Easy Steps]
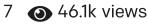
🕐 3 min

by **Arindam** 3 years ago

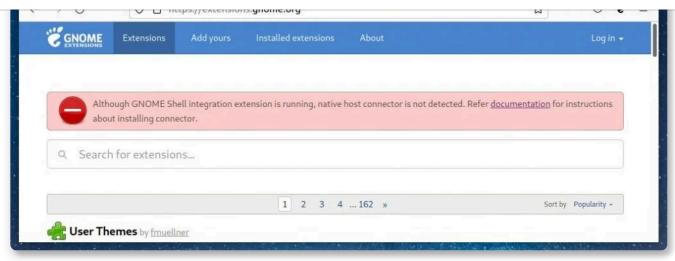💬 7   👁 46.1k views

This tutorial explains the steps for manual installation of GNOME Extension from its ZIP files in Ubuntu, Fedora and other related distributions.

The typical way of installing GNOME Extensions, which we explained <u>in this article</u>, is to install `chrome-ghome-shell` connector, and then enabling a respective browser extension for Firefox, Chrome etc.

But this steps depends on Browser and requires additional connector installation. Moreover, if you are running your browser as Snap or Flatpak version, the typical browser method would not work. You might see an error like below.

GNOME Shell Extension Integration Error in Ubuntu 21.10

The reason is Snap/Flatpak packages runs in Sandbox by design, hence they do not have access/can communicate to the underlying desktop environment. That stops the connector `chrome-gnome-shell` from connecting. This prevents installation, uninstallation of GNOME Extensions from [official Extension website](#) via ON/OFF button.
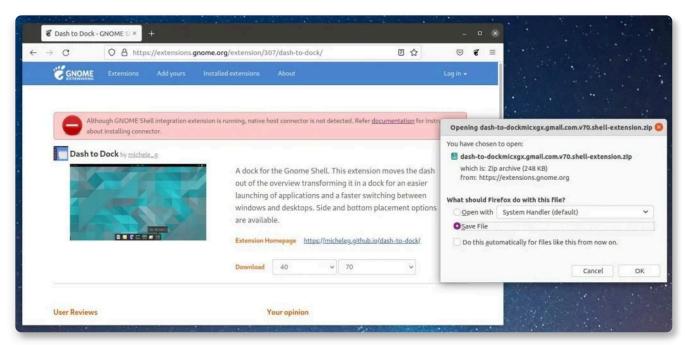
Hence, this tutorial. And now, it is more significant because Ubuntu 21.10 recently moved to default browser Firefox as Snap. I believe, it continues to stay as Snap in coming days.

No worries, you can still manually install GNOME Extensions via below steps.

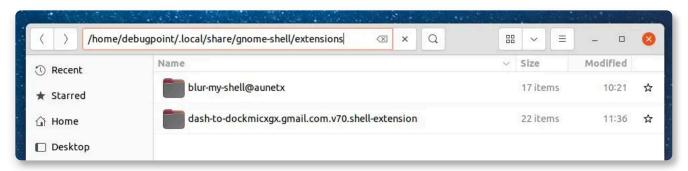# Manual Installation of GNOME Extension

Download the extension ZIp File

- Extract/unzip the files using File manager and copy the entire folder to below path.
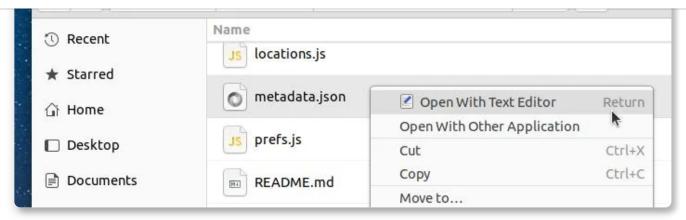
```
/home/tux/.local/share/gnome-shell/extensions
```

- Replace tux with your username.

- If the .local folder is not visible, press CTRL+H to show the hidden files.

- If the extensions directory is not present under gnome-shell, then create it.

- Paste the entire unzipped folder in above path.

Copy to Extension folder

- Go to the extension folder and open the metadata.json file using a text editor.
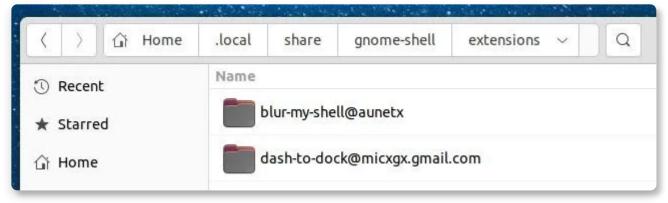
Open the json file

- Copy the UUID field and rename the extension folder with this UUID. This is required to GNOME to identify the Extension.

Copy the UUID from JSON File

Rename the extension folder

- Restart GNOME Shell by command Or, reboot your system.
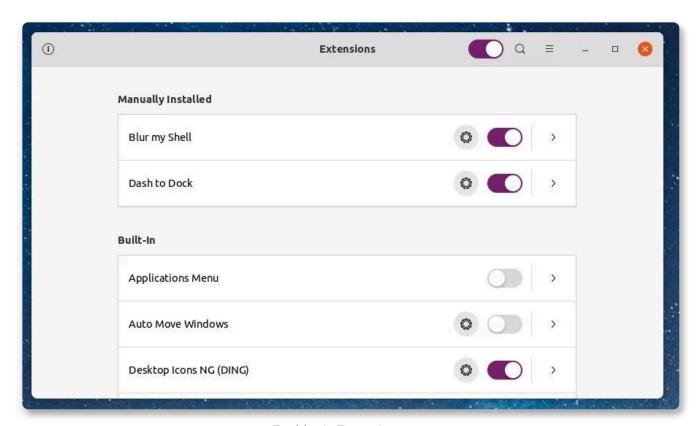
```
sudo apt install gnome-shell-extensions
```

- Then either you enable the new installed extensions by a command or open the above utility (Name-Extension) and enable it. The command line method is outlined below. Make sure to change the extension name for your own.

```
gnome-extensions enable dash-to-dock@micxgx.gmail.com
```

- Or enable via the app.

Enable via Extensions app

So, that's it. Enjoy the extensions. If you fancy making your GNOME look more cool, you might want to take a look in some topics below.

- How to make GNOME like macOS

Closing Notes

Honestly, Snap is a mess. And when an important and most use application such as Browser is shipped as Snap by default, users bound to face trouble. For example, this installation of GNOME Extension – which was a streamline process. And now it's broken due to an unnecessary decision in Ubuntu 21.10. However, you can still follow the above steps, although a little lengthy, but you have control on the steps.

Let me know if this helps you, or faced any trouble – using the comment box below.

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GNOME EXTENSION

Posted by

Arindam

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>
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thanks for this guide, for some reason i couldnt install extensions even with the stuff needed. now i can finally make freebsd look good

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didn't work for system-monitor@paradoxxx.zero.gmail.com

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GSConnect dosent work. 🙁

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Thank you very much, Arindam. On Impish 21.10, I need to do this manually.

0 👎 ➥ Reply

Arindam   Author

💬 Reply to Ade Malsasa Akbar   🕐 2 years ago

Hey. I'm glad it helped and worked for you. It's good to see a comment from a fellow blogger in the same space. Cheers. Take care.

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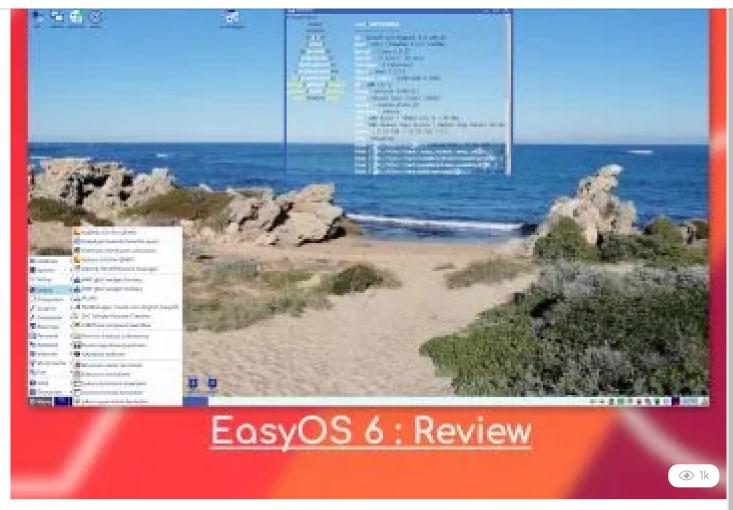
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