

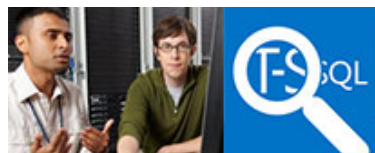
SUDOBITS – Free and Open Source Stuff



TIPS AND TRICKS, UBUNTU

KEYLOGGER FOR UBUNTU (11.04/10.10/11.10)

AUGUST 12, 2011 | RAMESH JHA | 22 COMMENTS



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Keylogger or Keystroke logger is some kind of software or hardware device (or may be combination of both) that is used to track the keys struck of the keyboard (The process is called 'keylogging') in such a way that the person whose keyboard actions are being monitored is totally unaware of that. Therefore keylogger can be used in many situation for getting all the data entered (So if the user press any key then it will be recorded) from keyboard e.g Passwords, Credit Card, critical conversation (mail, IRC chat ...) and other confidential information.

Keylogger is one of the most popular spying software in the history of computer. This post is aimed to explain about a free and open source keylogger software (desktop utility) and hardware devices that you can use on [Ubuntu](#) (11.10/10.10/10.04/11.10).

So what do you think about keylogger ? is it really **illegal** to monitor someone's keystrokes (of course

without permission, otherwise there will be no problem at all – In that case either the user won't use the system or they don't care!) ? it depends! (it can be called legal if you are not using the captured data to harm others; certainly you have full right to install such Apps or monitor keyboard activities on your computer) but in some situation it may be really useful; you can easily guess when, Right? Just *Think about it*.

Software Keylogger for Ubuntu



A number of keylogging programs/applications are available for Ubuntu, and a good one that I've used is *logkeys*. Logkeys is a keylogger for Linux based operating system, it's free and open source (hosted at [Google Code](#)). it has a lot of advanced features and it works smoothly in the background.

How to Install Logkeys Keylogger on Ubuntu

Open terminal and type the command (Enter your password if required)

```
sudo apt-get install logkeys
```

Using Logkeys to start keylogging process

Open terminal and type (it will create a log file in your current directory (most probably in your /home/your_user_name/spy.log), where your target file will be stored)

```
touch spy.log
```

```
sudo logkeys --start --output spy.log
```

Now your keylogger is running in background you can close the terminal. The output will be stored in the spy.log (it's just for example purpose, don't use filenames like this 😊).

kill logkeys process to stop keylogging

```
sudo logkeys --kill
```

Reading keystrokes recorded by keylogger

```
strings spy.log
```

[Read official Documentation](#) for more options and tutorials.

Hardware Keylogger for Ubuntu

There are many hardware based devices available for capturing keyboard events. Some of them works at BIOS level while some are based on keyboard level. They do not need any software to capture keyboard strokes, but it can't be done remotely, because you need physical access to the computer.

(1) 4MB USB Keylogger



It doesn't require any driver or software and works with all Linux based OS as well as with Windows

XP/Vista/7. it is capable of recording all keys strokes.

[Buy it from Amazon](#) (Price : \$68.99)

(2) 64K PS/2 hardware keylogger



[Buy it from Amazon](#) (Price : \$39.89)

How to protect yourself from keyloggers

Many of us uses public computer or any computer other than your personal one, in that case there might be a keylogger running on that system. Really ? yeah! but don't worry it's very simple to protect from most of the keyloggers. The simple tips is to **always use on-screen keyboard** to enter confidential data on untrusted computers, although you should also avoid using public computer for such confidential work.

Warning! *The purpose of this post is to explain keylogging on Ubuntu! So if you use this information for illegal activities then you will be responsible. Remember, whether the keylogging is legal or illegal, it all depends on how you are using the captured data (Your Karma and intention), e.g just for learning or research => legal use; on the other hand if you use it for cracking into other accounts or stealing credit card details then of course it will be illegal.*

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**00priyavats** • 4 years ago

what happens to keylogging when the computer is restarted does it will run again automatically..or should i have to start it again...

7  |  • Reply • Share >**Gerdario** → 00priyavats • 3 years ago

The process is killed , but you could try to edit /etc/rc.local (I Don't remember well) and put there the script to start the process, I mean, logkeys --start --output ..

This file execute it self with root permission , so it'll begin with all users.

1  |  • Reply • Share >**shadows** → Gerdario • 3 years ago

Hello Gerdario, i tried editing /etc/rc.local and i appended 2 lines,

```
touch /home/x/spy.log
logkeys --start --output spy.log
exit 0
```

then i restarted my system. It created a file called spy.log in my home directory, but it is not making any logs of keystrokes made by the user after the system restart. Is this the way to do?

 |  • Reply • Share >**Gerdario** → shadows • 3 years ago

You must to create the file spy.log one time.

1. Open terminal. touch /home/x/spy.log
2. go to /etc/rc.local and put the absolute trace logkeys --start --output /home/x/spy.log (Don't create the file spy.log, it's already created).

3. That's all save, and restart. I remember that works fine, let me know how's going.

 |  • Reply • Share >**Bunny** • 4 years ago

"Couldn't find package logkeys"

the above error is coming while i am installing logkeys so what to do?

1  |  • Reply • Share >

