

Apt Cheatsheet

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Quick reference for apt package manager commands

Apt (Advanced Package Tool) is the default package manager for Debian-based Linux distributions including Ubuntu, Linux Mint, and Debian. This cheatsheet covers essential commands for installing, updating, removing, and managing software packages.

Update & Upgrade

Keep your system up to date.

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| sudo apt update | Update package lists |
| sudo apt upgrade | Upgrade installed packages |
| sudo apt full-upgrade | Upgrade with removals |
| sudo apt dist-upgrade | Smart upgrade |
| sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y | Update and upgrade |

Install Packages

Install new software packages.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| sudo apt install package | Install package |
| sudo apt install pkg1 pkg2 | Install multiple |
| sudo apt install package=version | Install specific version |
| sudo apt install -y package | Install without prompt |
| sudo apt install ./file.deb | Install local .deb |
| sudo apt reinstall package | Reinstall package |

Remove Packages

Uninstall software packages.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| <code>sudo apt remove package</code> | Remove package |
| <code>sudo apt purge package</code> | Remove with config |
| <code>sudo apt autoremove</code> | Remove unused deps |
| <code>sudo apt autoremove --purge</code> | Remove unused + config |
| <code>sudo apt clean</code> | Clear package cache |
| <code>sudo apt autoclean</code> | Clear old cache |

Search & Info

Find and learn about packages.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <code>apt search keyword</code> | Search packages |
| <code>apt show package</code> | Show package details |
| <code>apt-cache policy package</code> | Show versions/sources |
| <code>apt-cache depends package</code> | Show dependencies |
| <code>apt-cache rdepends package</code> | Show reverse deps |
| <code>apt-cache madison package</code> | Show available versions |

List Packages

View installed and available packages.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <code>apt list --installed</code> | List installed |
| <code>apt list --upgradable</code> | List upgradable |
| <code>apt list package</code> | List specific package |
| <code>apt list --all-versions pkg</code> | All versions |
| <code>dpkg -l</code> | List all (dpkg) |
| <code>dpkg -l grep keyword</code> | Search installed |

Package Files

Find which package owns a file.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <code>dpkg -S /path/to/file</code> | Find package owner |
| <code>dpkg -L package</code> | List package files |
| <code>apt-file search filename</code> | Search by filename |
| <code>apt-file list package</code> | List files in pkg |
| <code>apt-file update</code> | Update file database |

Repositories

Manage package sources.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| <code>sudo add-apt-repository ppa:user/repo</code> | Add PPA |
| <code>sudo add-apt-repository -r ppa:user/repo</code> | Remove PPA |
| <code>sudo apt edit-sources</code> | Edit sources.list |
| <code>apt-cache policy</code> | Show repositories |

Sources File

Configure package sources manually.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <code>/etc/apt/sources.list</code> | Main sources file |
| <code>/etc/apt/sources.list.d/</code> | Additional sources |
| <code>deb http://... distro main</code> | Binary packages |
| <code>deb-src http://... distro main</code> | Source packages |

Hold Packages

Prevent packages from upgrading.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <code>sudo apt-mark hold package</code> | Hold package |
| <code>sudo apt-mark unhold package</code> | Unhold package |
| <code>apt-mark showhold</code> | Show held packages |
| <code>sudo apt-mark auto package</code> | Mark as auto |
| <code>sudo apt-mark manual package</code> | Mark as manual |

Download Only

Download packages without installing.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| <code>apt download package</code> | Download .deb |
| <code>apt source package</code> | Download source |
| <code>sudo apt install -d package</code> | Download only |
| <code>apt-get --download-only upgrade</code> | Download upgrades |

Fix Problems

Resolve package issues.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| <code>sudo apt --fix-broken install</code> | Fix broken deps |
| <code>sudo apt install -f</code> | Fix broken deps |
| <code>sudo dpkg --configure -a</code> | Configure pending |
| <code>sudo apt clean && sudo apt update</code> | Clear and refresh |
| <code>sudo apt --fix-missing install</code> | Fix missing |

DEB Packages

Work with .deb files directly.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <code>sudo dpkg -i file.deb</code> | Install .deb |
| <code>sudo dpkg -r package</code> | Remove package |
| <code>sudo dpkg -P package</code> | Purge package |
| <code>dpkg -I file.deb</code> | Show .deb info |
| <code>dpkg -c file.deb</code> | List .deb contents |

Simulate & Dry Run

Preview what will happen.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <code>apt install -s package</code> | Simulate install |
| <code>apt upgrade -s</code> | Simulate upgrade |
| <code>apt remove -s package</code> | Simulate remove |
| <code>apt --dry-run install pkg</code> | Dry run |

Cache Management

Manage the package cache.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| <code>sudo apt clean</code> | Delete all cached |
| <code>sudo apt autoclean</code> | Delete old cached |
| <code>du -sh /var/cache/apt/archives</code> | Cache size |
| <code>/var/cache/apt/archives/</code> | Cache location |

Configuration

Configure apt behavior.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <code>/etc/apt/apt.conf</code> | Main config |
| <code>/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/</code> | Config directory |
| <code>APT::Get::Assume-Yes "true";</code> | Auto yes |
| <code>Acquire::http::Proxy "http://...";</code> | Set proxy |

Useful Combinations

Common command patterns.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| <code>sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y</code> | Full update |
| <code>sudo apt autoremove && sudo apt autoclean</code> | Cleanup |
| <code>apt list --installed wc -l</code> | Count installed |
| <code>sudo apt install --reinstall package</code> | Reinstall |