

## Installing some basic applications on your Ubuntu system

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If you have enabled all restricted media formats as given in the previous post of the Ubuntu series, you are ready to install some applications for an enhanced experience with your Linux machine. You can go to Applications -> Add/Remove... and install the required applications available in the list. Some suggestion are below. Copy and paste (Ctrl+Shift+V) the command in (Terminal (Applications -> Accessories -> Terminl) and hit enter.

**Startup Manager:** In a dual-boot system with Ubuntu, you must have seen the message "Starting Grub" and the message that says loading this OS in "X"seconds. Grub controls which OS to load by default and other boot-up settings. Startup Manager allows you to make your own choice for start-up. You may use it to set the default operating system to boot or the wait time before booting into the default system.

```
sudo apt-get install startupmanager
```

Now go to System -> Administration -> Startup Manager and make the desired changes. Its comes handy if you wish to set Windows as default OS. Beware of making other changes.

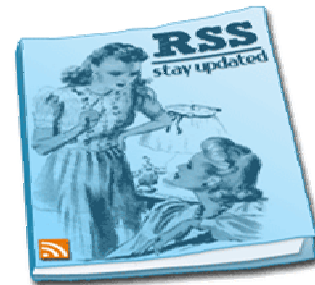
**Advanced desktop effects:** If you wish to have advanced desktop effects, install Compiz Fusion and its settings manager.

```
sudo apt-get install compiz compizconfig-settings-manager
compiz-fusion-plugins-main compiz-fusion-plugins-extra emerald
librsvg2-common
```

You can alternatively go to Add/Remove applications and install "Advanced Desktop Effects Settings" to make your choices. Go to System -> Preferences -> CompizConfig Settings Manager, and make your choice.

**Install download manager:** Download managers are very convenient for downloading huge files that cannot be downloaded in one go. Downloader for X is one download manager for Ubuntu.

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```
sudo aptitude install d4x
```

**Image editing application:** Gimp is a powerful, open source graphics and image editor, similar to Adobe Photoshop. It is also available for Windows.

```
sudo apt-get install gimp
```

You can also install an extra set of brushes, palettes, and gradients for GIMP.

```
sudo apt-get install gimp-data-extras
```

**Inkscape Vector Illustrator:** Inkscape Vector Illustrator is an open source drawing program similar to Illustrator and CorelDraw.

```
sudo apt-get install inkscape
```

**Record my desktop:** recordMyDesktop is a desktop recording utility.

```
sudo apt-get install recordmydesktop
```

**Another desktop recorder:** Istanbul is a desktop recorder for the Gnome desktop.

```
sudo apt-get install istanbul
```

**Managing webcam:** If you have noticed, you cannot activate you webcam as a standalone in Ubuntu. The only way you can activate it is by using Ekiga Softphone that comes with Ubuntu as default. Camorama is a simple GTK-based (i.e. Gnome-based) interface for webcams using the v4l (video for linux) drivers. The application will be available under Applications -> Graphics.

```
sudo apt-get install camorama
```

**Firefox plug-ins:** Firefox is highly extensible web browser. It also supports lot of formats using plugins.

#### Adobe Acrobat Reader for Firefox

```
sudo apt-get install acroread mozilla-acroread acroread-plugins
```

#### Adobe Flash Player for Firefox

```
sudo apt-get install adobe-flashplugin
```

**Open source Flash Player Gnash:** Gnash is available in a 64-bit version as well as

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a 32-bit version. It is the open source replacement for Adobe Flash player.

```
sudo apt-get install gnash
```

#### Java Runtime Environment (JRE) for Firefox

```
sudo apt-get install sun-java6-plugin sun-java6-jre
```

**Opera:** Opera is a nice Web browser and many people prefer it over other browsers.

```
sudo apt-get install opera
```

**Thunderbird:** Mozilla Thunderbird is a free email client.

```
sudo apt-get install mozilla-thunderbird
```

**Pidgin:** Pidgin is an open source IM application. It is the default in the Ubuntu (Gnome) desktop. You can access multiple messaging serices, including GTalk and Yahoo.

```
sudo apt-get install pidgin
```

**Skype:** Skype is a proprietary VOIP and video conferencing application similar to open source Ekiga that comes with .

```
sudo apt-get install skype
```

**Filezilla:** Filezilla is the ubiquitous free open source FTP client and server for all platforms.

```
sudo apt-get install filezilla
```

**Mozilla Sunbird (Calendar):** Sunbird is a calendaring application.

```
sudo apt-get install sunbird
```

**PS:** This is the fifth in a series on switching to Ubuntu from Windows, for non-geeks. At the end of the Ubuntu series, you will be a proud owner of a fantastic Linux system.

#### Ubuntu series:

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