

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.

<code>sudo apt update</code>	Update package lists
<code>sudo apt upgrade</code>	Upgrade installed packages
<code>sudo apt full-upgrade</code>	Upgrade with removals
<code>sudo apt dist-upgrade</code>	Smart upgrade
<code>sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade</code>	Update and upgrade

Install Packages

Install new software packages.

<code>sudo apt install package</code>	Install package
<code>sudo apt install pkg1 pkg2</code>	Install multiple packages
<code>sudo apt install package=version</code>	Install specific version
<code>sudo apt install -y package</code>	Install without prompt
<code>sudo apt install ./file.deb</code>	Install local .deb
<code>sudo apt reinstall package</code>	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</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</code>	Add PPA
<code>sudo add-apt-repository</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 r</code>	Binary packages
<code>deb-src http://... dist</code>	Source packages

Hold Packages

Prevent packages from upgrading.

<code>sudo apt-mark hold pack</code>	Hold package
<code>sudo apt-mark unhold pack</code>	Unhold package
<code>apt-mark showhold</code>	Show held packages
<code>sudo apt-mark auto pack</code>	Mark as auto
<code>sudo apt-mark manual pack</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 pack</code>	Download only
<code>apt-get --download-only</code>	Download upgrades

Fix Problems

Resolve package issues.

<code>sudo apt --fix-broken</code>	Fix broken deps
<code>sudo apt install -f</code>	Fix broken deps
<code>sudo dpkg --configure</code>	Configure pending
<code>sudo apt clean && sudo</code>	Clear and refresh
<code>sudo apt --fix-missing</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</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/</code>	Cache size
<code>/var/cache/apt/archive/</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 "y"</code>	Auto yes
<code>Acquire::http::Proxy "http://"</code>	Set proxy

Useful Combinations

Common command patterns.

<code>sudo apt update && sudo</code>	Full update
<code>sudo apt autoremove &&</code>	Cleanup
<code>apt list --installed </code>	Count installed
<code>sudo apt install --reinstall</code>	Reinstall