

No. 269: Linux Mint 20

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It is here now and was first available for download at the end of June 2020. Version 20 will be supported through 2025; it is based on Ubuntu 20.04 and uses the Linux 5.4 kernel. It comes in several flavors, but the most popular is Linux Mint 20 Cinnamon 64-bit, nickname Ulyana, which I recommend. Actually, you need not worry about the bit count since Linux Mint 20 is only available in 64-bit. Don't try upgrading or replacing this version on a 32-bit machine; it will not work.

So what are the minimum needs for your computer? Sixty four-bit as already mentioned, plus 1 GB RAM (2 GB would be better and is recommended, though just one will work), at least 15 GB disk space (though at least 20 would be better), and at least a 1024 X 768 pixel screen.

Whats new? Here is the big picture, with admittedly few details:

1. Marked performance improvement with a new file manager named Nemo.
2. Completely refreshed color schemes for a more vibrant color representation.
3. A new graphical user interface (GUI) tool, named Warpinator, for sharing files across your local network. This may well be the major enhancement that will attract the most users as the new release becomes better known. It will undoubtedly outperform the woeful, klutzy file sharing capabilities of Microsoft Windows.
4. Better integration of electron apps. These are cross-platform desktop applications.
5. Improved multi-monitor support. For example, if you work with a laptop and it also has an exterior monitor attached, you will be able to select separate resolutions for each.
6. Much improved handling of Nvidia cards and settings (about time!).

So how do you get it? First, you need to consider approaches, and there are two:

Approach 1. Upgrading to this new version from an older one means working for quite awhile using the web as a source tool. This is not a simple process and it will take some time (meaning over one hour minimum, and perhaps more). I would suggest you think instead about copying all your old creations onto a CD or other media, then wiping the drive and installing the new version 20 by using an active copy from DVD (see ahead, Approach 2). Then, when done installing Version 20, copy all your old files to the drive to finish the job. This may well take less time than upgrading and it avoids getting through part of the upgrade process only to discover you must install from an active copy after all. On the other hand, when upgrading works, it works well. Yes, I have personally done it both ways. You can start the process by going to this site for instructions (print them):

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-upgrade-from-linux-mint-19-3-to-the-latest-version-mint-20/>

Once you have the instructions in hand, follow them to the letter to maximize your chances of completing the update with no glitches. Don't skip any steps!

Approach 2. Installing from an active DVD involves downloading an *iso* file containing the new Linux, then burning an active DVD from that on your machine. Then you can install the new version from the burned, active DVD. Alternatively, you can burn a copy to a thumb drive if you have one that has enough capacity. In either case, when you boot with the DVD or with the thumb drive, Linux will ask if you want to overwrite all files on the machine's hard drive or just the old Linux files. If you have a dual-boot machine (Linux and Windows), it can do this without touching Windows or the dual-boot choices when you turn on your machine. To get the *.iso* file, go to <https://linuxmint.com/download.php> and be sure to follow the cinnamon link. Download the 1.8 GB *iso* file and use it to burn a new DVD, then pop this newly burned DVD into your machine and reboot to start the process.

In summary, converting to Linux 20 is not a snap, but it is worth it in the end. Happy computing!