

No. 282: Upgrading to Linux Mint 20.2

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If you are already running Linux Mint 20 or 20.1, upgrading is easy.

1. Create a system snapshot using Timeshift so that if anything goes wrong, you can restore the system to the previous configuration. That just makes sense. Left-click the Linux Mint icon in the lower left of the tray, type the letter t and click the Timeshift logo from the choices shown. Type in your password and left click the Create logo at the top of the window. All that might take 10 minutes or so.
2. Disable the screensaver temporarily if you use it. That will prevent the screensaver from interrupting the update process and potentially garbling it. That makes sense, too.
3. Click the shield logo in the tray to bring up the Update Manager and click Refresh to make sure your system is up to date. Install anything shown. Refresh again to make sure there are no more updates. Also common sense. You are now ready for the upgrade.
4. While still in the Update Manager, click Edit at the top and select Upgrade to 20.2, Uma (Uma, the name of a goddess, is the code name for 20.2). From there, just follow any instructions as they come up. Give yourself at least half an hour of free time for the upgrade, though in my experience, you won't need that much time. For one of my upgrades, there were 16 security updates and 21 software updates, but they go pretty fast. Nevertheless, don't start it 5 minutes before you have to leave for work! That makes sense, too.

You will need a reboot after the upgrade to complete installation of many of the updates.

Yes, it is worth it. Besides being relatively simple to do, there are a couple of important changes that are largely in the background, but nevertheless, they are important. There is a reworked desktop that uses less memory to operate for you, though you may not notice it as being different. The search feature has been improved, which is appreciated because it means quicker search results. Many Cinnamon utilities ("spices", such as wdgits and themes) have been redone and are better. Also, you can now move files from Linux Mint to Android devices, or the reverse, on the same LAN.

Not bad, for about half an hour's time investment. Also, the Linux development team, after much soul searching, made the reminders to update a teeny bit more intrusive so that you are protected as needed when stuff is updated. I was impressed with how

much effort they made not to be “in your face” more than absolutely necessary in good conscience.

So there you have it. Do the update. And, Happy Computing!