



# Linux Mint 18

Cinnamon Edition

## **NOTE from mikeB of Code-it Software Solutions:**

I personally take no credit for the content of this file – it was “stolen” from the original copy from the “Linux Mint” web site – figured “no use it reinventing the wheel“ – this guide is pretty straight forward.

## **Update your system and your applications**

**If a new version of any package installed on your computer is made available you can** upgrade to it. It may be a security update for some component of the operating system, it may be an optimization in one specific library or it may even be a newer version of Firefox. Basically, your system is made of packages and any part of it can be updated by updating some of those packages. This means replacing the current package with a newer version.

There are many ways to do this but only one of them is recommended.

You could use APT to upgrade all your packages with one simple command (“apt upgrade”) but we strongly recommend you don’t do so. The reason is that it doesn’t make any distinctions in selecting which updates to apply and assumes that you want all of them.

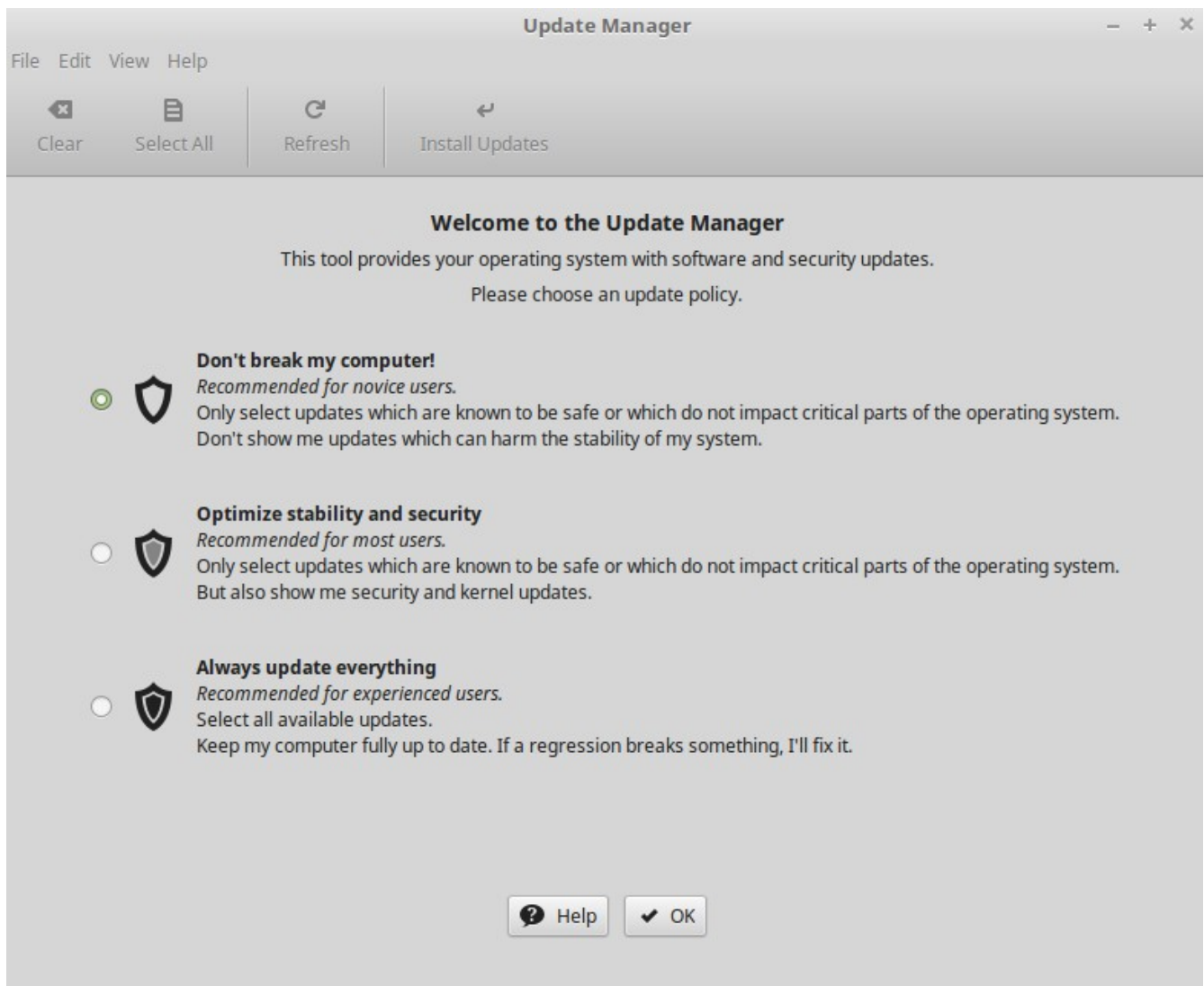
Some parts of the system are safe to update and some others aren’t. For instance, by updating your kernel (the part which is responsible among other things for hardware recognition) you might break your sound support, your wireless card support or even some applications (such as VMWare and Virtualbox) which are closely linked to the kernel.

### **Using the Update Manager**

Linux Mint comes with a tool called the Update Manager. It gives more information about updates and lets you define how safe an update must be before you want to apply it.

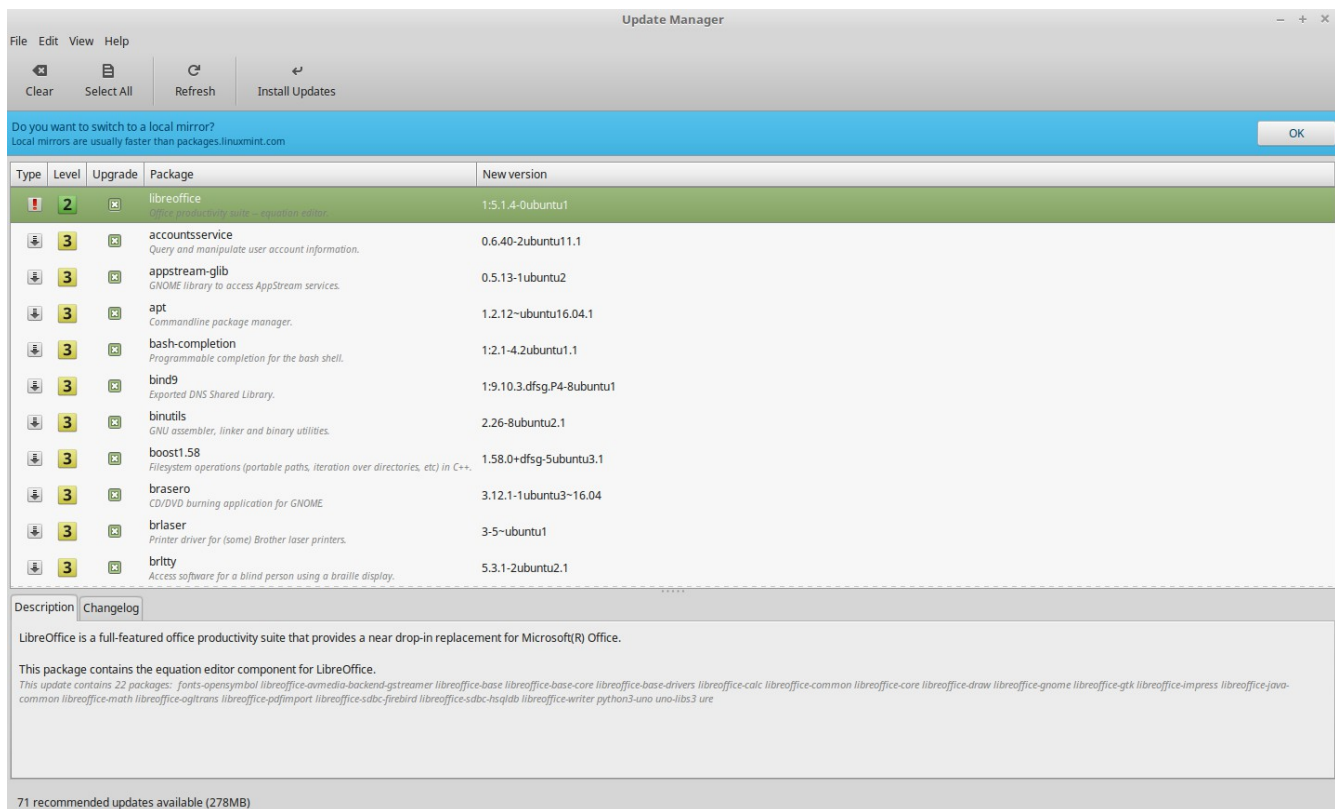
It looks like a shield and sits on the bottom-right corner of your screen.

If you place your mouse pointer on top of it, it will tell you either that your system is up to date or, if it isn't, how many updates are available.



If you click on the lock icon, the Update Manager opens and the first time it will ask you which update policy will best suite you. Please read the options carefully and choose one.

A lot of Linux Mint users like to have the latest version of their software and will choose the second option. But if you want your computer to “just work” and get all the updates you really need then the first option might be the best one for you.



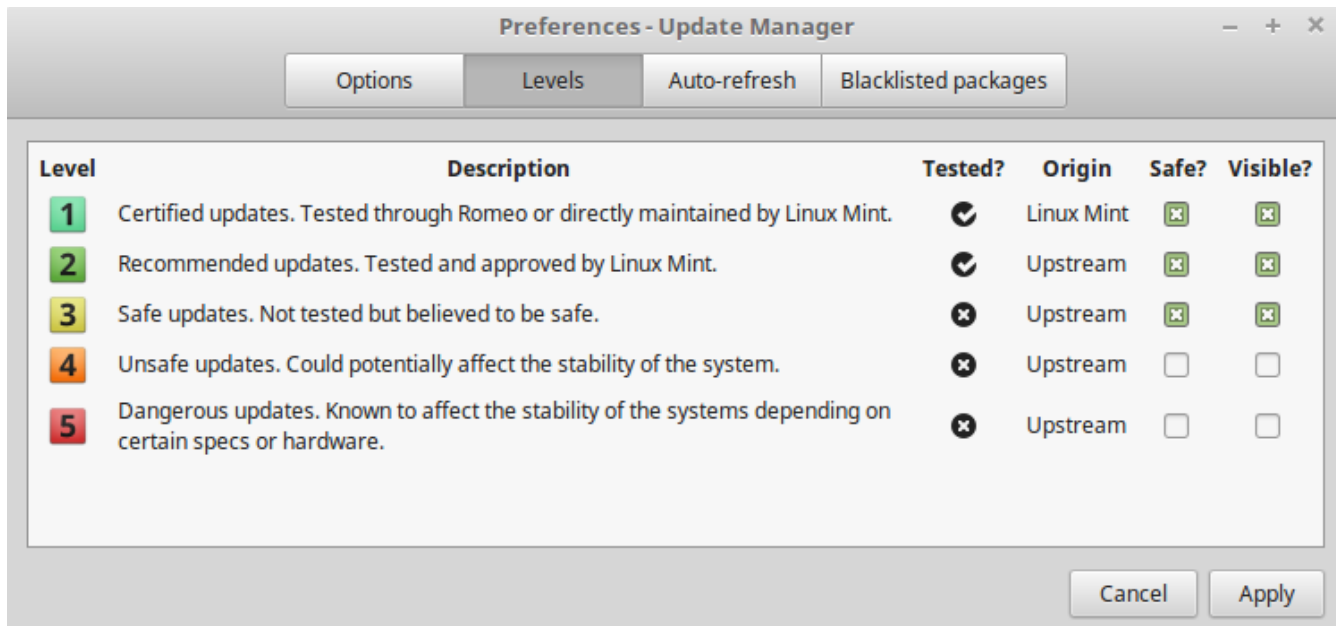
Then you get the actual update screen. You are asked if you want to switch to a local mirror for your updates. Everywhere in the world there are organisations that want to help Linux Mint to spread updates in order to give users the best experience when downloading or updating packages. For the fastest updates select a mirror near to you. If you don't want to use a local mirror then you can change this under Edit-Preferences.

The Update Manager shows you the updates that are available. The interface is very easy to use. For each package update you can read the description, the changelog (this is where developers explain their changes when they modify the package), and eventually if Linux Mint assigned warnings or extra information about the updates. You can also see which version is currently installed on your computer and which version is available for you to update to. Also you have a symbol showing if it's a Package update or a Security update.

Finally, you can see the stability level assigned to the package update. Each package update brings improvements or fixes security issues but that doesn't mean they're riskfree and can't introduce new bugs. The stability level is assigned to each package by Linux Mint and gives you an indication of how safe it is for you to apply an update.

Of course you can click on the columns to sort by stability level, status, package name or by version. You can select all updates or unselect all of them by using the "Clear" and "Select All" buttons.

Level 1 and Level 2 updates are risk-free and you should always apply them. Level 3 updates "should be safe" but, although we recommend you take them, make sure you look over them on the list of updates. If you experience a problem with a particular Level 3 update, tell the Linux Mint development team so they can take measures to make that update a Level 4 or a Level 5 so as to warn or even discourage others against applying it.



If you select Edit – Preferences - Level you should see the screen above. By default the Update Manager tells you about Level 1, 2 and 3 updates. You can decide to make Level 4 and 5 “visible”. This will make more updates appear in the list. If you want to you can even make Level 4 and 5 updates “safe” (although this is **not** recommended). This will cause them to be selected by default within the

Update Manager.

The Update Manager only counts “safe” updates. So when it tells you your system is up to date, it means there are no updates available assigned with a level that you defined as being “safe”.

The Update Manager only shows “visible” updates in the list.

For example, if you made all levels “visible” and only Level 1 and 2 “safe”, you would see a lot of updates in the list, but the Update Manager would probably tell you that your system was up to date.

The “Options” tab gives you a few choices for tweaking the Update Manager.

Under Options the “Include updates which require the installation of new packages or the removal of installed packages” option allows you to define whether the Update Manager should install new dependencies or not. For instance if package A version 1 was installed

on your computer and package A version 2 became available, but version 2 had a new dependency on package B which isn’t installed on your computer... what would happen?

If you left this checkbox unchecked, version 2 would not appear as an update in the list of updates. If you checked this checkbox, it would, and if selected it would install package B as a dependency.

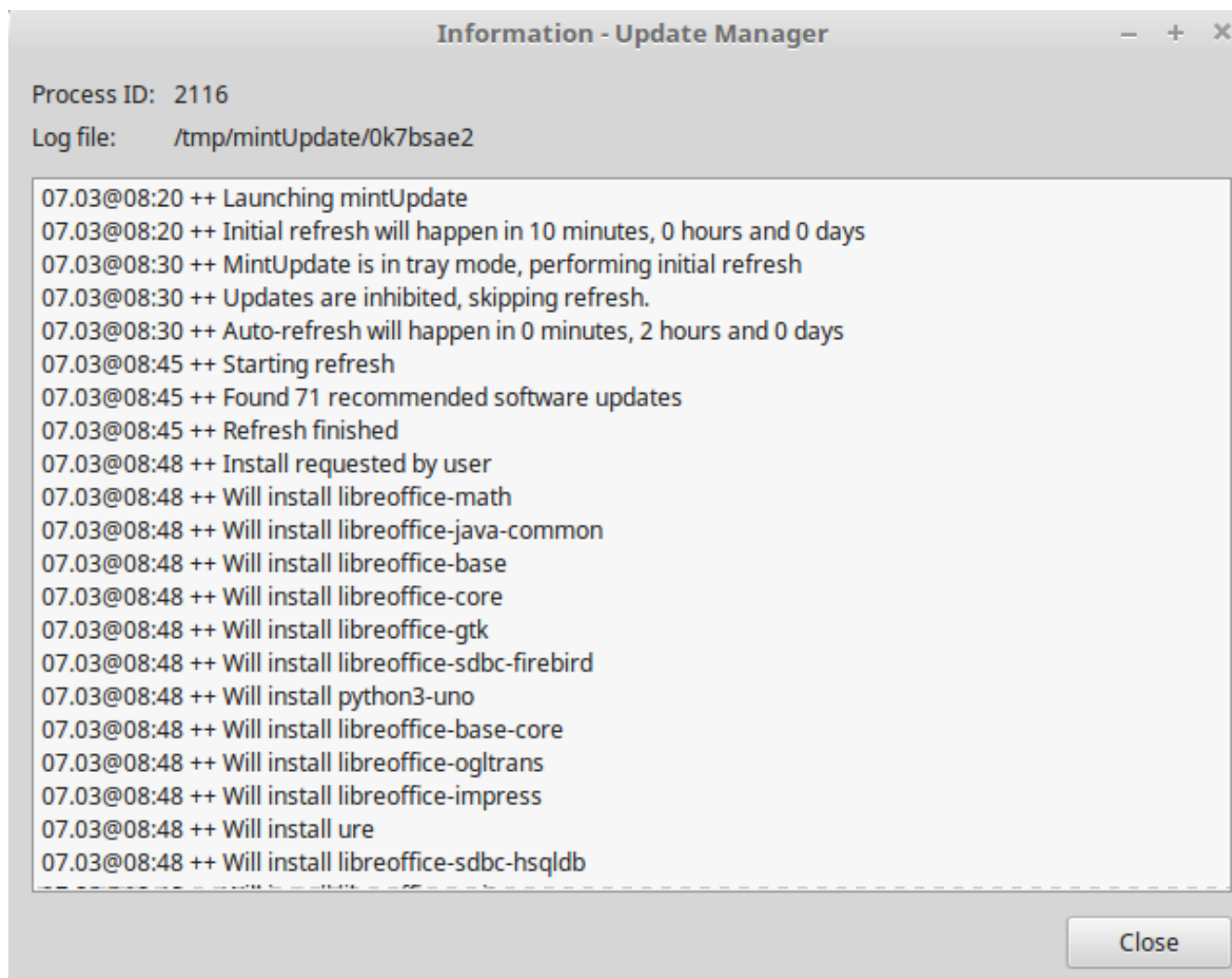
Be careful with this option as dependency can install new packages on your behalf but they can also sometimes remove packages you already have installed.

The “Auto-Refresh” tab allows you to define how often the Update Manager checks for updates.

In the “Ignored packages” tab you can define packages for which you do not want to receive updates. “?” and “\*” wildcard characters are supported.

The “Icons” tab lets you change the icons used by the Update Manager in the system tray.

If you get errors with the Update Manager (“Can’t refresh list of packages” for instance), you can check the logs. Right click on the lock icon in the system tray and select “Information”. The following screen appears:



In this screen you can see the process ID of the Update Manager, whether it's running with user or root permissions, and the content of its log file.

You can also review the updates that were applied on your system (provided they were applied via the Update Manager) by clicking on “View->History of Updates”.

| Date                  | Package                | Old version                  | New version                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:11 | kpartx                 | 0.5.0+git1.656f8865-5ubuntu2 | 0.5.0+git1.656f8865-5ubuntu2.1 |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:11 | python3-brlapi         | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2               | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2.1               |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:10 | kpartx-boot            | 0.5.0+git1.656f8865-5ubuntu2 | 0.5.0+git1.656f8865-5ubuntu2.1 |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:09 | xinit                  | 1.3.4-3                      | 1.3.4-3ubuntu0.1               |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:09 | libbrlapi0.6           | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2               | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2.1               |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:09 | brltty                 | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2               | 5.3.1-2ubuntu2.1               |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:08 | ssh-askpass-gnome      | 1:7.2p2-4                    | 1:7.2p2-4ubuntu1               |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:08 | thermald               | 1.5-2                        | 1.5-2ubuntu2                   |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:07 | python-libxml2         | 2.9.3+dfsg1-1                | 2.9.3+dfsg1-1ubuntu0.1         |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:07 | python3-urllib3        | 1.13.1-2                     | 1.13.1-2ubuntu0.16.04.1        |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:06 | libqt5printsupport5    | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7         | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7.1         |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:06 | libqt5sql5             | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7         | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7.1         |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:06 | libqt5sql5-sqlite      | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7         | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7.1         |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:06 | libqt5xml5             | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7         | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7.1         |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:06 | printer-driver-brlaser | 3-3build1                    | 3-5~ubuntu1                    |
| 2016-07-03 - 08:52:05 | libqt5opengl5          | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7         | 5.5.1+dfsg-16ubuntu7.1         |

Close

mikeB - Hack'n the Linux