

Ubuntu 12.04/12.10 Unity Tips and Tricks

Gears (Upper Right Corner)

About Computer	Ubuntu version, Updates, Default Apps, etc
Ubuntu Help	Access User Guide, Keyboard Shortcuts, Desktop Apps, Networking tips, Sound & Video, etc
System Settings	Access all controls
Lock	Requires Password to Unlock (Also Settings>Brightness and Lock>Lock Off to not require a password after screen saver activation)
Log Out, Shutdown	

Launcher

Launcher icon sizing	Setting>Appearance>Icon size scale
Launcher Auto Hide	Setting>Appearance>Behavior>Auto hide>On (Change sensitivity and direction)
Launcher Reveal Easier	Install Compizconfig Settings Manager from Software Center then launch from terminal with ccsd command
Disable Amazon Shopping	Remove the app from the launcher by right clicking and Remove. To remove from system in Terminal type: <code>sudo apt-get remove unity-lens-shopping</code>

Windows

Global Menu Integration	To remove, bring up the Terminal (Ctrl-Alt-t) and enter <code>sudo apt-get autoremove appmenu-gtk appmenu-gtk3 appmenu-qt</code> . To remove from FireFox use Tools->Addons->Extensions->Disable Global Menu Bar Integration.
Move Windows Control Buttons Right	Use dconf-editor which is installed by default in 12.10 and can be added via <code>sudo apt-get install gconf-editor</code> in 12.04. Use org->gnome->desktop->wm->preferences->button layout->:minimize,maximize,close in 12.10. With gconf-editor use apps->metacity->general and look for button_layout on the right panel.
Open Window in Center	Install CompizConfig Settings Manager from Ubuntu Software Center. Press Alt-F2 and type ccsd (You may receive a warning about this being an advanced tool). Select "Windows Management" from left panel; click "Place Windows" and change placement mode from "Smart" to "Centered", click "Back" and "Close".

	(Windows should remember their last known position, but some applications will not do that)
Roll Up and Down a Window	Default setting when you double-click a title bar is minimize or maximize a window. On a non-maximized window, you can roll up or down a window by changing the setting. In 12.10, Alt-F2 and type dconf-editor and enter. Browse to org->gnome->desktop->wm->preferences, look for “action-double-click-titlebar” on the right panel, change the value from “toggle_maximize” to “toggle_shade”. In 12.04, install gconf-editor via the terminal (Ctrl-Alt-T, sudo apt-get install gconf-editor), browse to apps->gwd and change value in the “mouse_wheel_action” to shade.
Customize the Theme	Control Gear and “System Settings->Appearance->Theme.

File Manager

Default View	File Browser on Launcher then Edit->Preferences. Under Default View, change “Icon View” to “List View” to see more details in columns. Click “Show hidden and backup files” if you desire. Other settings can be done in same window
Change Folder Icon	Right click a folder icon, select properties. Under the basic tab, click the Icon image to open up “Select Custom Icon” window. In the location field, type /usr/share/icons, then browse and select an icon you like.
Advanced File Manager (Use with caution)	Nautilus will only let you write files in your home directory and its sub-folders. Dash Home and type “keyboard” in the search box. Under “Shortcuts” tab, select Custom shortcuts, then click “+” sign to create a custom shortcut. Enter a name like Advanced File Manager in the “Name” box. Enter gksu nautilus in the “Command” box then click Apply. Click on Disabled at the Advanced Nautilus row in the keyboard Shortcuts window (Disabled changes to New Accelerator). Press a key combination like Ctrl+Alt+N to set it.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Add or Change Shortcuts	Dash then type keyboard. Under the “Shortcuts” tab, select “Launchers” on the left panel. Click “Launch Terminal”, and it shows “New accelerator...”. Tap Super+R, and it shows Super+R. Click the Close button and try the new shortcut (this will replace the default Ctrl+Alt+T default terminal shortcut)
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Change Desktop Window Manager (GUI, downside cluttered menus)

Unity	<code>sudo apt-get install gnome-desktop</code>
Gnome classic	<code>sudo apt-get install gnome-panel</code>
Gnome3	<code>sudo apt-get install gnome-shell</code>
KDE	<code>sudo apt-get install kde-desktop</code>
Cinnamon	<code>sudo add-apt-repository ppa:gwendal-lebihan-dev/cinnamon-stable</code> <code>sudo apt-get update</code> <code>sudo apt-get install cinnamon</code>

Browsers

Firefox	Default browser
Google Chrome	Faster than Firefox. Download directly from Google website since the Chrome-browser in Software Manager is not as full featured. https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/
Opera	http://www.opera.com/computer/linux

Utilities

Ubuntu-Tweak	One of the best full-featured utilities available. Install from command line (Ctrl-Alt-t) then add <code>sudo add-apt-repository ppa:tualatrix/ppa</code> <code>sudo apt-get update</code> <code>sudo apt-get install ubuntu-tweak</code>
Unsettings	MyUnity is available for 12.04 but not 12.10. Unsettings utility works in both and provides a number of useful tools not least of which is to remove all Amazon searching from your system. Terminal (Ctrl-Alt-t) then add <code>sudo add-apt-repository ppa:diesch/testing</code> <code>sudo apt-get update</code> <code>sudo apt-get install unsettings</code>
Docky	My favorite utility which shows and allows switching between applications better than Alt-Tab feature. Install from Software Center.
Restricted Extras	Includes codecs, flashplugin, mp3 and other restricted packages not installed initially. <code>sudo apt-get install ubuntu-restricted-extras</code>

Gnome Tweak Tool	Gnome runs under Unity and this tool allow you to tweak fonts, icons,etc. sudo apt-get install gnome-tweak-tool
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Command Line

man or info	Information about a command (i.e man rm, info ls)
apropos	Search for information about a command, apropos user
ls	List files and directories, ls -a file.txt, ls -l /home/ron, ls -R (lists directory contents)
cd	Change directory, cd /home/ron/photos
pwd	Display current directory location
File/Dir permissions	r(4), w(2), x(1)
mkdir	Make directory mkdir /home/ron/test (use -p to create multilevel directories)
rm, rmdir	Remove files and directories (use rm -R to delete directory and its contents)
chmod,chown	Change files and directories permissions
cp	Copy files
mv	Move files
cat, less	View file contents
ps	Running processes ps -au, ps -au grep MySQL
kill	Kill misbehaving process
grep	Search input files for a pattern match
sudo	Used to run commands with root like permissions.

Text Editors

nano	Easy to use text editor with commands listed in lower panel. nano file.txt
vi	Full featured text editor on most Linux/Unix systems. Cursor movement =h, j, k, l (left, down, up and right) Delete character=x Delete line=dd Mode toggle=Esc, Insert (or I) Quit=:q Quit without saving=:q! Save file=:w Text search=/