

How To: Customize the Linux Mint17.2 appearance for the real look and feel like Mac



Designation:

This How To was especially tailored to suit the needs > for new Mint user those just arrived here from the Mac < thereby they can proceed as normal as possible with the unfamiliar Graphical User Interface of Cinnamon.

Prologue:

So, now that you made the right decision to choose Linux Mint Cinnamon as your new Operating System: Congratulations and Welcome!

Until you will feel more comfortable with it, this little How To shall help you to deal with your new environment and feeling more home from the beginning.

After you feel more secure you still have time to explore all the things that makes Linux Mint so great and find your own way how you want to use it and which kind of adjustments and settings fits to you at best.

Situation:

You have just arrived on Linux Mint Cinnamon and now you have to deal with a lot of new things, like unknown applications, new order on the file system, organizing your stuff and other circumstances. In addition, you feel blocked up something through the desktop environment and can not thus operate effectively as usual, because:

When you have been a long time Mac user - you are very used to :
Initiate actions from the dock
or from the upper main menu bar of Finder
and so you find yourself often with moving the mouse to the middle lower area of your desktop - but there is nothing - accordingly you miss your dock too much.
The same story with the upper main menu bar.

The next sore point is the behavior of the file manager, you are shocked in a serious way when you have to realize that the option for a "view in columns" is not available anymore.

Then the appearance at all.
The choice of colors is not that bad - but also not charming enough for not to change it.
The same story with the desktop wallpaper, probably you will prefer your own.
Even the window buttons are reversed left to right - and so is your mouse pointer too often at the wrong place for window actions.

You also would like to change the icons for folders and devices, "maclike" - but you do not know how to do it the way for that they will appear amazing and clear.

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Do not worry about all these.

This *little and very short* tutorial will show you the solution for all these little annoyances.

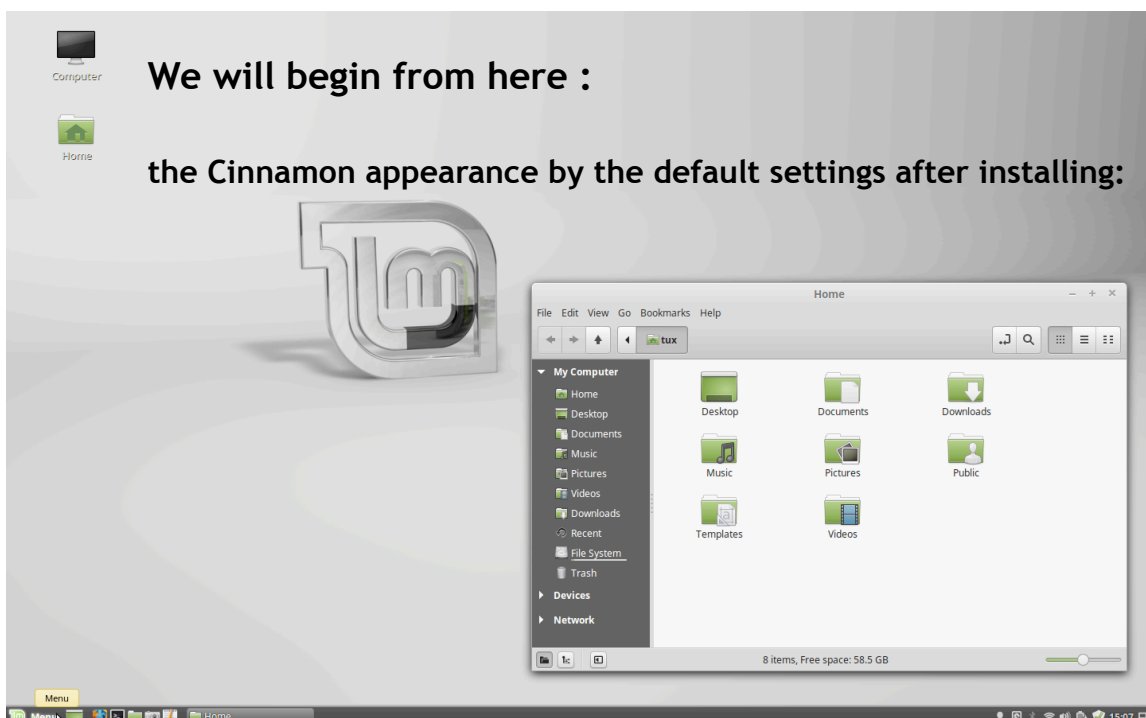
No matter if you do like the result of the adjustments and settings made after this little training course or not:

At least

you will have learned a bit about how to setup the appearances on Cinnamon Rafaela, there are a lot of (new) features inside, which you may not find easily.

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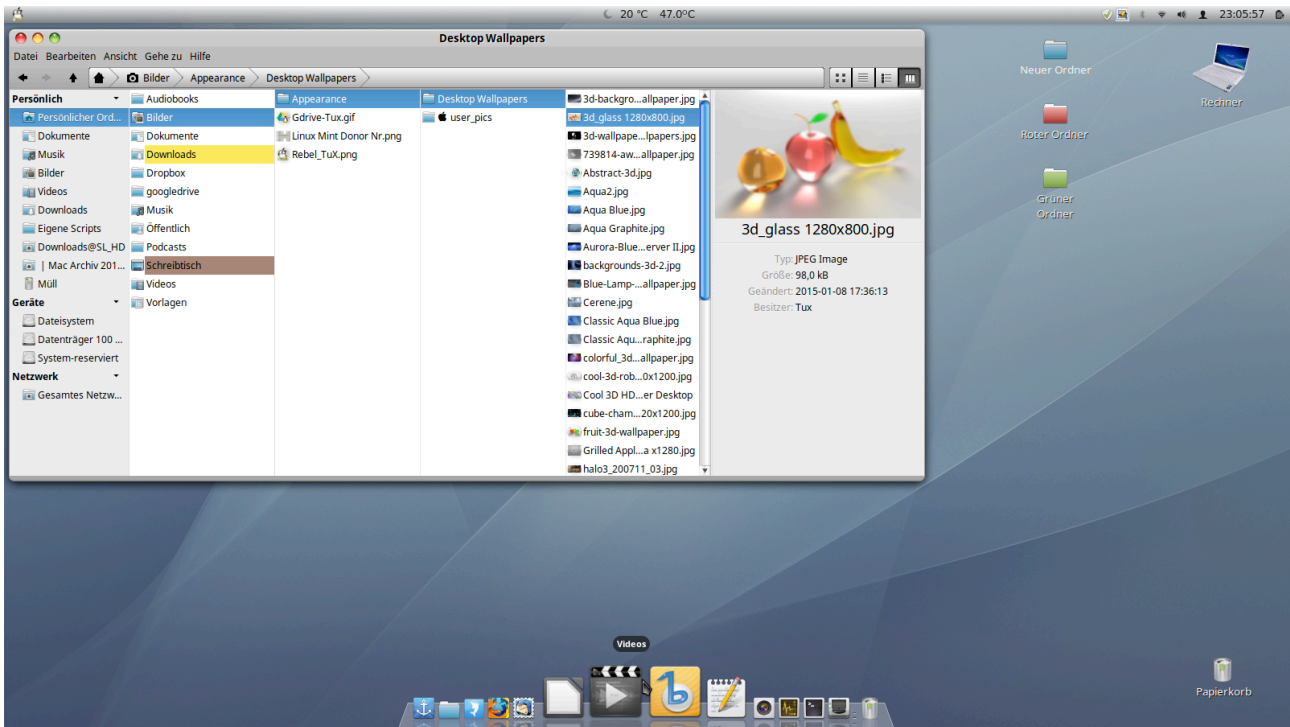
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And this is the goal:



The icons themselves also need definitely really a serious treatment (close up of icons in the dock):



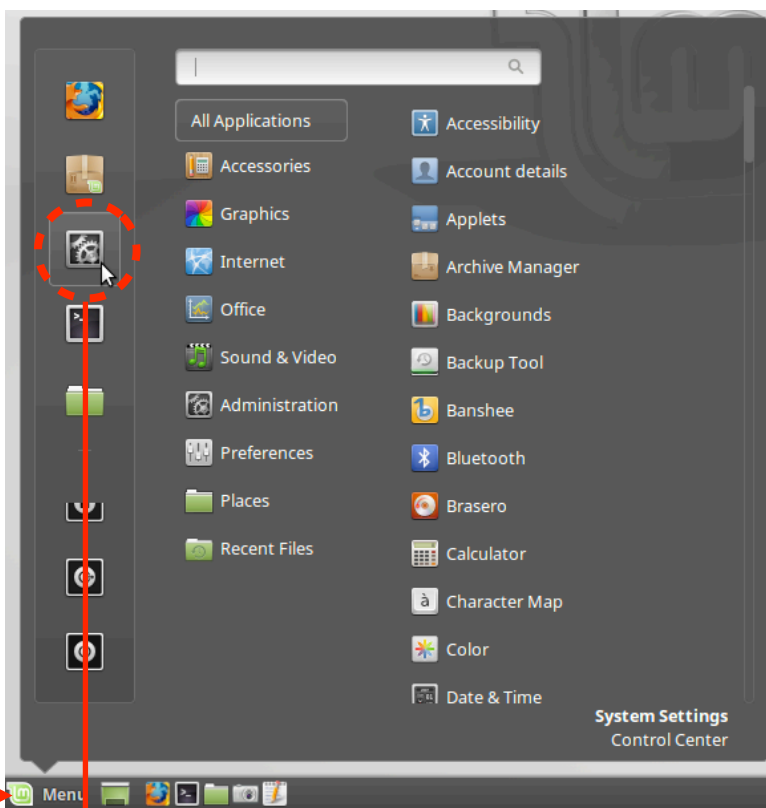
During the final stage we will have some sort of Aqua/Tiger mix.
The default file manager window will behave similar to the Finder of Mac OS Classic.
For the possibility of representation as a view in columns -
we need an extra File Manager `*_*`, which behaves much like the OS X Finder.

* Note:

It is often represented in the Linux community, the view that is not recommended by the installation of an additional File Manager. In fact, it is not an ideal solution, but the fears expressed in this regard in the present meet here constellation not to and the minor bugs are acceptable. Therefore, everyone must decide for themselves whether him the opportunity to browse and manage the files in the mode "view columns" to be able to take this unusual measure. The author himself uses this solution - for over a year on various Linux Mint machines and has experienced no serious problems. Keep in mind, that the mode view as columns is an option, depending on an external source - and for the intended operation of Cinnamon Rafaela not absolutely necessary.

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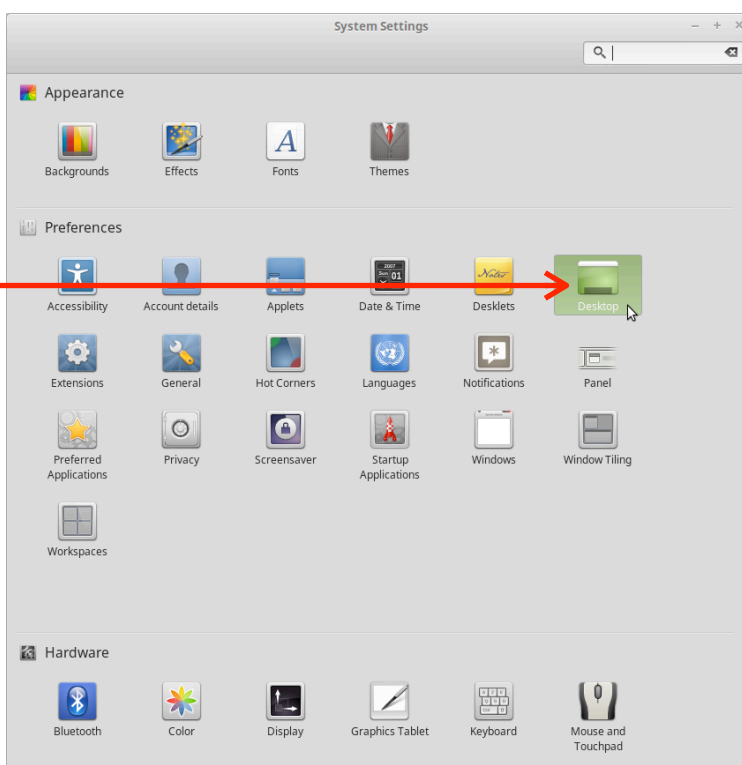
Start: **Configure and customize the Cinnamon System Settings:**



1. Click on Menu:

2. Click on System Settings:

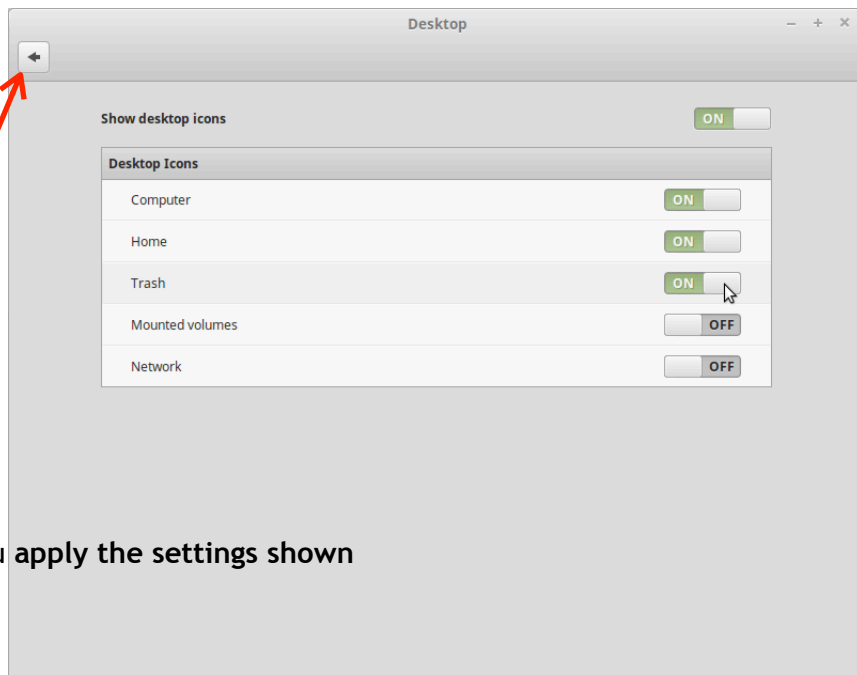
=



Click on Desktop:

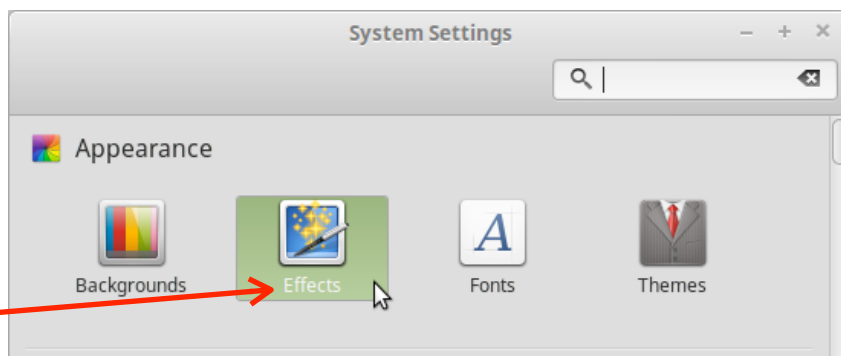
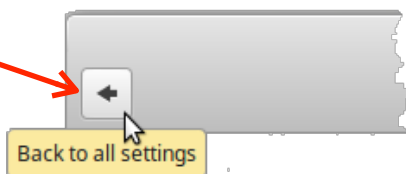
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after you apply the settings shown

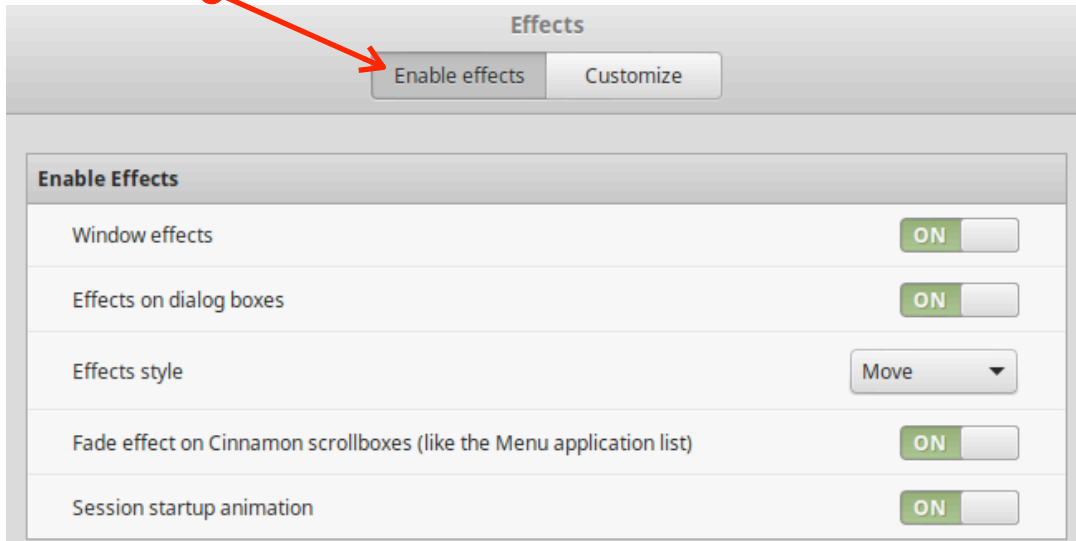
back to System Settings:



Go to Effects:

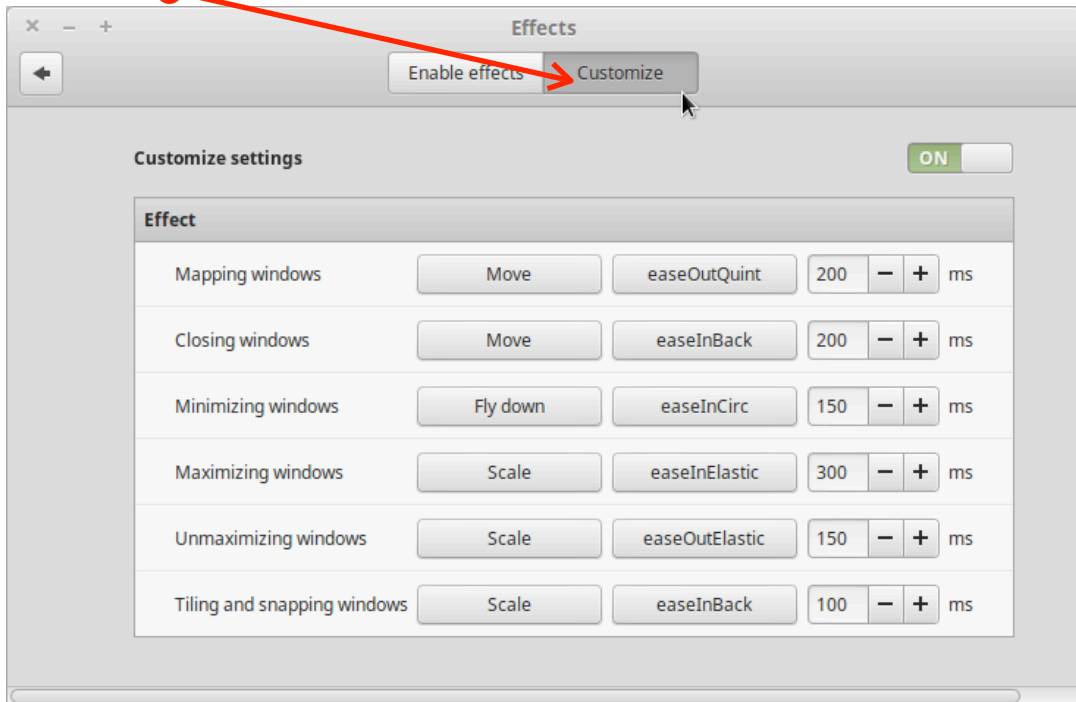
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- go to Enable effects:



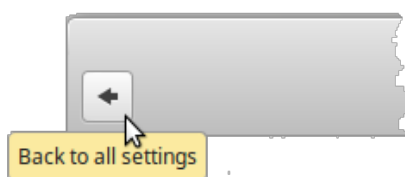
after you apply the settings shown

- go to Customize:



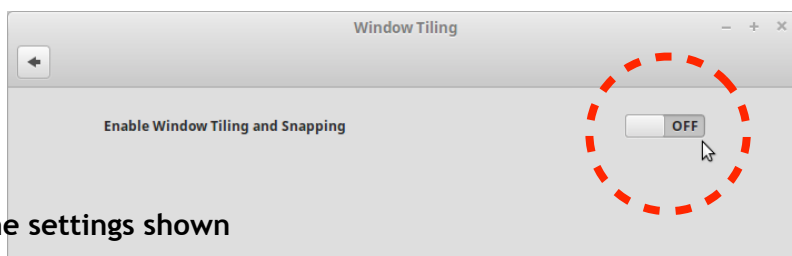
after you apply the settings shown

go back to System Settings:



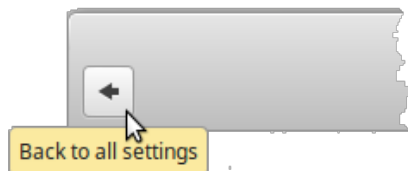
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Go to Window Tiling:



after you apply the settings shown

back to System Settings:

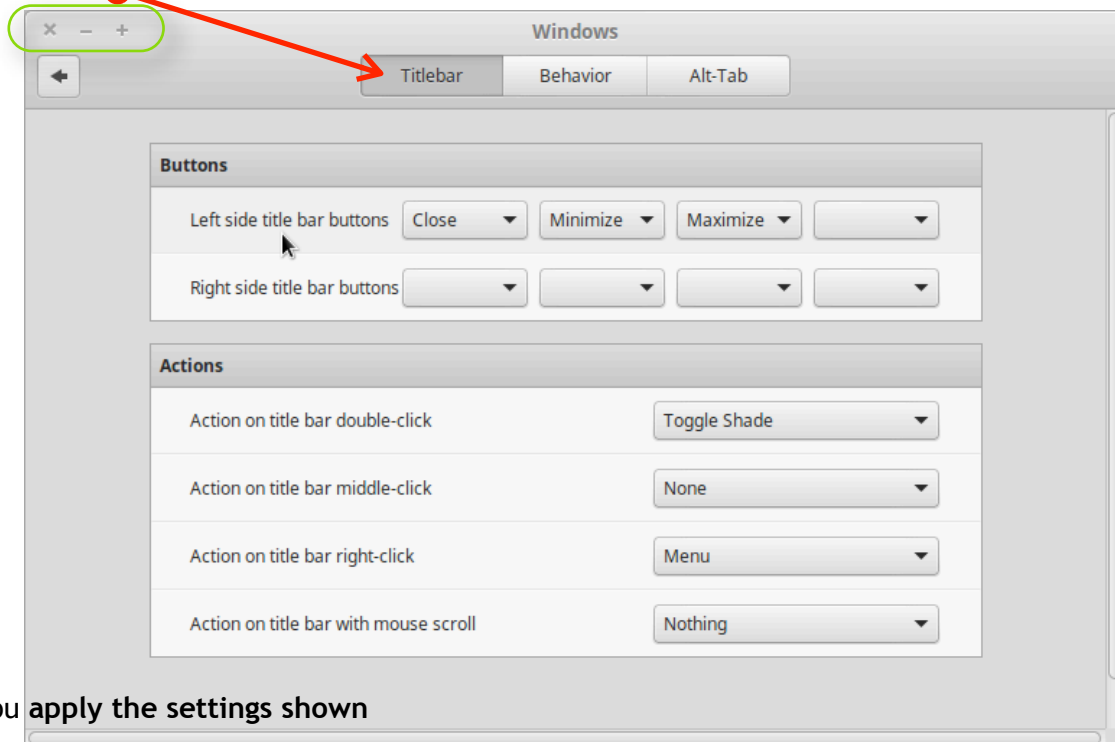


Go to Windows:

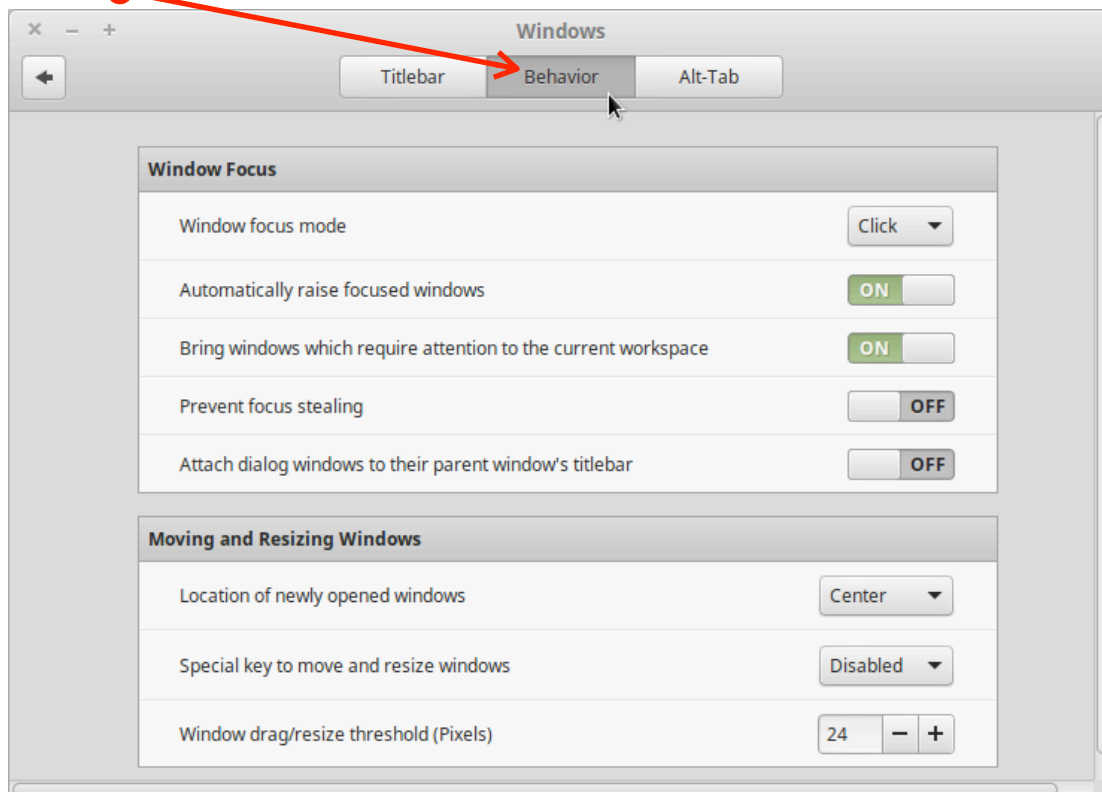


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- go to Titlebar:



- go to Behavior:

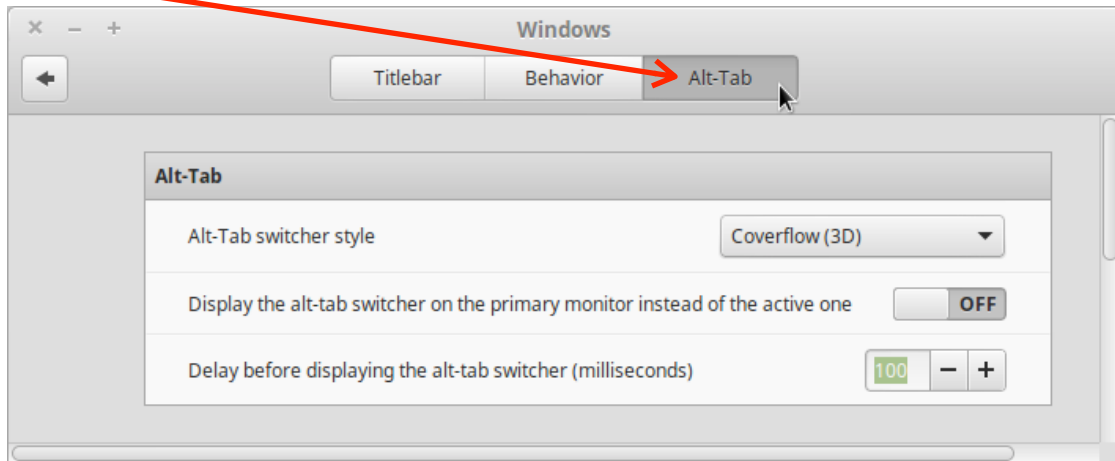


after you apply the settings shown

- go to Alt-Tab:

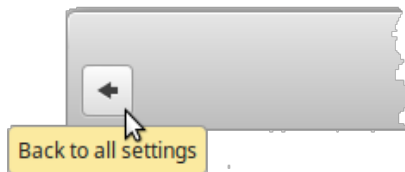
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Alt-Tab: 

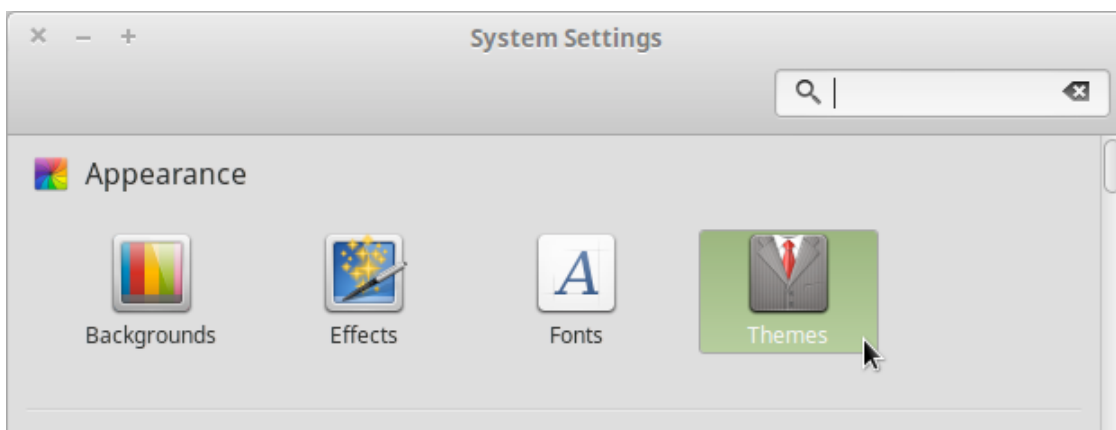


after you apply the settings shown

back to System Settings:

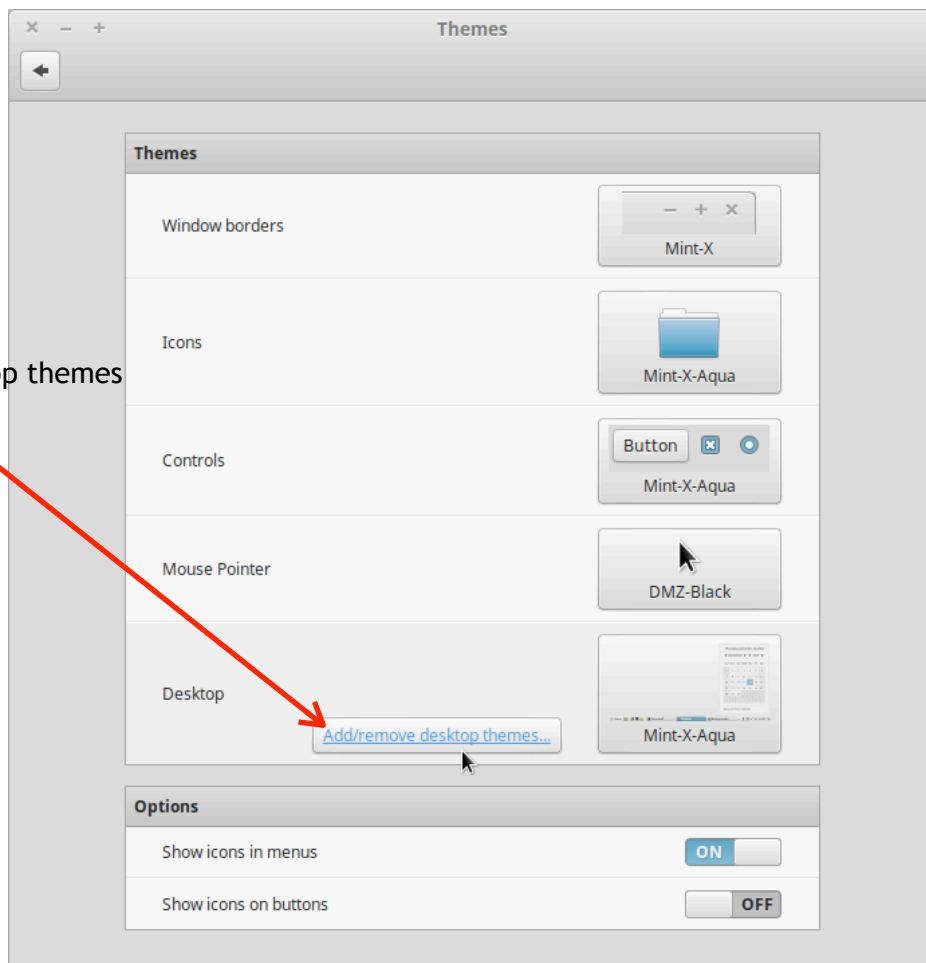


Go to Themes:



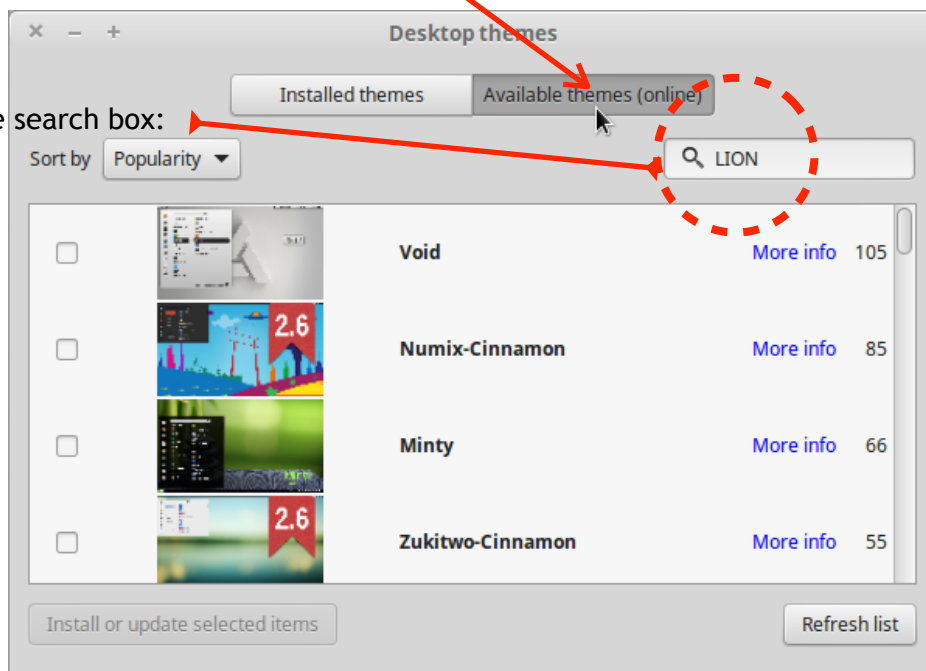
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click on Add/Remove desktop themes

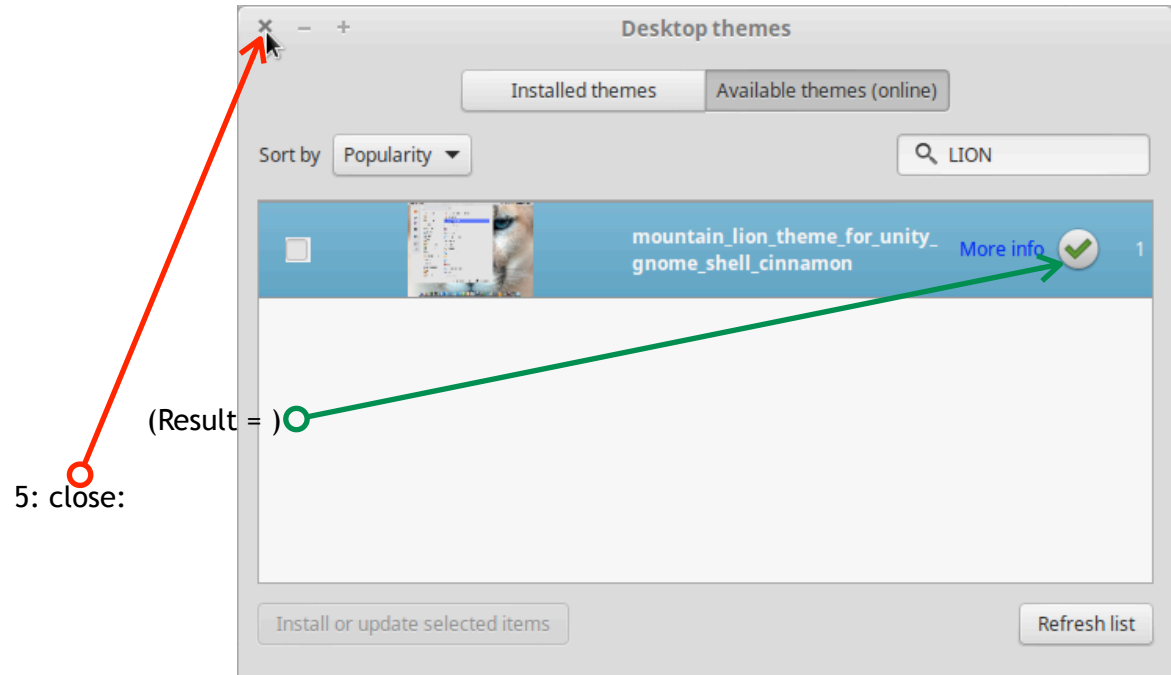
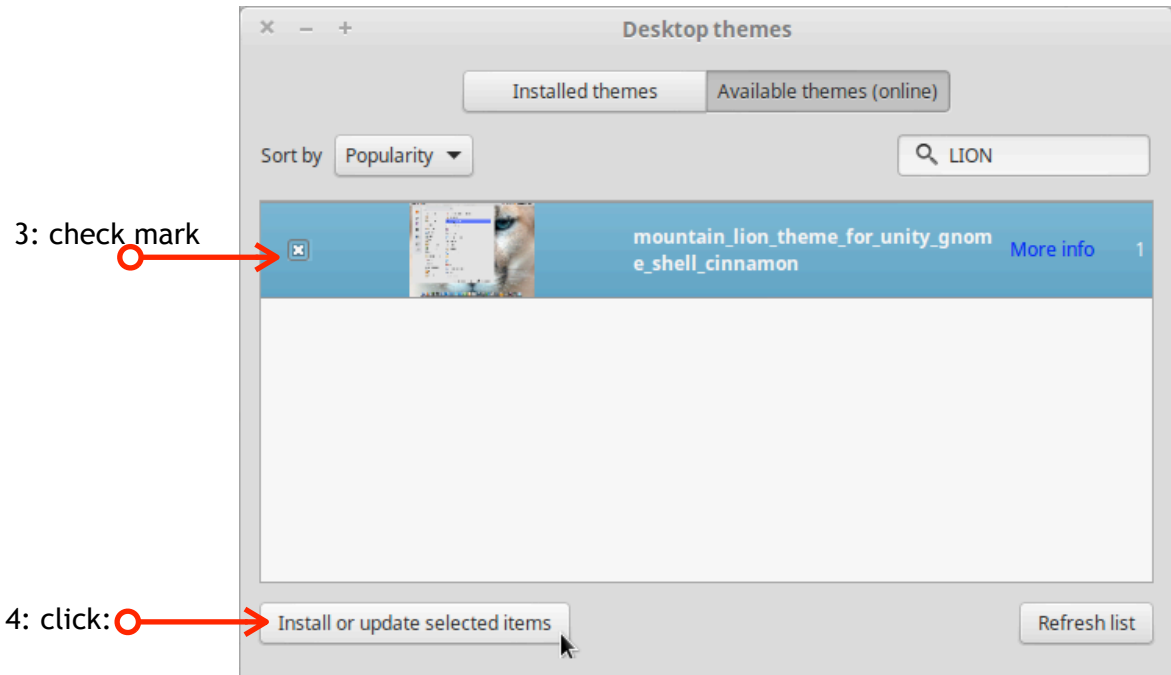


1: click on Available themes (online):

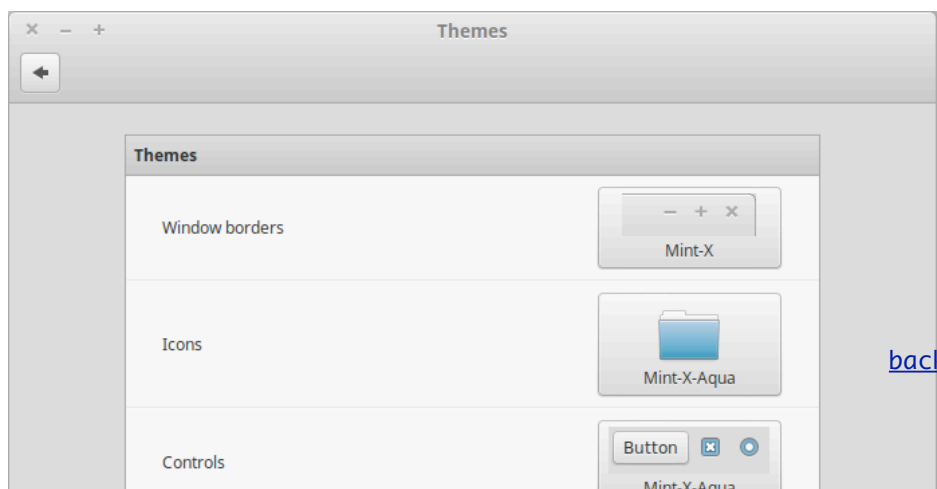
2: write *lion* in the search box:



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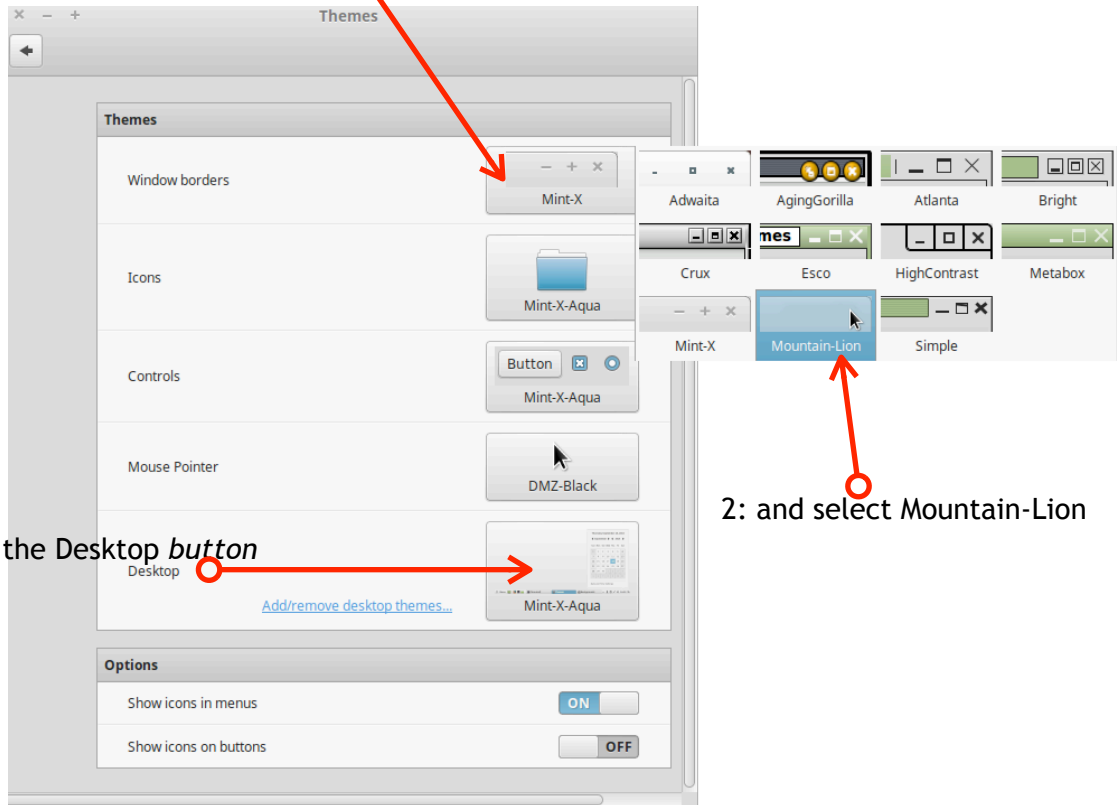


= back to Themes:



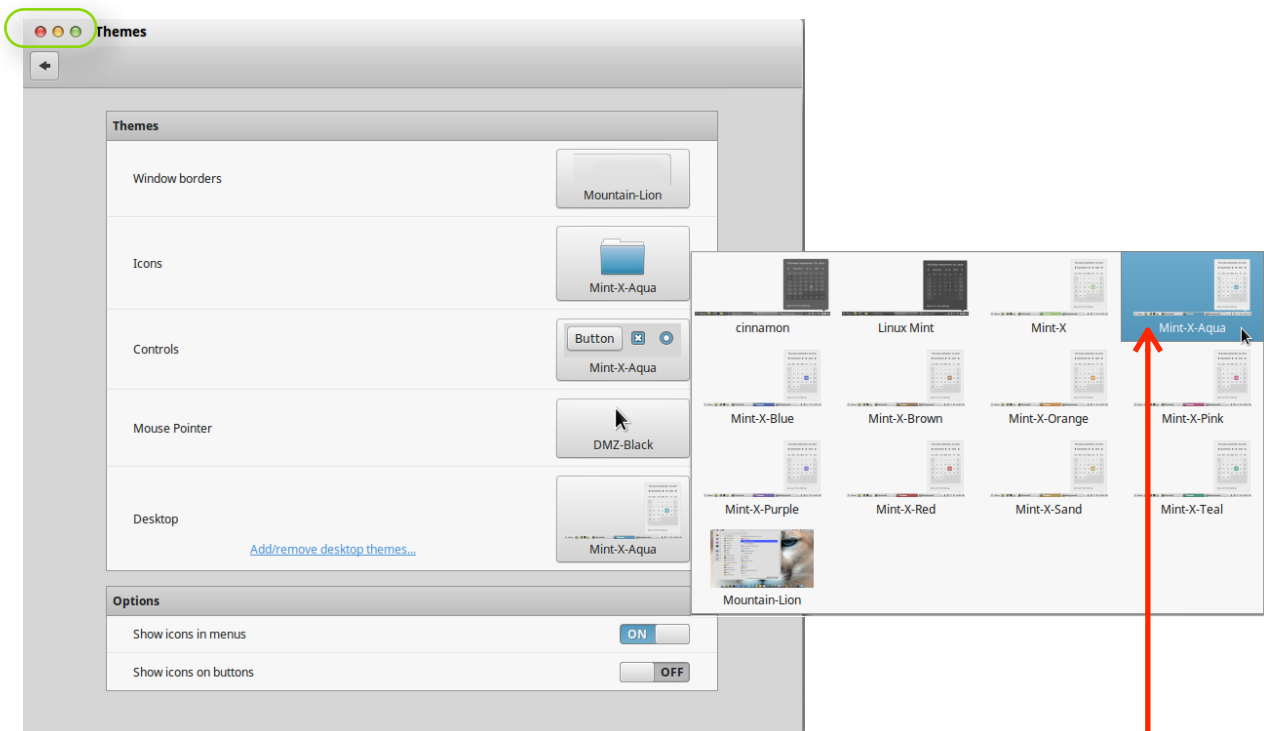
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1: click on the Window borders *button*



3: click on the Desktop *button*

2: and select Mountain-Lion



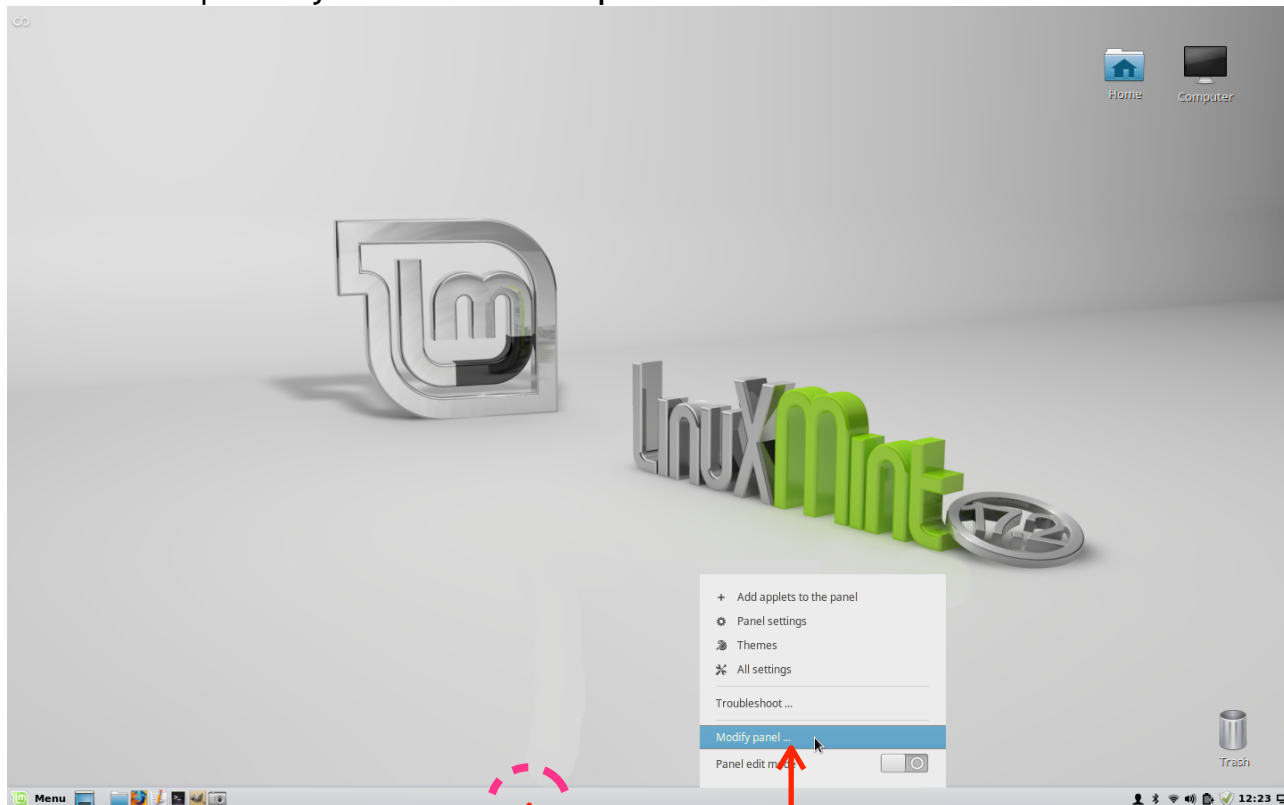
4: and select Mint-X-Aqua

5: after you apply the settings shown - close Themes window

6: then close System Settings window

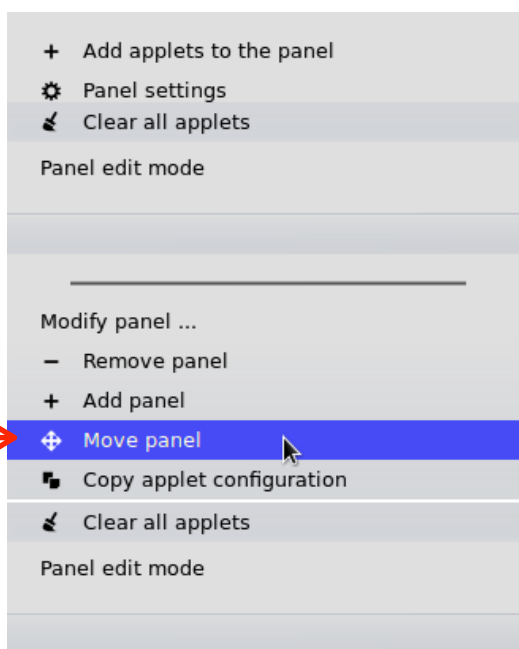
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Back at Desktop: Modify and customize the panel



1. Right-click on the panel:

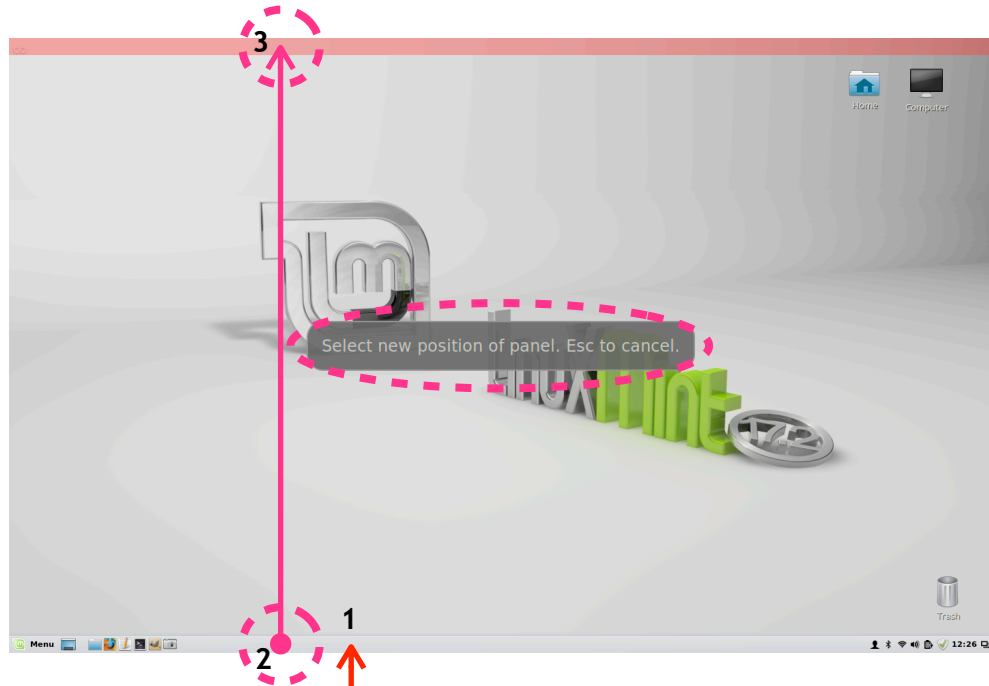
2. Click on Modify panel:



Then click Move panel:

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1. click on the panel and *hold* the mouse button

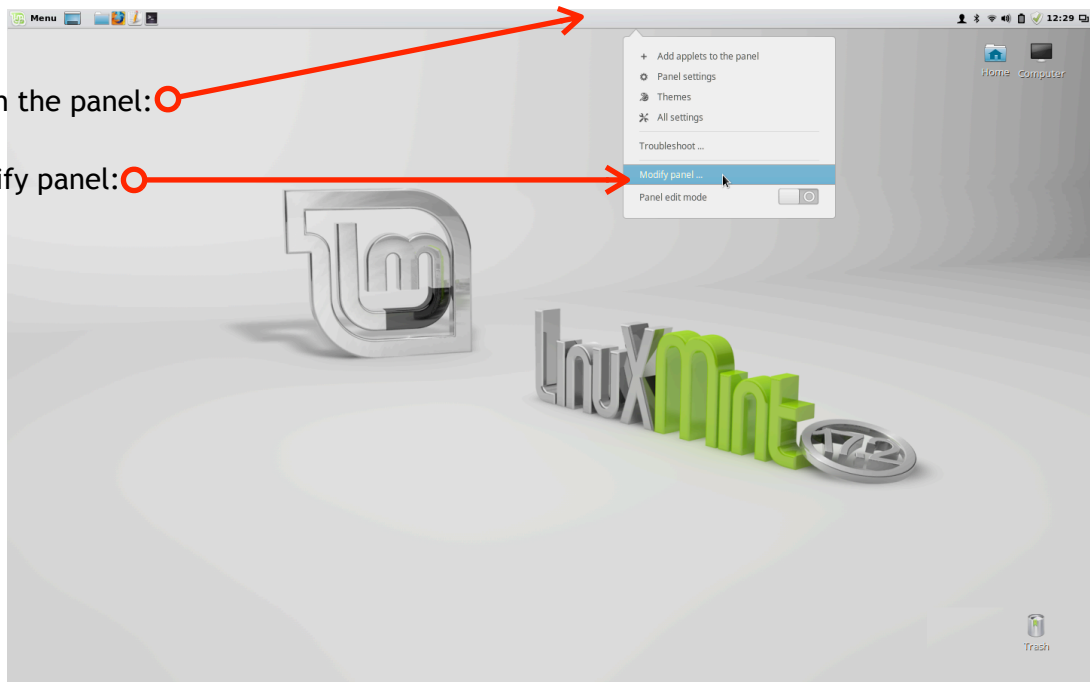
2. *drag* the panel to the top of screen

3. *release* the mouse button at the top of the screen

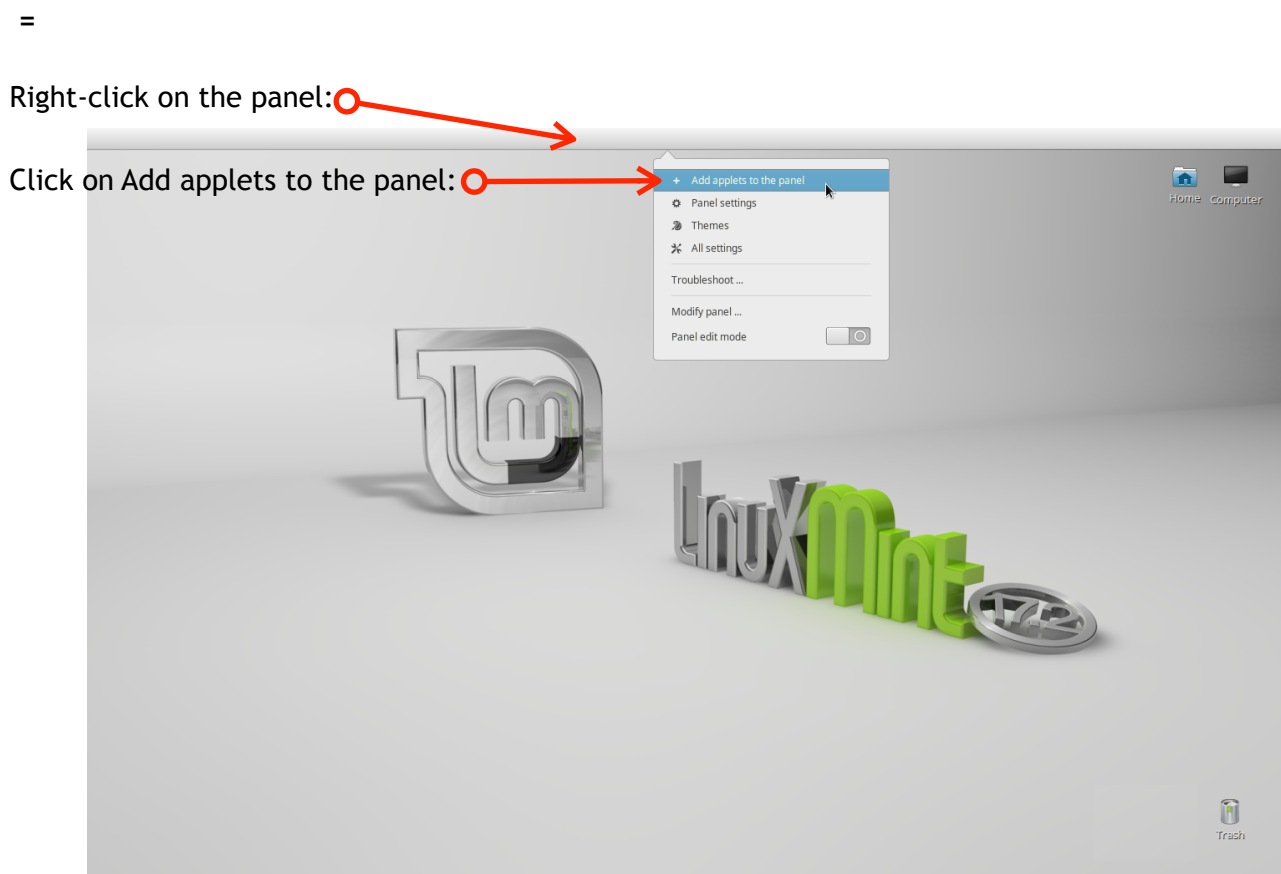
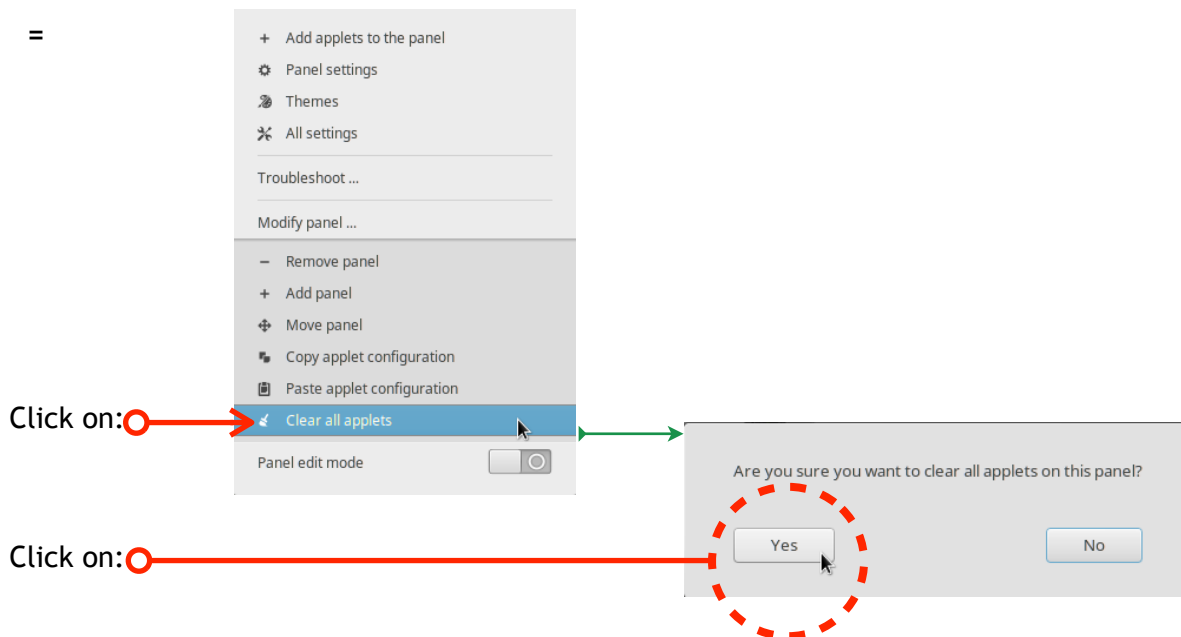
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Right-click on the panel: ○

Click on Modify panel: ○

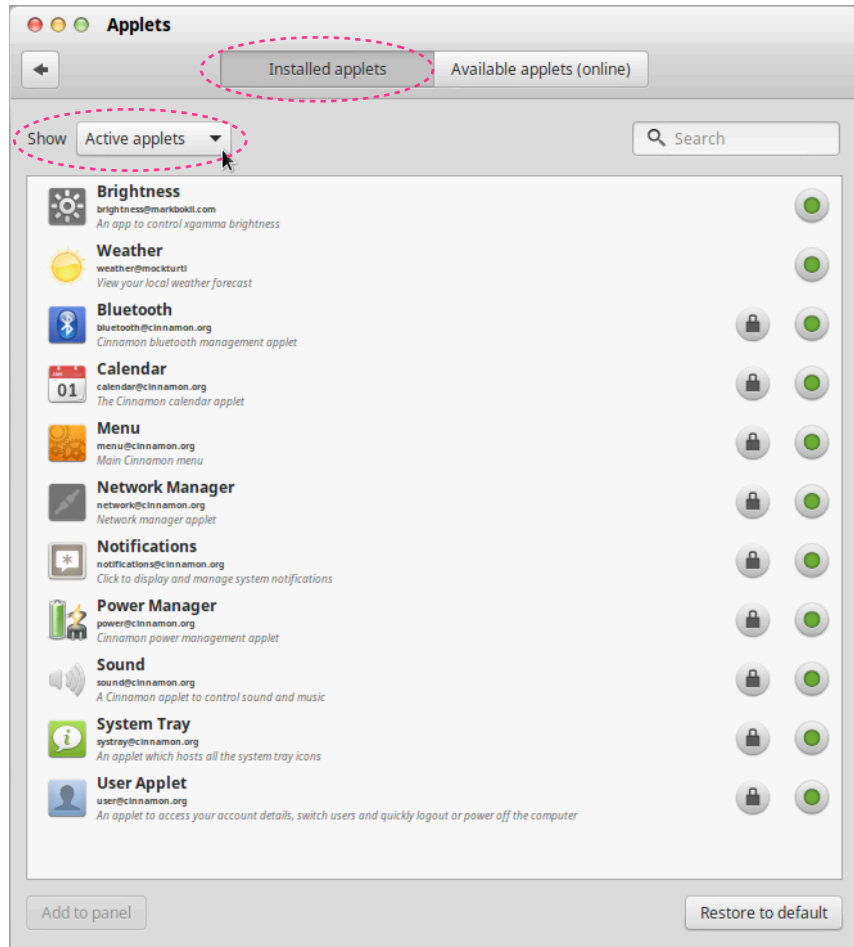


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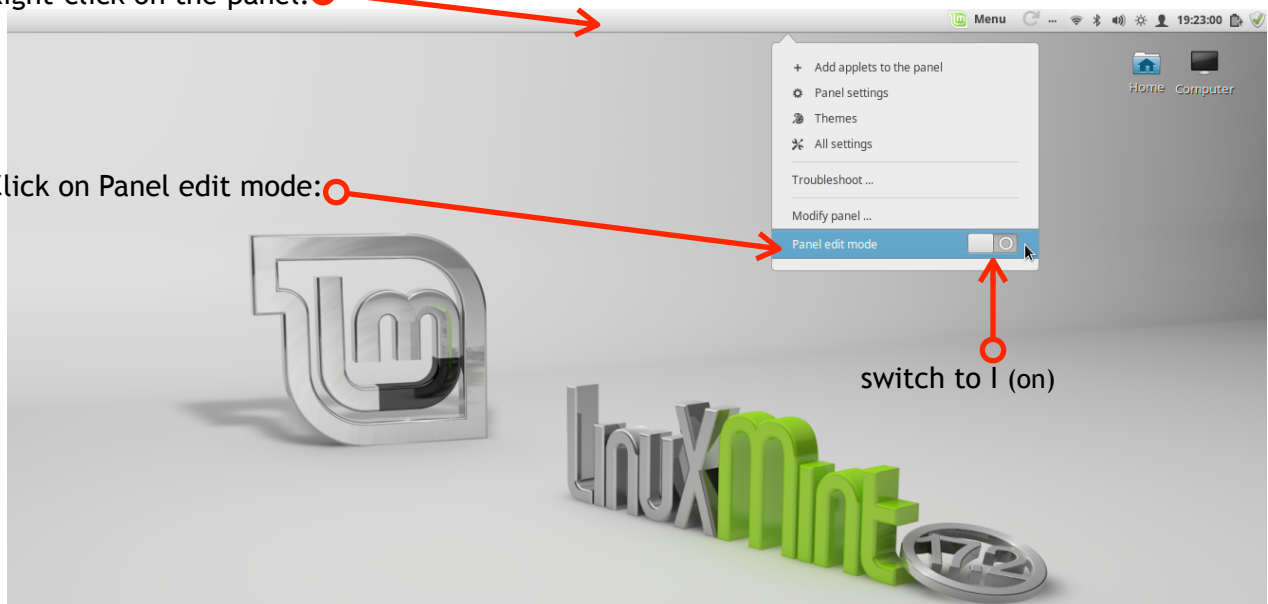


after you apply the settings shown
close Applets window.

Back at Desktop:

Right-click on the panel:

Click on Panel edit mode:



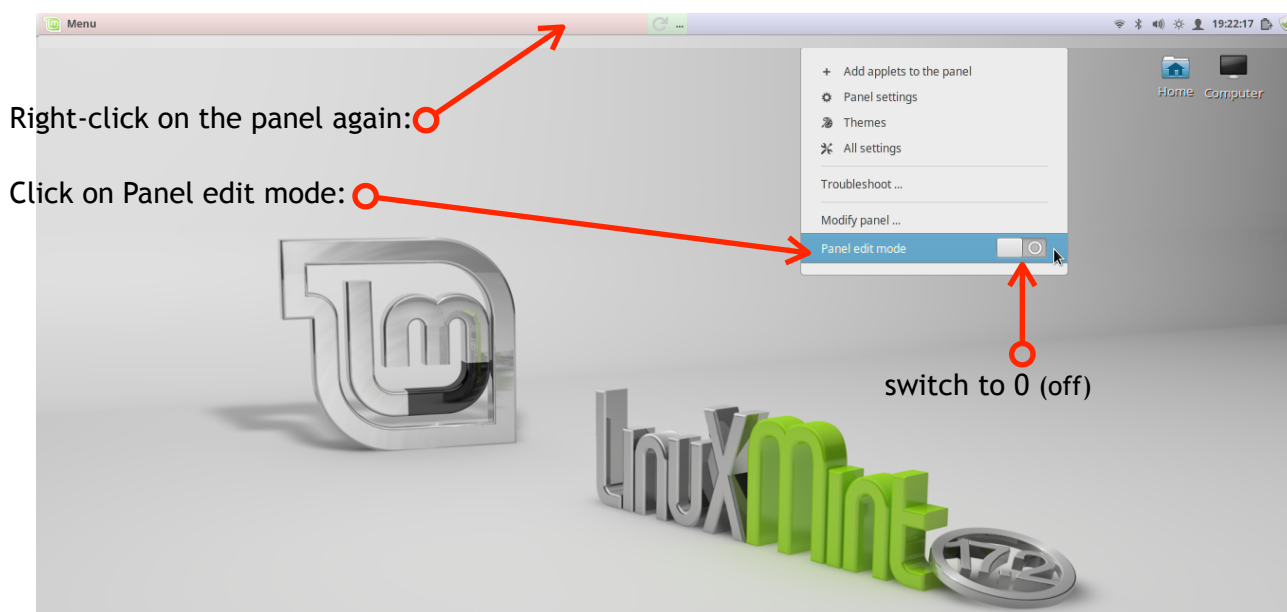
switch to I (on)

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Drag & drop the icons as per your preference

after you apply the settings shown



after you apply the settings shown - your panel should look like this:

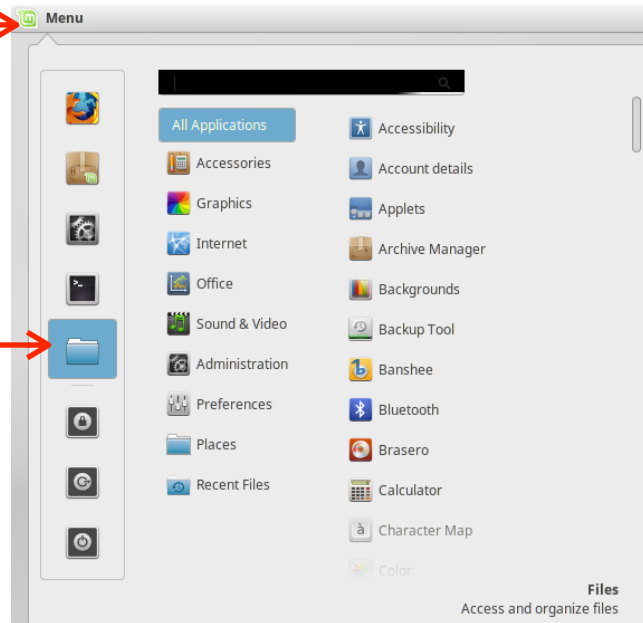


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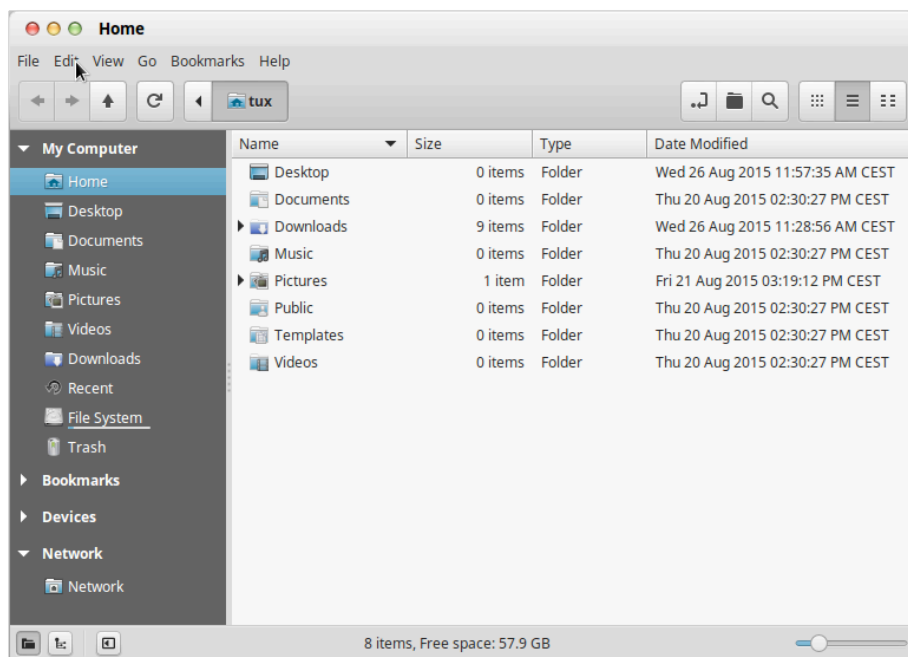
Next: **Customize „Files“ the default File manager (code name "Nemo") :**

1. Go to Menu: ○ →

2. Click on Files: ○ →

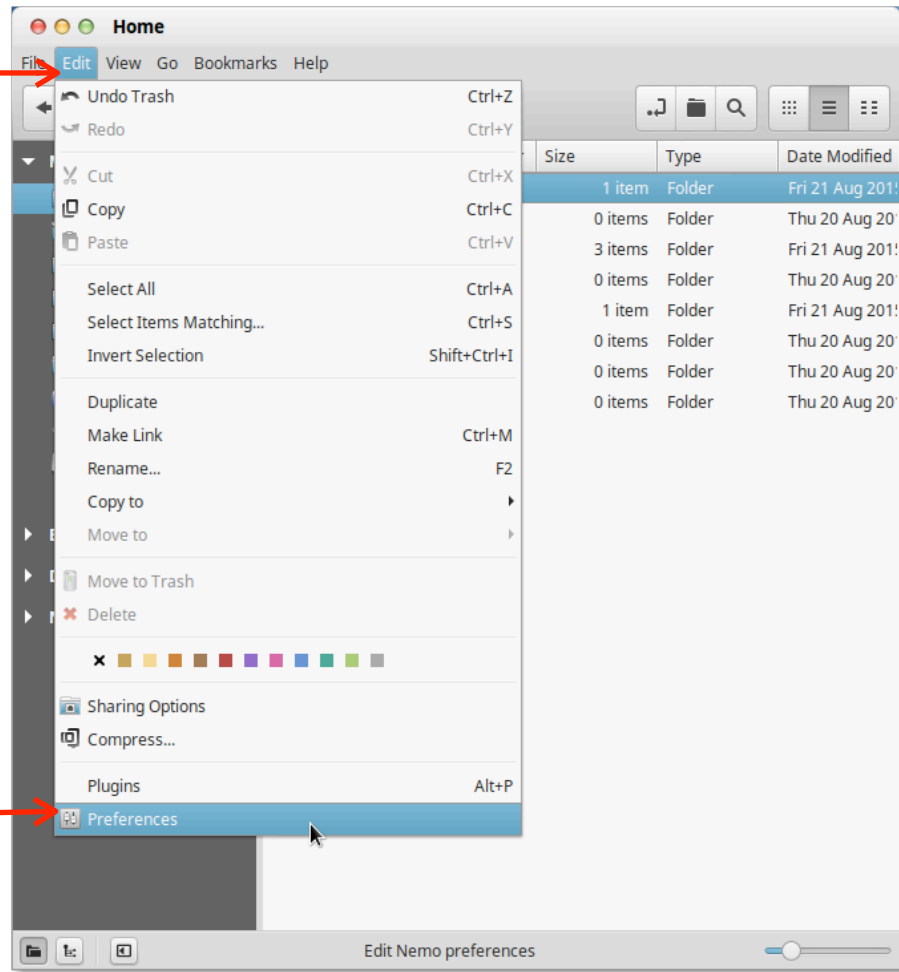


= The Files (Nemo) window in the default view:



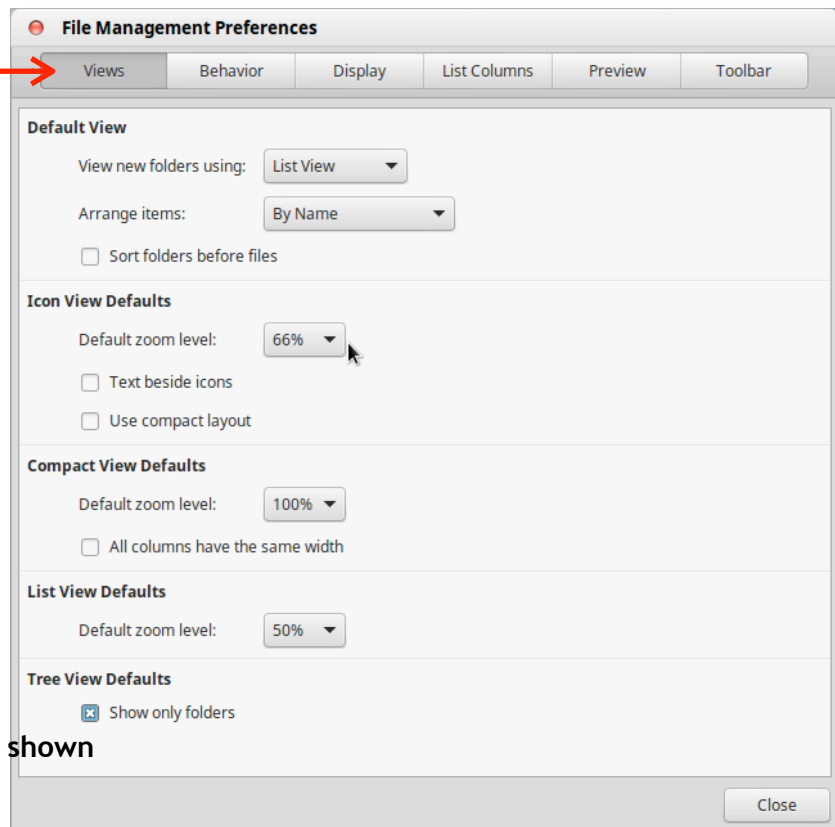
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3. Click on Edit:



4. Select Preferences:

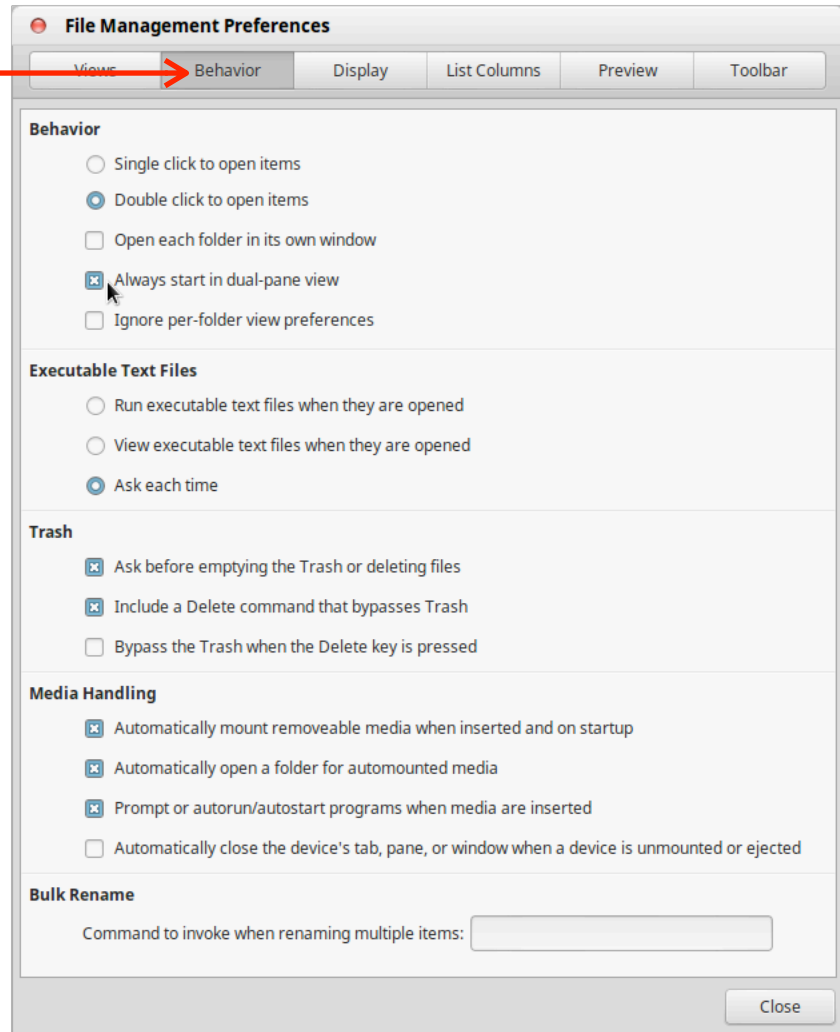
5. Select Views:



after you apply the settings shown

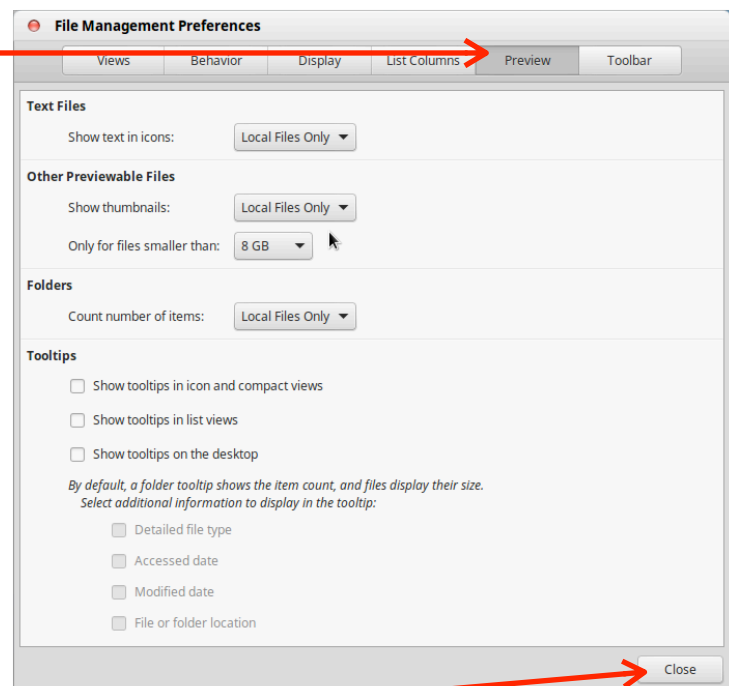
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6. Click on Behavior:



after you apply the settings shown:

7. Click on Preview:

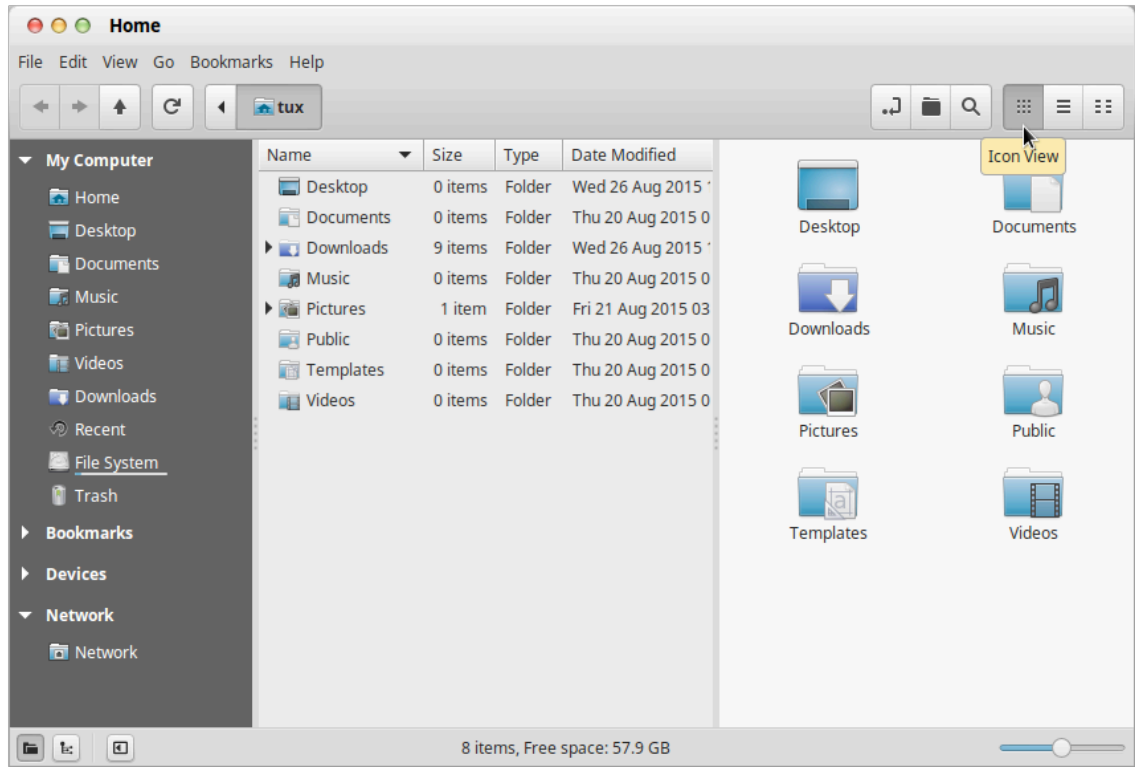


after you apply the settings shown

8. close File Management Preferences:

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= Result:



The File Manager "Files" (Nemo)

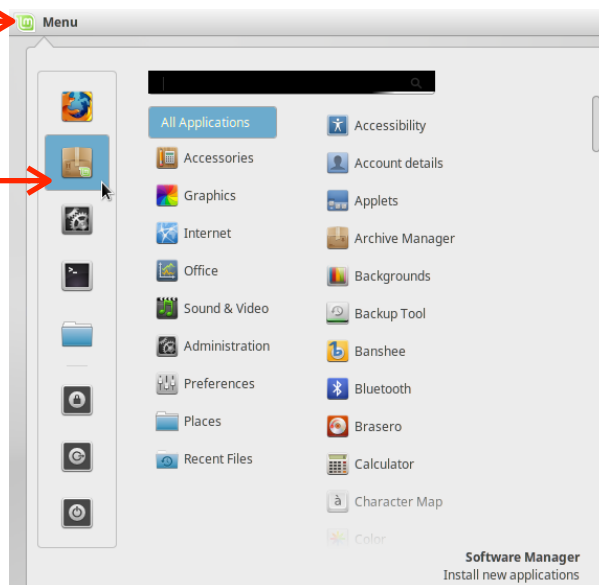
behaves somewhat like a mixture of the Mac OS Classic and the OS X Finder; additional features such as "drag and drop" actions, spring-loaded folders and "colored icons" are in this new version, which comes with Rafaela, now included by default.

Next: Install a dock.

The installation of Docky which is similar to that of the dock in OS X:

1. Go to Menu: 

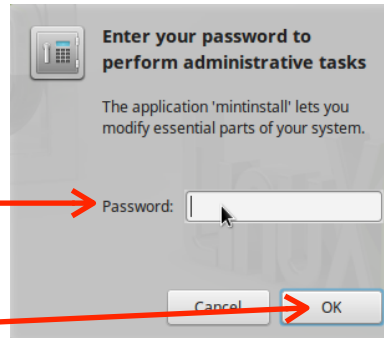
2. Click on Files: 



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3. Enter your password:



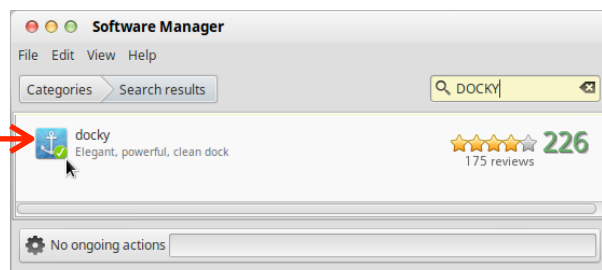
4. Click on OK:

The window Software Manager appears:

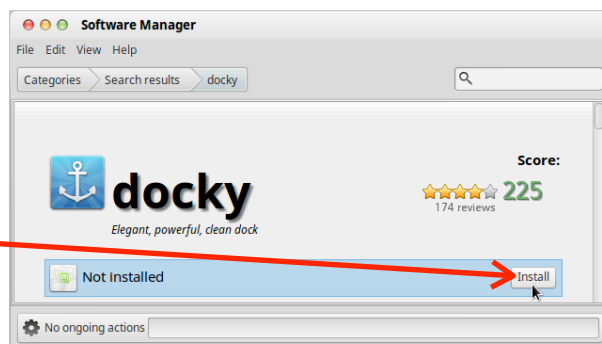
5. enter „DOCKY“ in the search field and press Enter on your keyboard:



6. Double-click on docky:



7. Click on Install:



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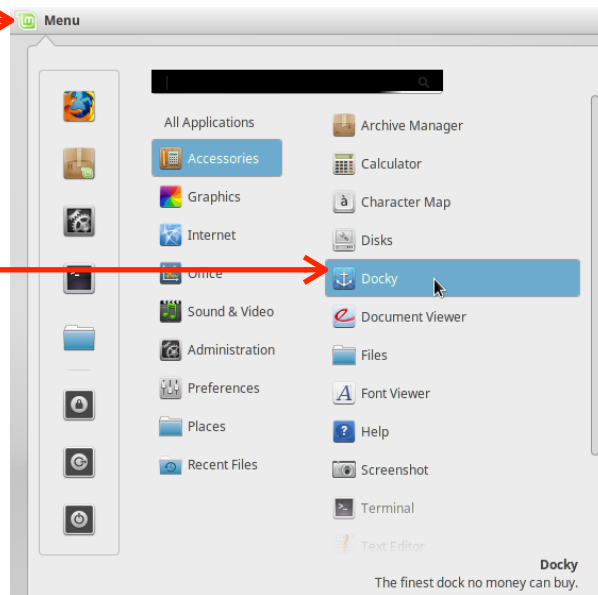
Docky got installed:

8. Click on File, then on Close:



Next: Setup Docky:

1. Go to Menu:



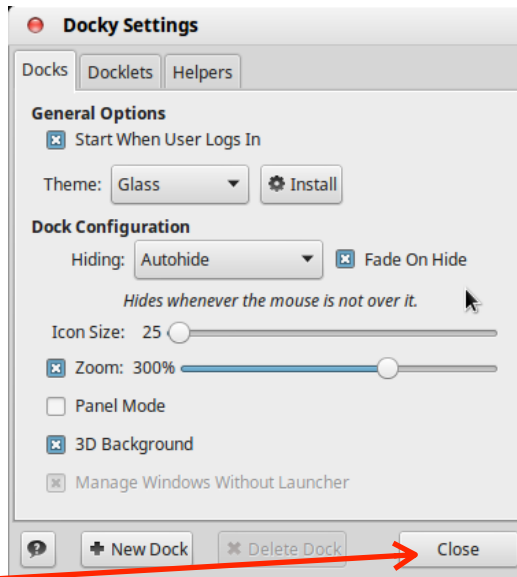
2. Click on Docky:

3. Click on the Docky icon:



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= The Docky Settings window appears:

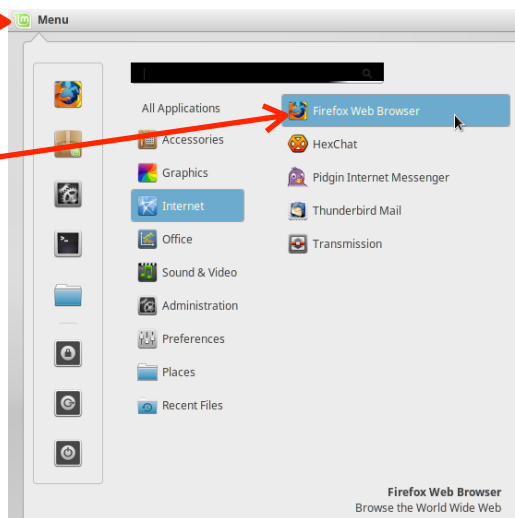


after you apply the settings shown

4. close the Docky Settings window:

Next: Adding applications to Docky:

5. Go to Menu:



6. Click on any application that you want to add to docky -

> here, f.e., Firefox has been selected:

The Firefox icon now appears additionally in the dock if you want to keep it permanently in the Dock, you can add it like this:

7. Right-click on the (Firefox) icon:



8. Click on Pin to Dock:

! Proceed equally with any other applications that you want to add to the dock.

= Done.

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This appearance has been achieved and has been applied by the standard equipment of Cinnamon or only recommended by Mint third party sources:



= Done ?

You can take it like it is ...

- or if you want more eye candy then we need to proceed with stuff from external sources now.

We leave therefore the Mint provided way of dealing with Cinnamon, but don't worry - the author himself has tested the settings shown below extensively over a prolonged period and found virtually no problems with it.

If you do not like the settings later, you can also always return to the default setting.

The following items will be installed from other sources:

A) [Additional Themes](#) :

Varied = available through direct download from the author own Dropbox*

B) (Optional) [Additional Desktop Wallpapers](#) - recommend :

Varied = available through direct download from the author own Dropbox*

C) [Additional File Manager](#) :

Marlin = available by adding an additional repository and installation via terminal

* = Unfortunately sometimes disappear themes from the Mint sources for an unknown reason - but fortunately, the author has saved these files before.

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A) Download Additional Themes :

Warning:



Do NOT download and install Mac4Lin in full or the Macbuntu Transformation Pack - on Mint 17.x - these are outdated and not compatible anymore and would lead to irreparable problems in your system.

Note: This is a proven choice that works without problems:

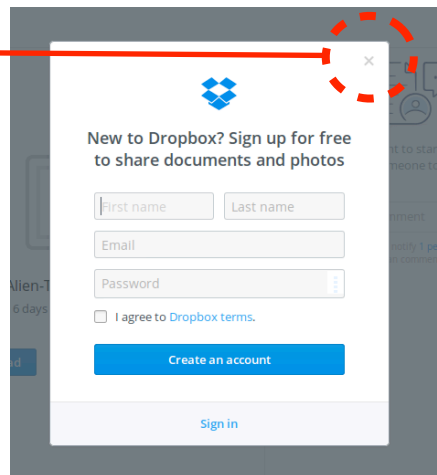


You can download it from the DropBox of the author:

[Download - Alien-Themes.tar.gz](#)

= When arrived at download source:

1. Ignore the welcome screen and close it:



The main window comes to the foreground now:

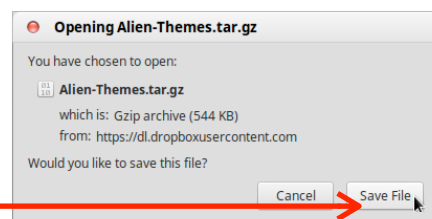


Alien-Themes.tar.gz
6 days ago · 543.72 KB

2. Then click on the download button:

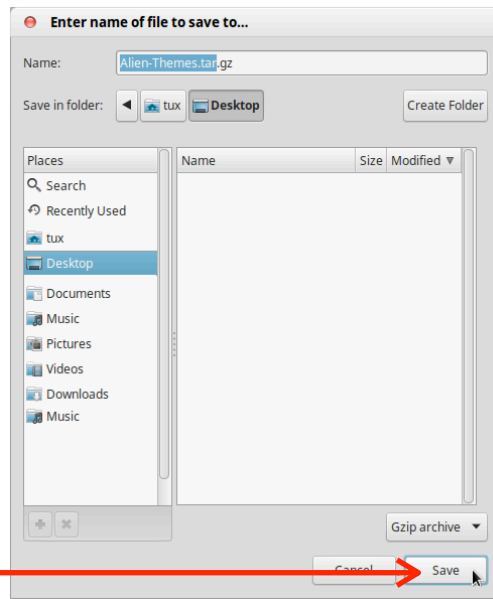


3. The download dialog window appears, click on Save File:



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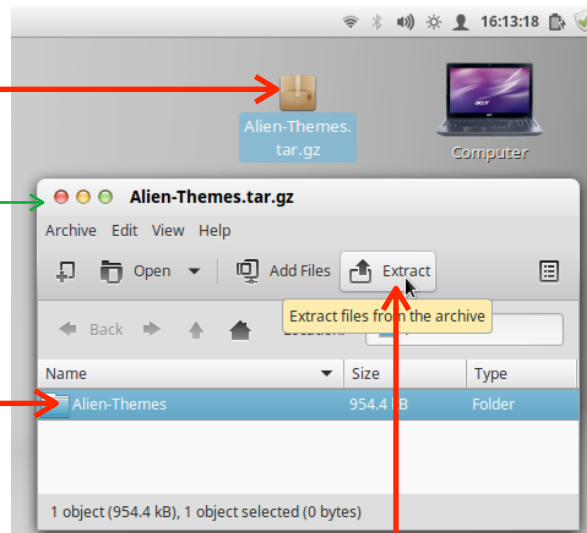
= The Save dialog window appears:



4. Choose a destination.
Desktop is recommended;
click on Save: ○

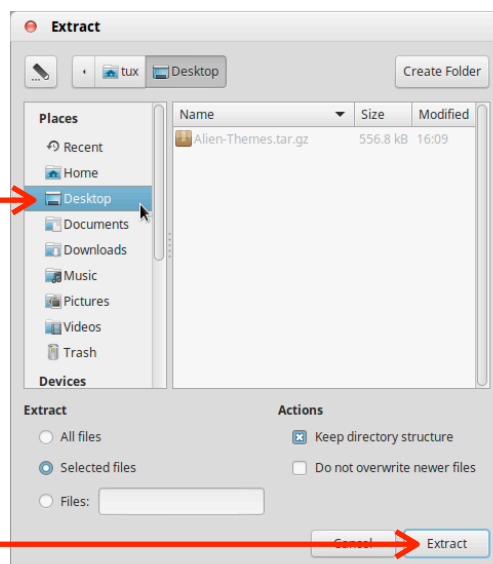
= The archive appear on desktop
and needs to be unpacked now:

1. Double-click: ○
- = Archive Manager is started
and ready for action: ○



2. Click on Alien-Themes
until it is highlighted: ○
3. Click on Extract: ○

=
The Extract dialog window appears:

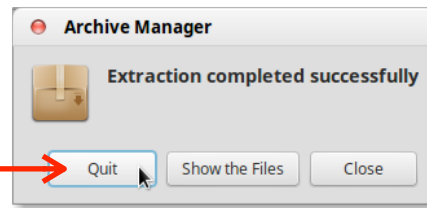


4. Select Desktop: ○
5. Click on Extract: ○

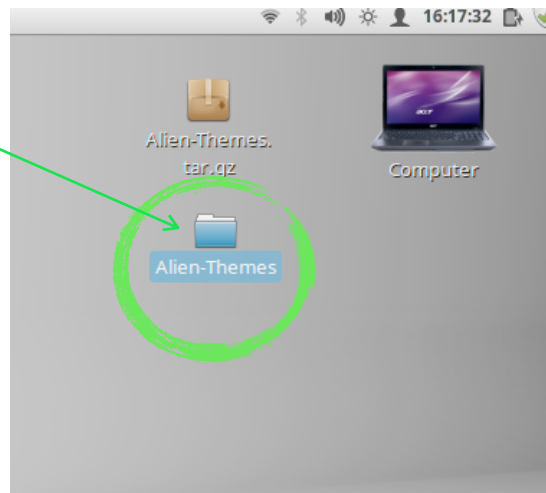
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5. Click on Quit:



= The Alien-Themes folder is unpacked on your desktop now:



B) Download Additional Desktop Wallpapers :

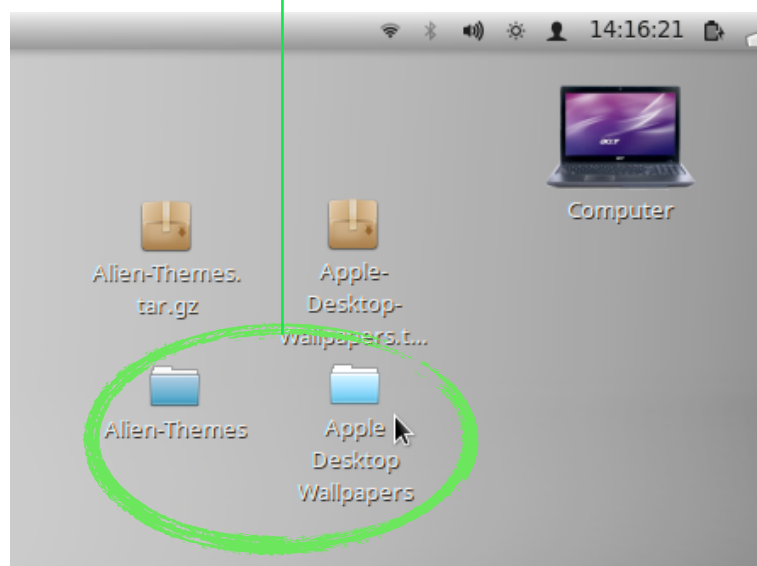
If you've just no cool wallpapers, you can download and take this first:
You can download it from the DropBox of the author:

1. Download here:

[Download - Apple-Desktop-Wallpapers.tar.gz](#)

2. [Proceed the same way as described above in "Additional Themes"](#) .

Then you should have the result as shown:



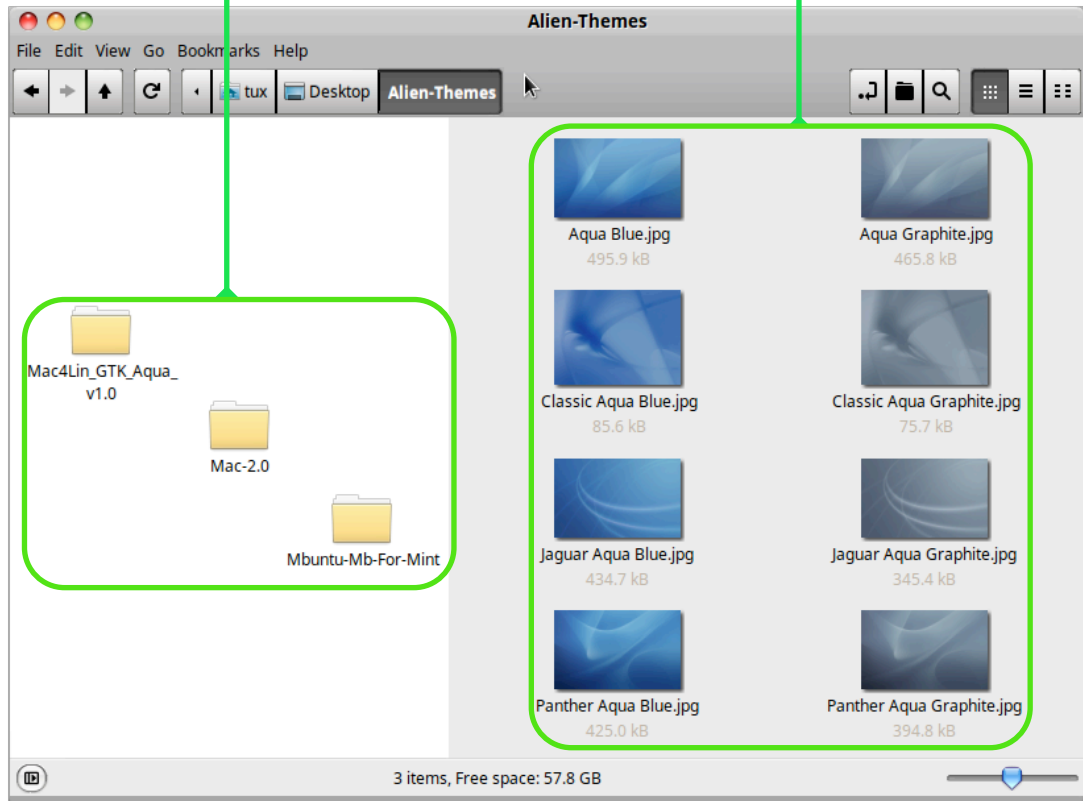
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Check your downloaded files:

That's what has been downloaded and should be visible in the folders:

„Alien-Themes“ folder content: & „Apple Desktop Wallpapers“ folder content:



= Done.

Next: **Creating a file storage at a particular location** (Folder: „Appearance“)
for icons and other things to customize the design of appearance.

Now it's time to create a specific folder to contain the extra images and icons.

It has to be on a certain location
and must not be moved or renamed



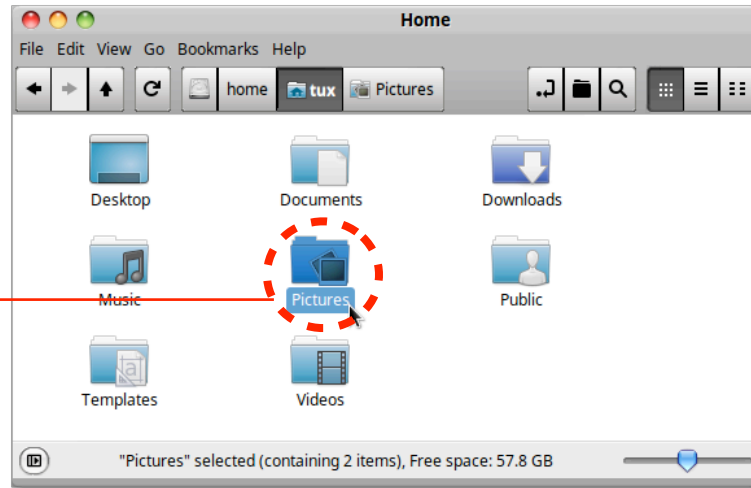
after it contains icons and wallpapers which were already assigned.
This means it also applies to all subfolders and files in this particular folder.

This special folder will be colored in red
and in addition
receive a cautionary emblem.

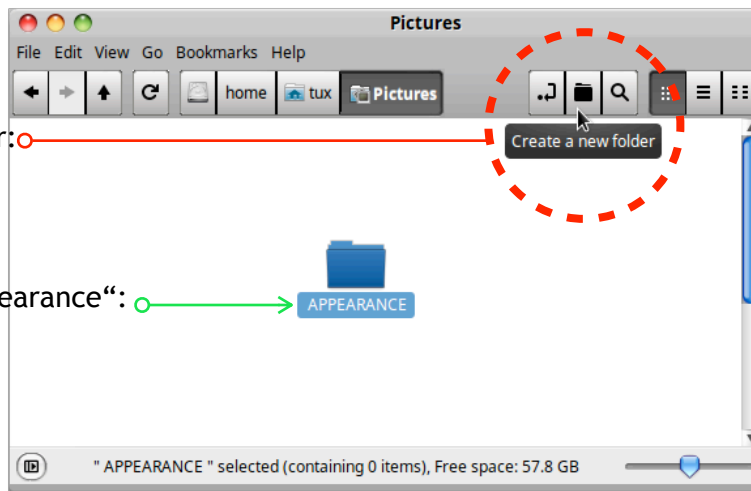
It works like this:

How To: Customize the Linux Mint 17.2 appearance for the real look and feel like Mac

1. Open „Files“:

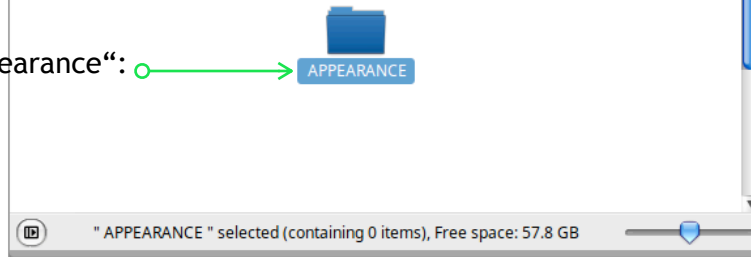


2. Open Pictures:

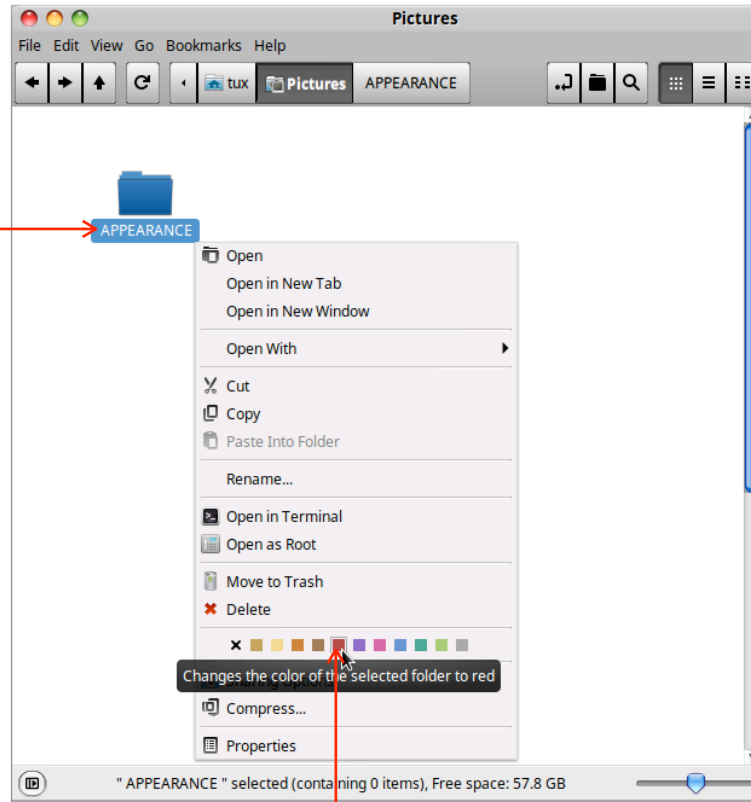


3. Create a new folder:

4. Name it (e.g.) „Appearance“:



5. Right-click on it:

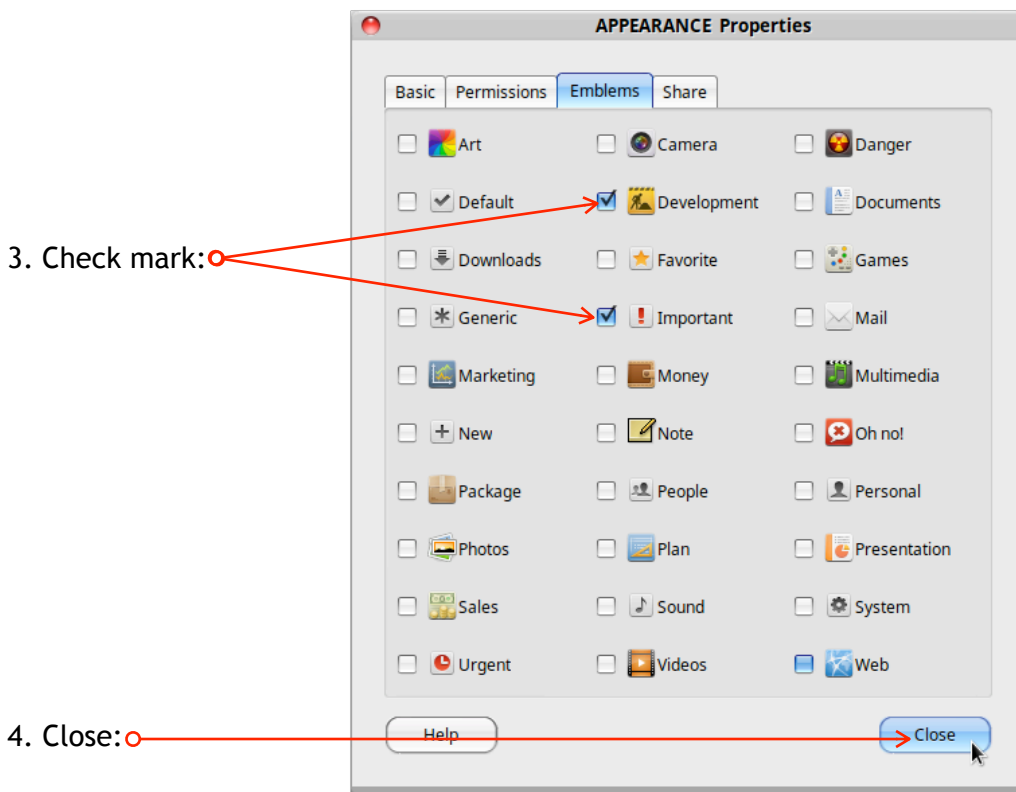
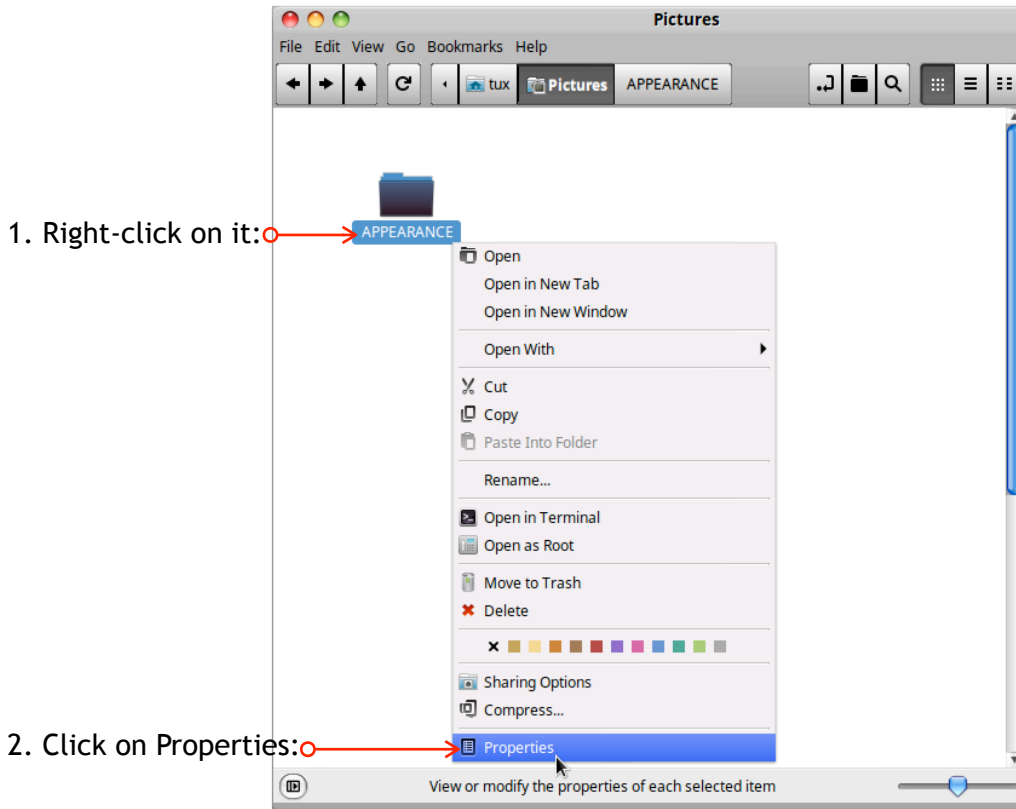


6. Click on red:

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The folder is red now.

Next: Adding an emblem to the folder:

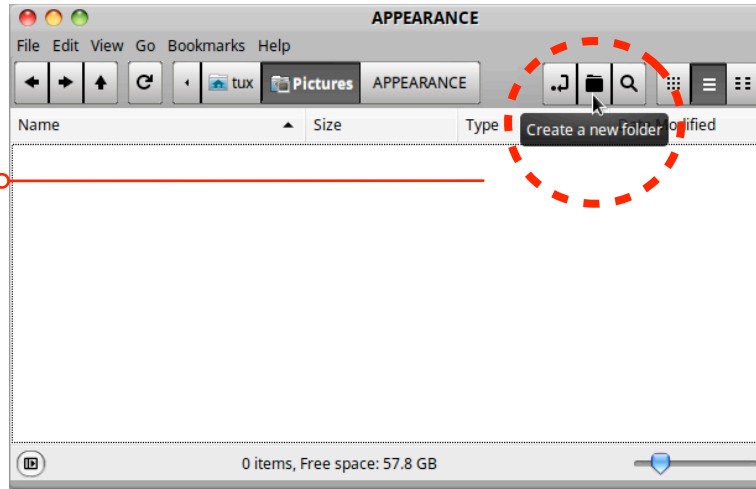


The folder „Appearance“ is red and has two emblems now.

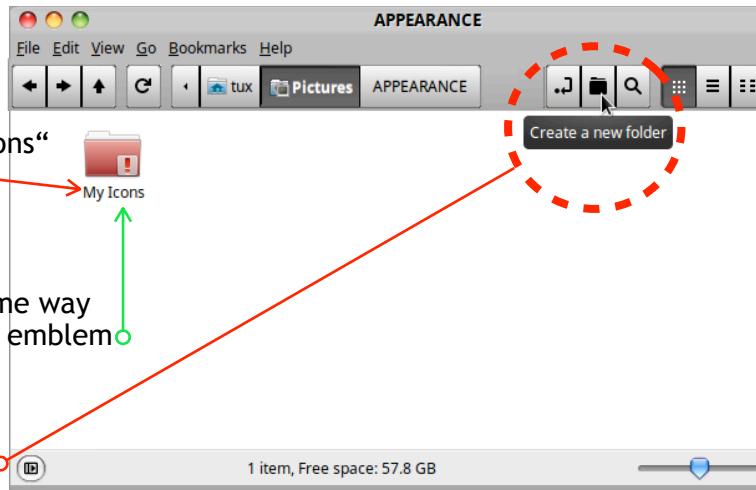
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Next: Create subfolders in „Appearance“ ; „My Icons“ & „My Wallpapers“ :

1. Open the folder „Appearance“ =



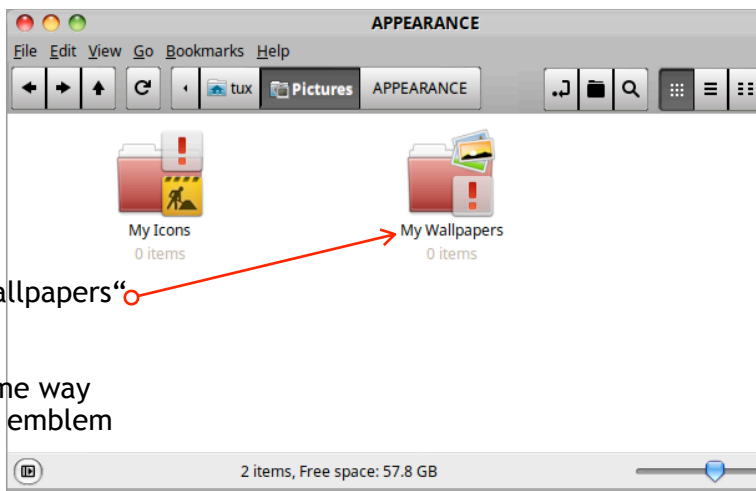
2. Create a new folder:○



3. Name it (e.g.) „My Icons“

Then proceed the same way with folder color and emblem as described above.

4. Create a new folder:○



5. Name it (e.g.) „My Wallpapers“○

Then proceed the same way with folder color and emblem as described above.

= Done.

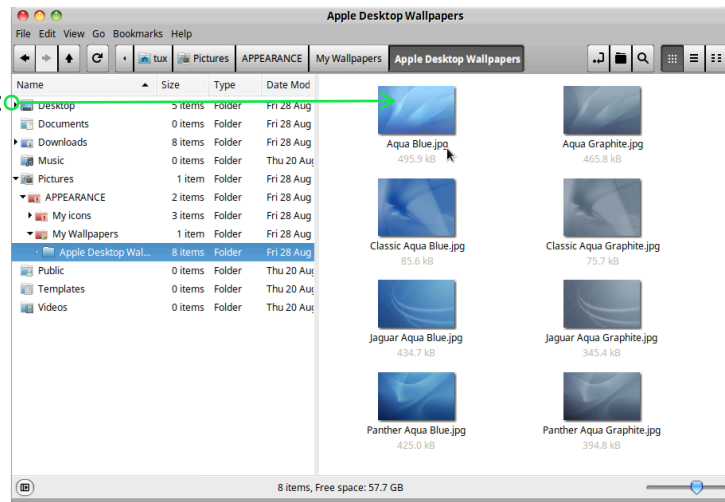
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Next: Customizing the desktop background with the downloaded files (Wallpapers)

1. Move the „Apple Desktop Wallpapers“ folder into the „My Wallpapers“ folder:



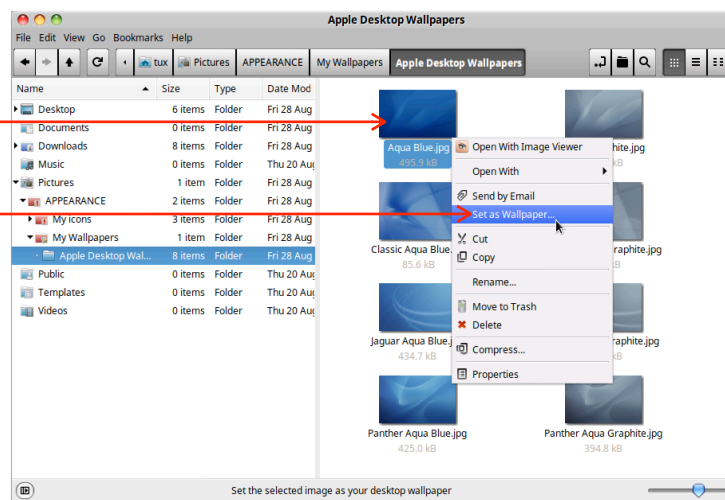
2. Open the „Apple Desktop Wallpapers“ folder:



3. Choose any wallpaper from it:

4. Right-click on it:

5. Click on Set as Wallpaper:




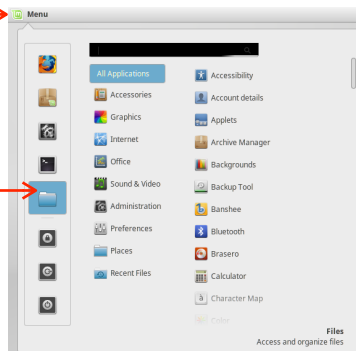
= Done.

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Next: Customizing the appearance with the downloaded files (Themes)

1. Go to Menu: 

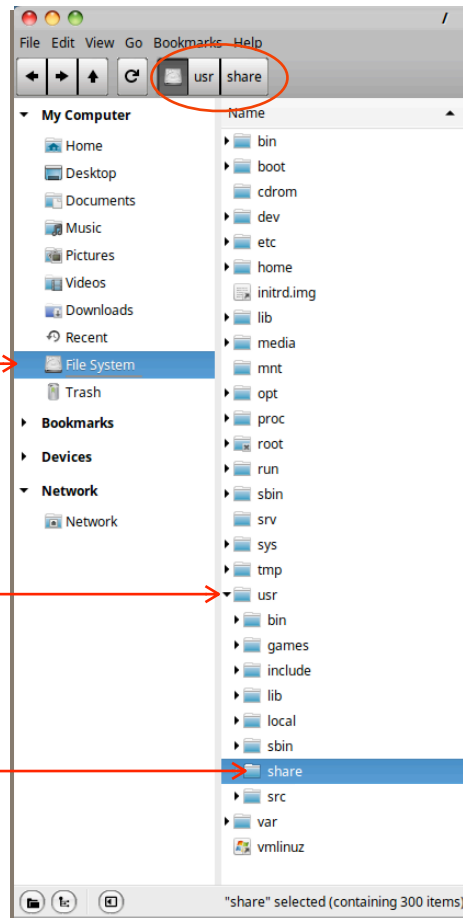



2. Click on Files: 

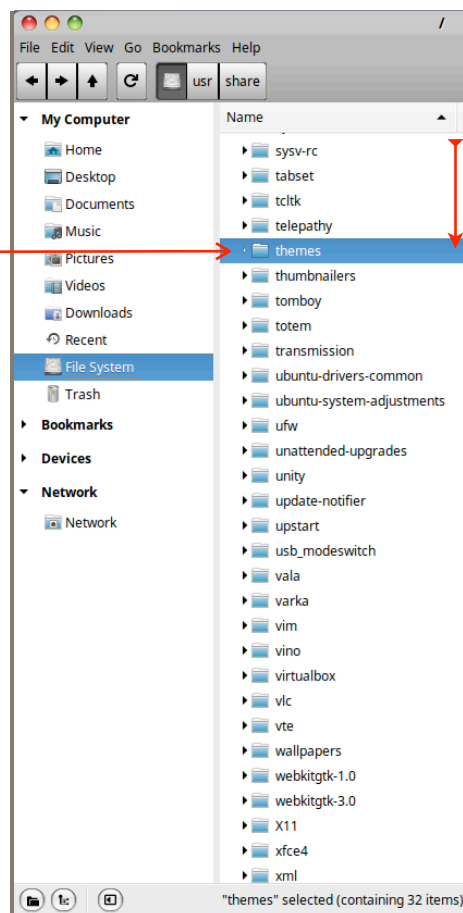
3. Click on File System: 

4. Open the *usr* folder as shown: 

5. Double-click on *share* : 



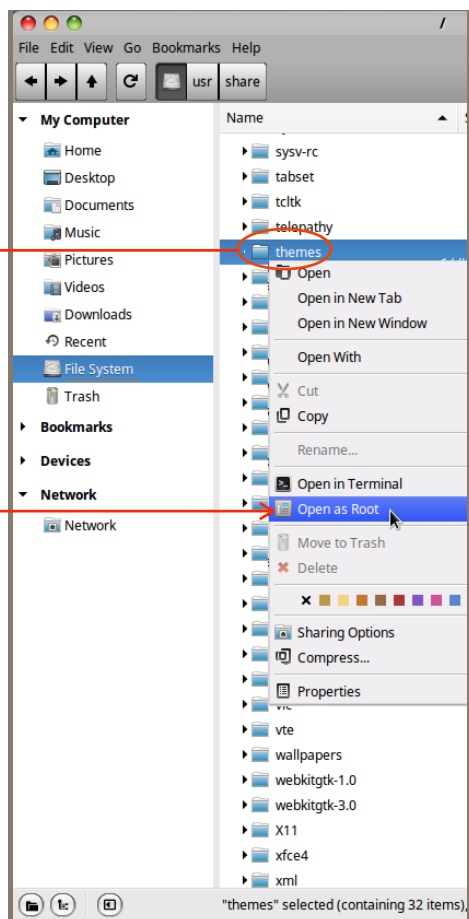
6. Scroll down to *themes* : 



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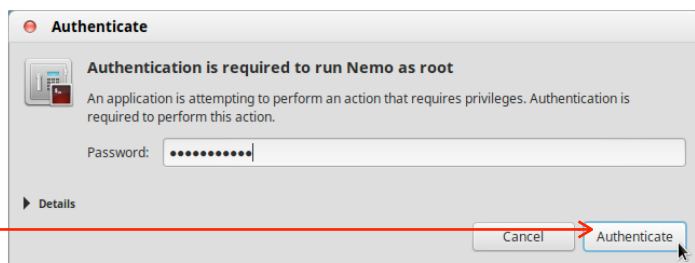
7. Right-click on *themes* :



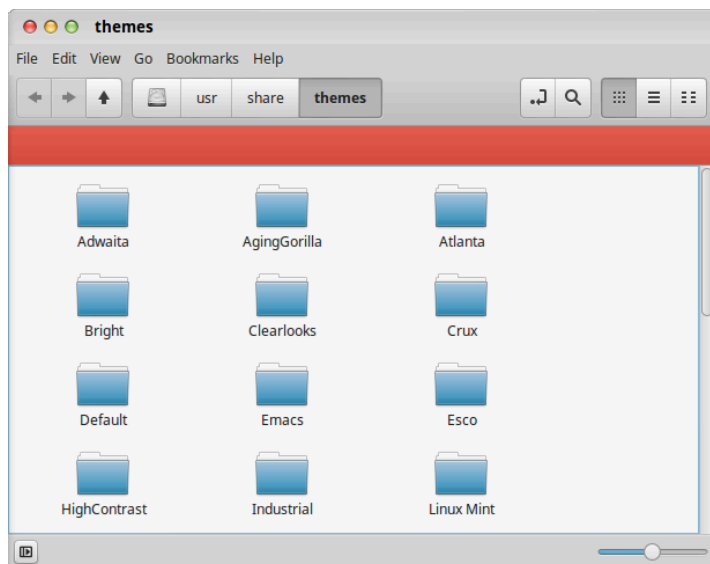
8. Click on *Open as Root* :

=

9. Enter your password and click:

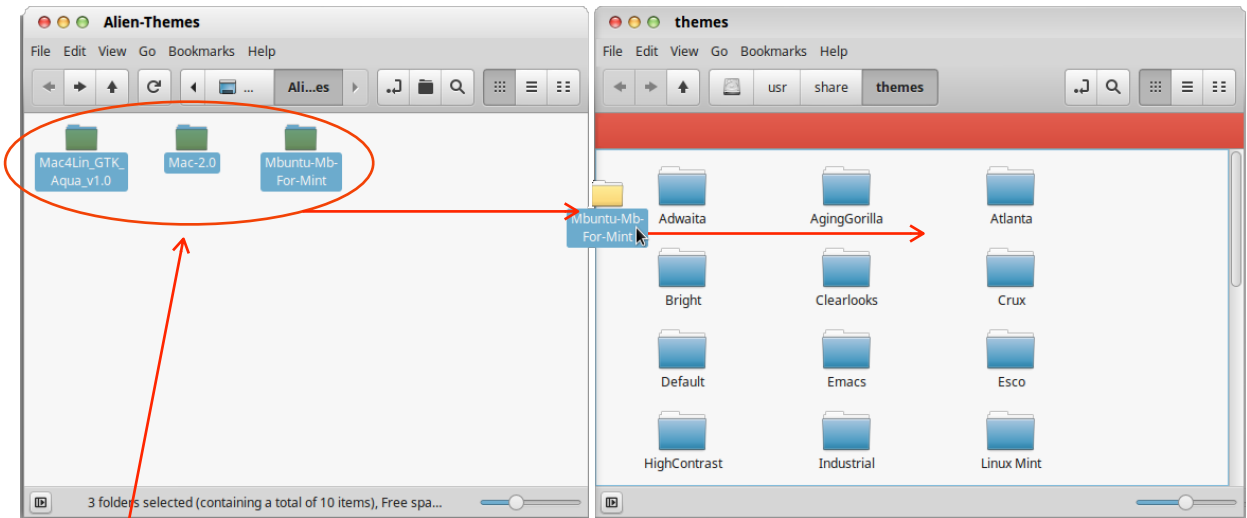


= The window *themes* opens in administrator mode now:



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10. Open the previously downloaded folder „Alien-Themes“.



11. Drag & drop the content into the themes folder as shown above:

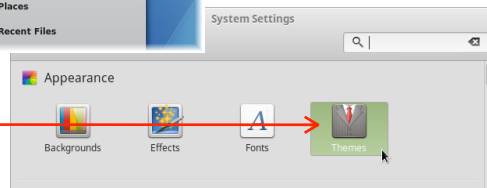
When these operations are completed close all windows.

Next: Activate the newly installed themes

1. Go to Menu:

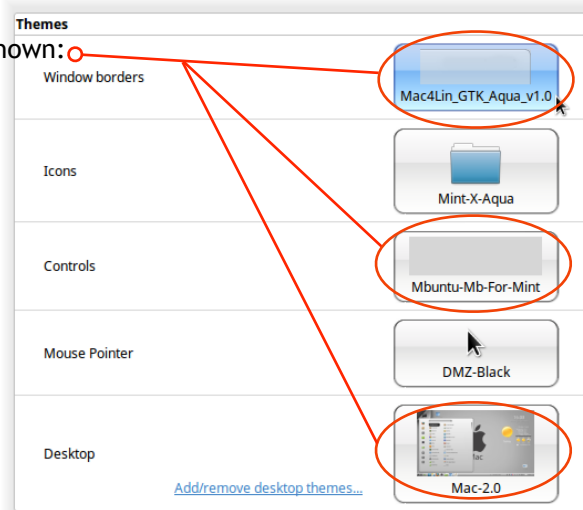


2. Click on System Settings:



3. Click on Themes:

4. Change the settings as shown:



= Done.

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Next:

C) Installation of an Additional File Manager : [Marlin 0.1](#)

Features:
Tabbed browsing, Multiple-views
Configurable toolbars and interface
Plugin framework, networking support:
(SSH, FTP, Windows share, HTTP and HTTPS)
single click (default)/double click to open file and Many More



Marlin must be installed with the Terminal.

Note:

When installing a new ppa will be added.

[This PPA will be removed](#) manually after installation since it is then no longer needed.

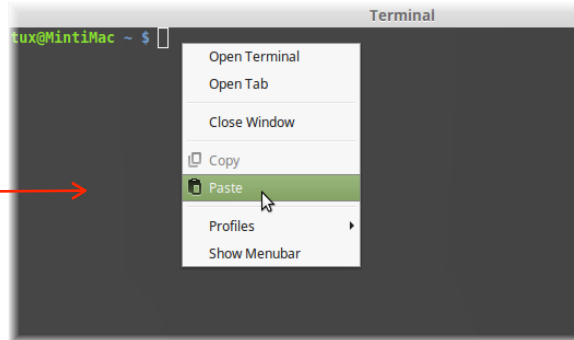
! To copy & paste do the right-click method using the mouse !

Install:

1. Open the Terminal from Menu -
and copy the whole line from here:

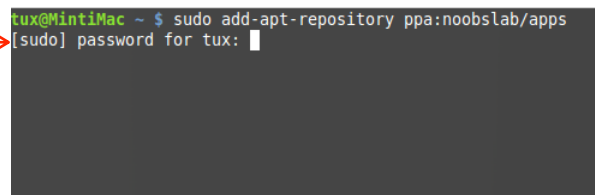
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:noobslab/apps

2. Paste it into the Terminal window
(right-click into the Terminal window)



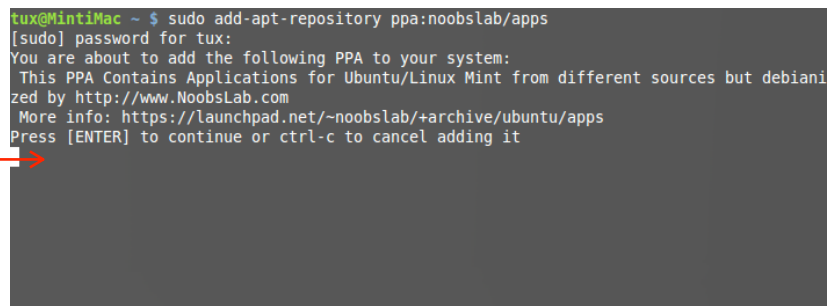
(Note: The admin name here is tux and the machine name is MINTIMAC -
in your Terminal your own names be shown)

3. Enter your (admin-) password



(Note: Do not get confused -
The entry of the password remains completely invisible)

4. press Enter

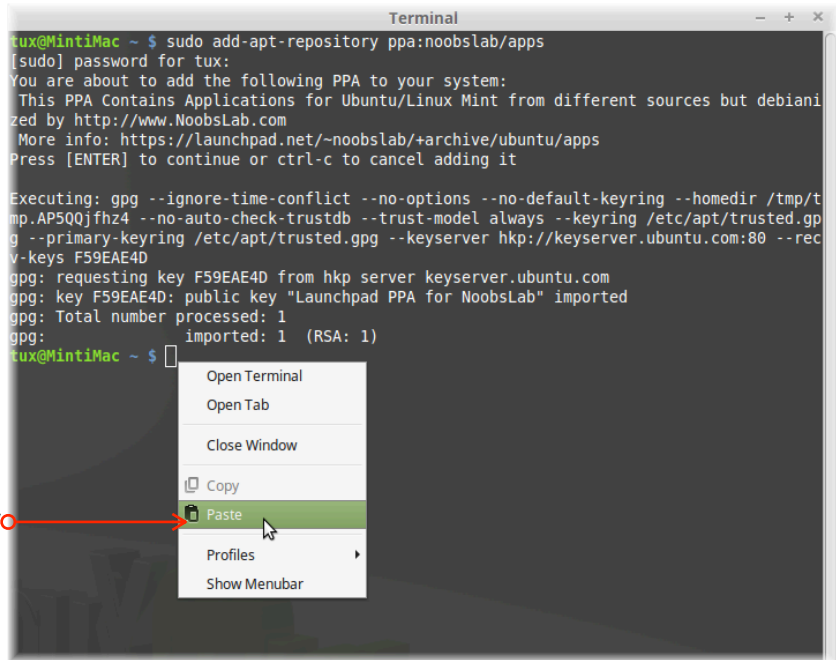


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5. Copy the whole line from here:

sudo apt-get update

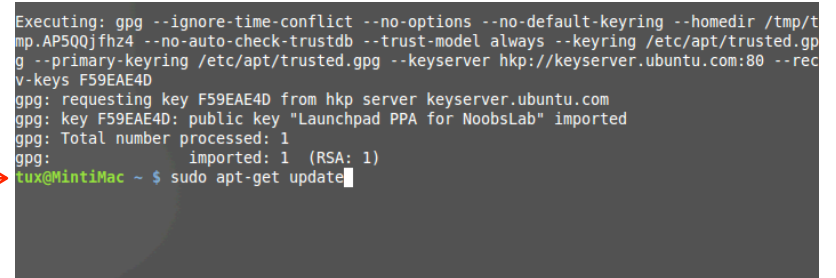
6. Paste it into the Terminal window



```
tux@MintiMac ~ $ sudo add-apt-repository ppa:noobslab/apps
[sudo] password for tux:
You are about to add the following PPA to your system:
This PPA Contains Applications for Ubuntu/Linux Mint from different sources but debiani
zed by http://www.NoobsLab.com
More info: https://launchpad.net/~noobslab/+archive/ubuntu/apps
Press [ENTER] to continue or ctrl-c to cancel adding it

Executing: gpg --ignore-time-conflict --no-options --no-default-keyring --homedir /tmp/t
mp.AP50Qjfhz4 --no-auto-check-trustdb --trust-model always --keyring /etc/apt/trusted.gp
g --primary-keyring /etc/apt/trusted.gpg --keyserver hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80 --rec
v-keys F59EAE4D
gpg: requesting key F59EAE4D from hkp server keyserver.ubuntu.com
gpg: key F59EAE4D: public key "Launchpad PPA for NoobsLab" imported
gpg: Total number processed: 1
gpg:      imported: 1 (RSA: 1)
tux@MintiMac ~ $
```

7. press Enter

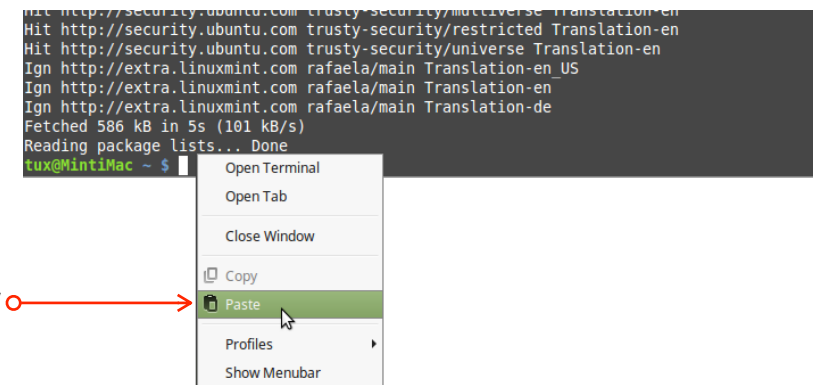


```
tux@MintiMac ~ $ sudo apt-get update
```

8. Copy the whole line from here:

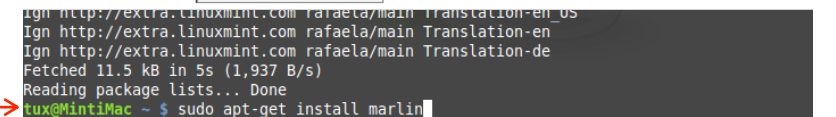
sudo apt-get install marlin

9. Paste it into the Terminal window



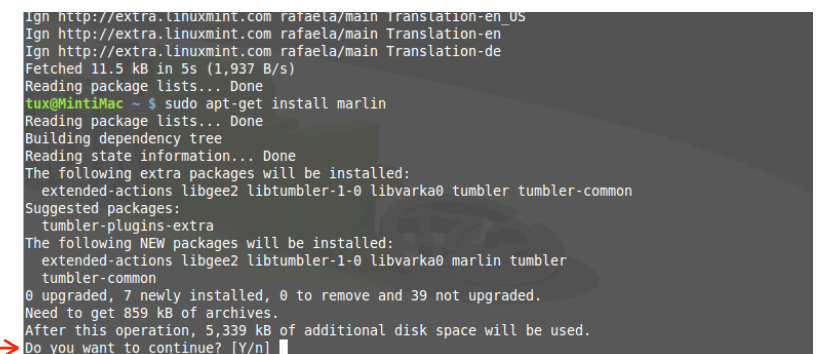
```
tux@MintiMac ~ $ sudo apt-get install marlin
```

10. press Enter



```
tux@MintiMac ~ $ sudo apt-get install marlin
```

11. press Enter



```
tux@MintiMac ~ $ sudo apt-get install marlin
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
  extended-actions libgee2 libtumbler-1-0 libvarka0 tumbler tumbler-common
Suggested packages:
  tumbler-plugins-extra
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  extended-actions libgee2 libtumbler-1-0 libvarka0 marlin tumbler
  tumbler-common
0 upgraded, 7 newly installed, 0 to remove and 39 not upgraded.
Need to get 859 kB of archives.
After this operation, 5,339 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```

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```
unpacking extended-actions (0.1-0-6-trusty) ...
Selecting previously unselected package marlin.
Preparing to unpack ../marlin_0.1-0-887-trusty-NoobsLab.com_i386.deb ...
Unpacking marlin (0.1-0-887-trusty-NoobsLab.com) ...
Processing triggers for gnome-menus (3.10.1-0ubuntu2) ...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.22-1ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for mime-support (3.54ubuntu1.1) ...
Processing triggers for libgl1-mesa-dev:amd64 (10.0.7-0ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for libgl1-mesa-glx:amd64 (10.0.7-0ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for libcolor-icon-theme (0.13-1) ...
Setting up libgee2:i386 (0.6.8-1ubuntu1) ...
Setting up libtumbler-1-0 (0.1.31-1-14.04) ...
Setting up libvarkao (0.1.0-0-16-trusty) ...
Setting up tumbler-common (0.1.31-1-14.04) ...
Setting up tumbler (0.1.31-1-14.04) ...
Setting up extended-actions (0.1-0-6-trusty) ...
Setting up marlin (0.1-0-887-trusty-NoobsLab.com) ...

+++++
|N o o b s L a b . c o m|
+++++

keep visit on www.NoobsLab.com

Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.19-0ubuntu6.6) ...
root@mint:~# exit
```

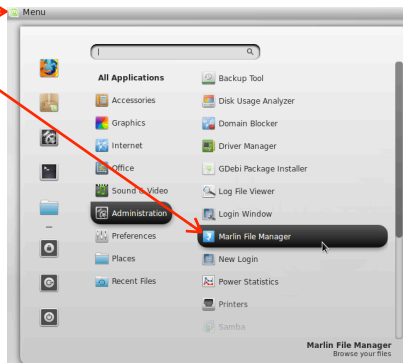
Marlin has been successfully installed.

12. Type `exit` and press `Enter`

= Done.

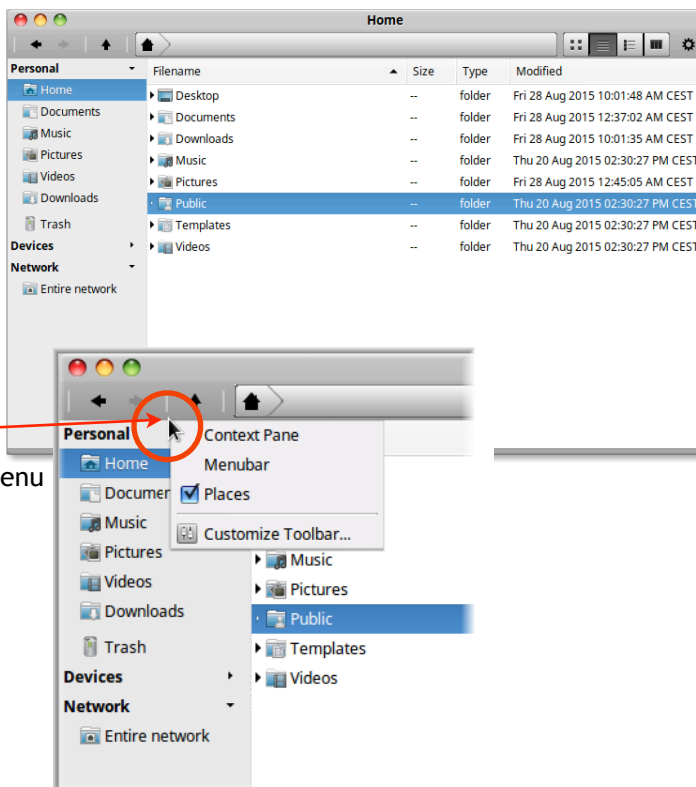
Next: Configure Marlin properly

1. Open Marlin from Menu



=

Marlin starts up with default view:

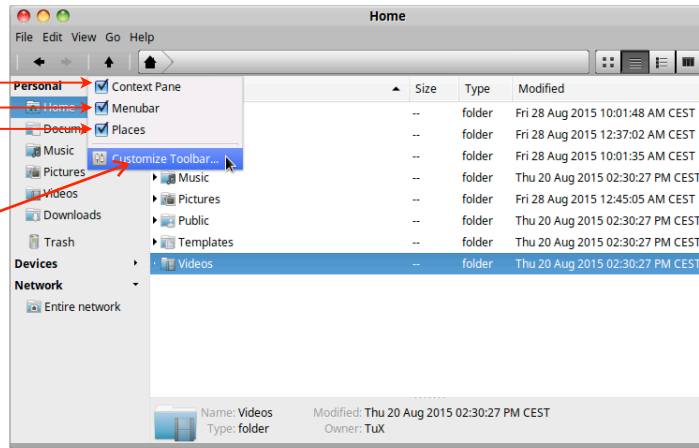


1. Click this very same spot

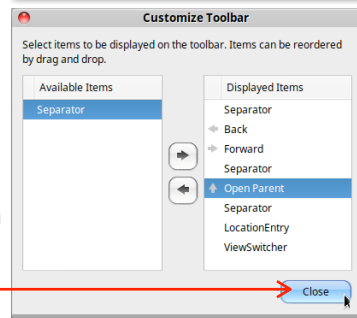
In order to receive the context menu

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2. Check mark all:

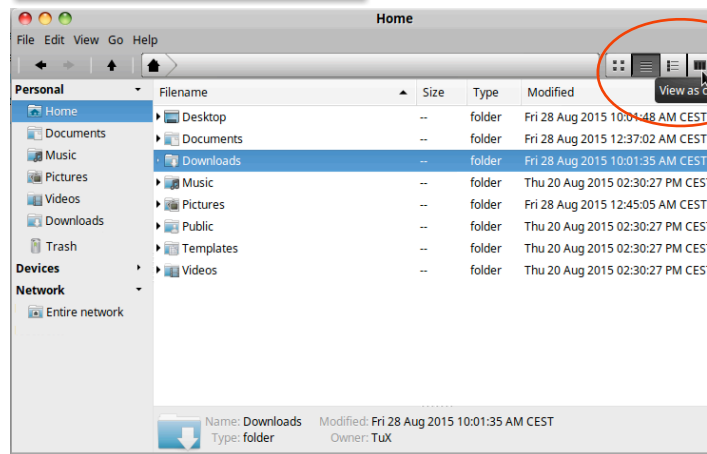


3. Click on Customize Toolbar:



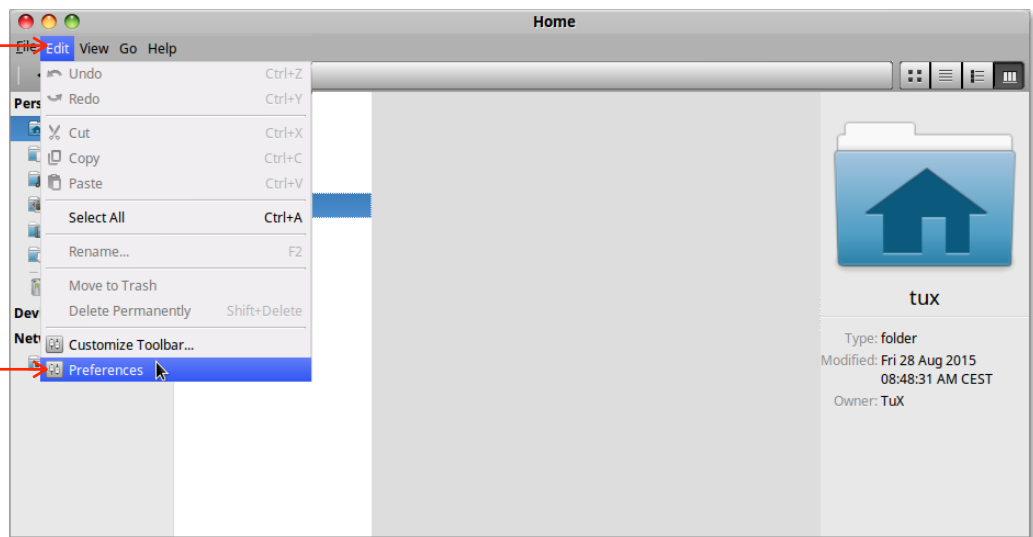
after you apply the settings shown

4. click Close:



5. Click on View as column :

6. Click on Edit:



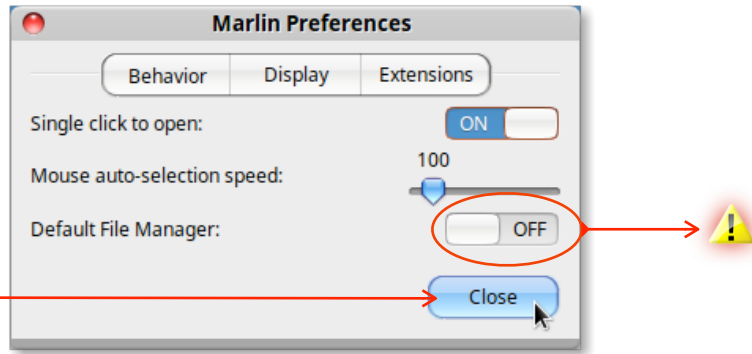
7. Click on Preferences:

=

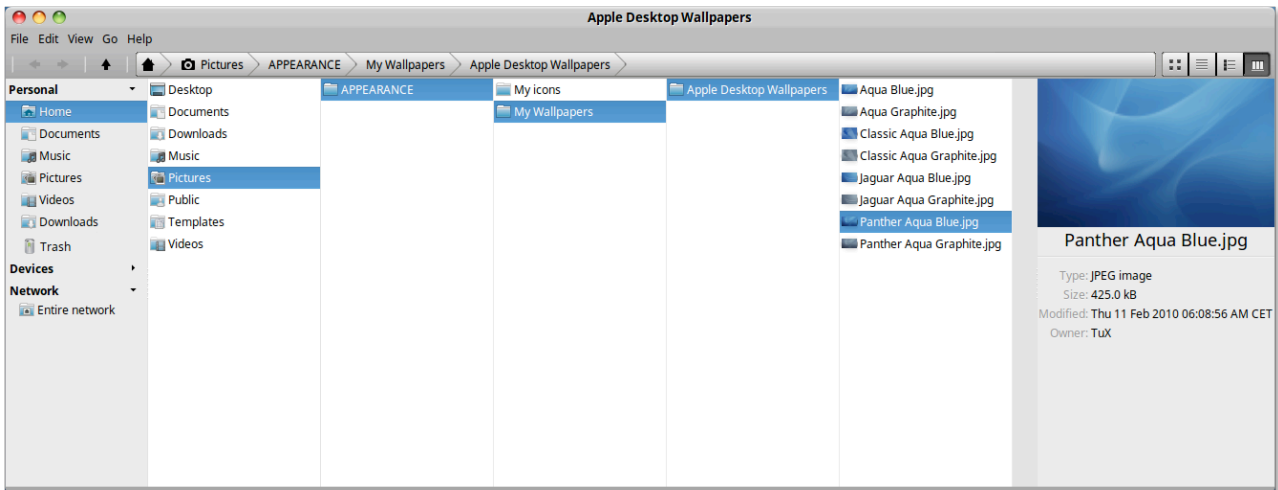
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8. Apply the settings shown:

9. Click on Close:



= Now you can sort and browse all your pics and music files the Maclike way again ...



One more thing:

Remove the obsolete ppa (via Software Manager):

1. Click on Menu:

2. Click on Software Manager:

3. Click on Edit:

4. Click on Software sources:



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5. Click on PPAs: 

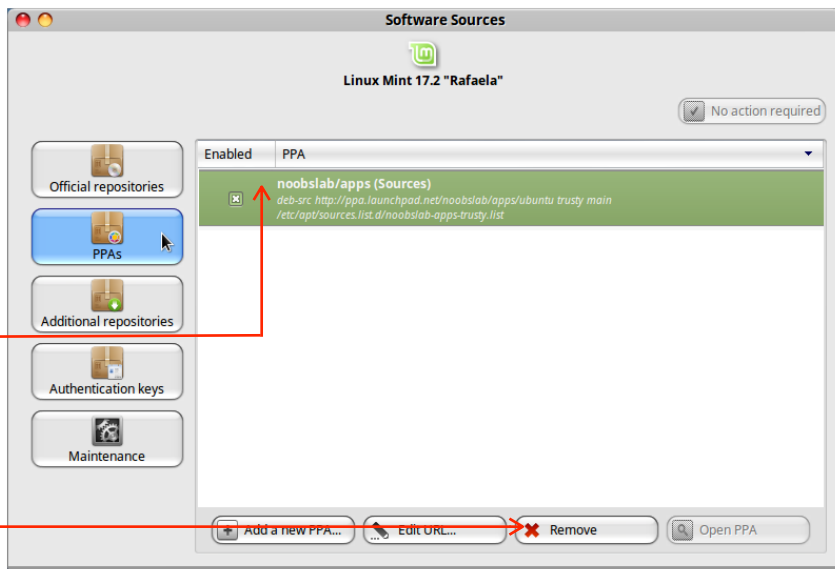
6. Click on *noobslab/apps*: 

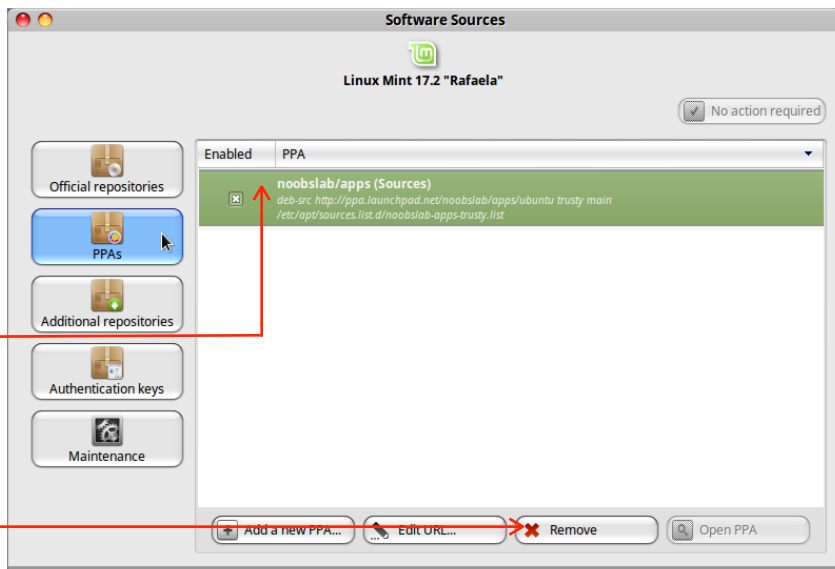
7. Click on Remove: 

The screenshot shows the 'Software Sources' window for Linux Mint 17.2 'Rafaela'. On the left sidebar, the 'PPAs' button is highlighted. In the main area, the 'noobslab/apps' repository is selected. At the bottom, the 'Remove' button is highlighted.

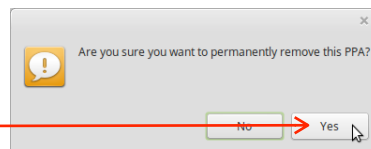
8. Click on Yes: 

The dialog box asks: 'Are you sure you want to permanently remove this PPA?'. The 'Yes' button is highlighted.

9. Click on *noobslab/apps(sources)*: 

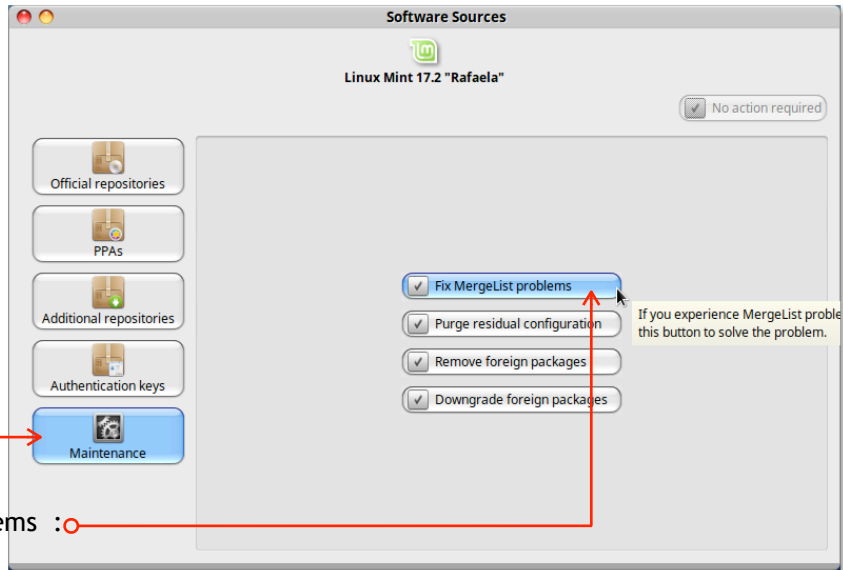
10. Click on Remove: 

The screenshot shows the 'Software Sources' window. The 'noobslab/apps (Sources)' repository is selected in the main area. The 'Remove' button at the bottom is highlighted.

11. Click on Yes: 

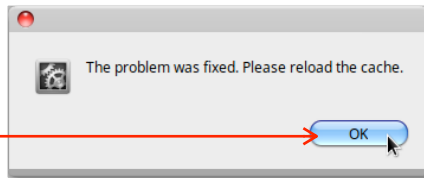
The dialog box asks: 'Are you sure you want to permanently remove this PPA?'. The 'Yes' button is highlighted.

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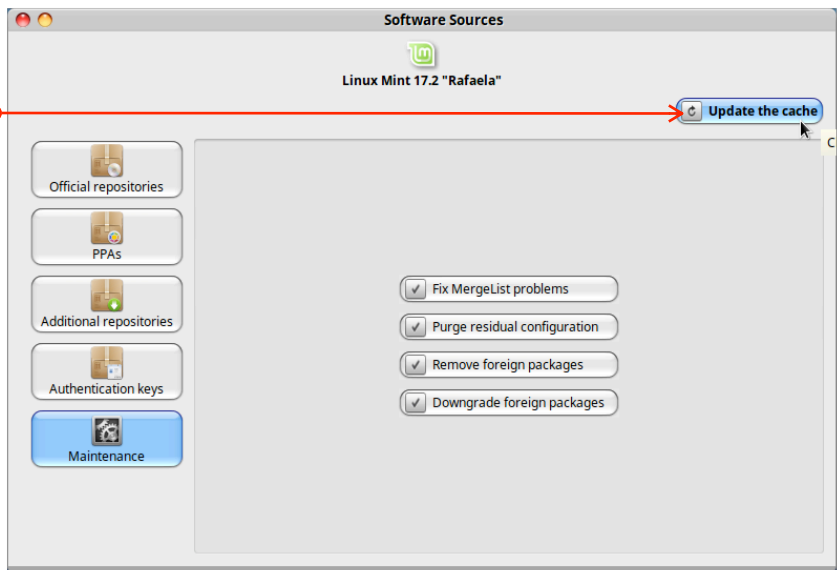
12. Click on Maintenance :

13. Click on Fix MergeList problems :

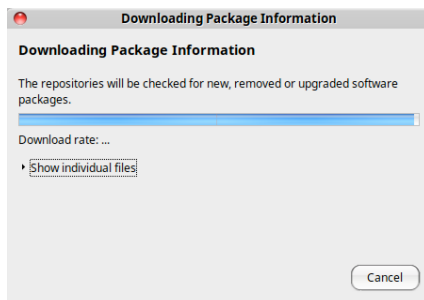


14. Click on OK :

15. Click on Update the cache :



=



16. Close all windows..

= Done.

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Next:

Create/Use own icons and install them :

When you come from the Mac -
of course ... you want icons.



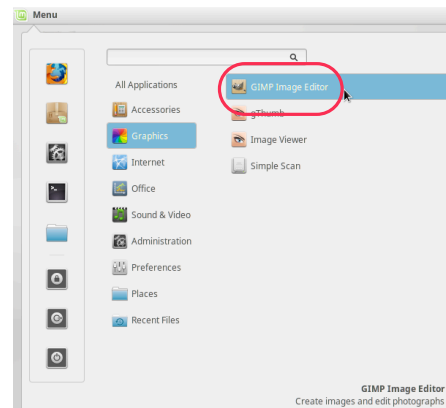
In this example it is shown how to create and use an arbitrary icon.
Here is an icon for the Acer Aspire 57xx notebook is needed:



Method:

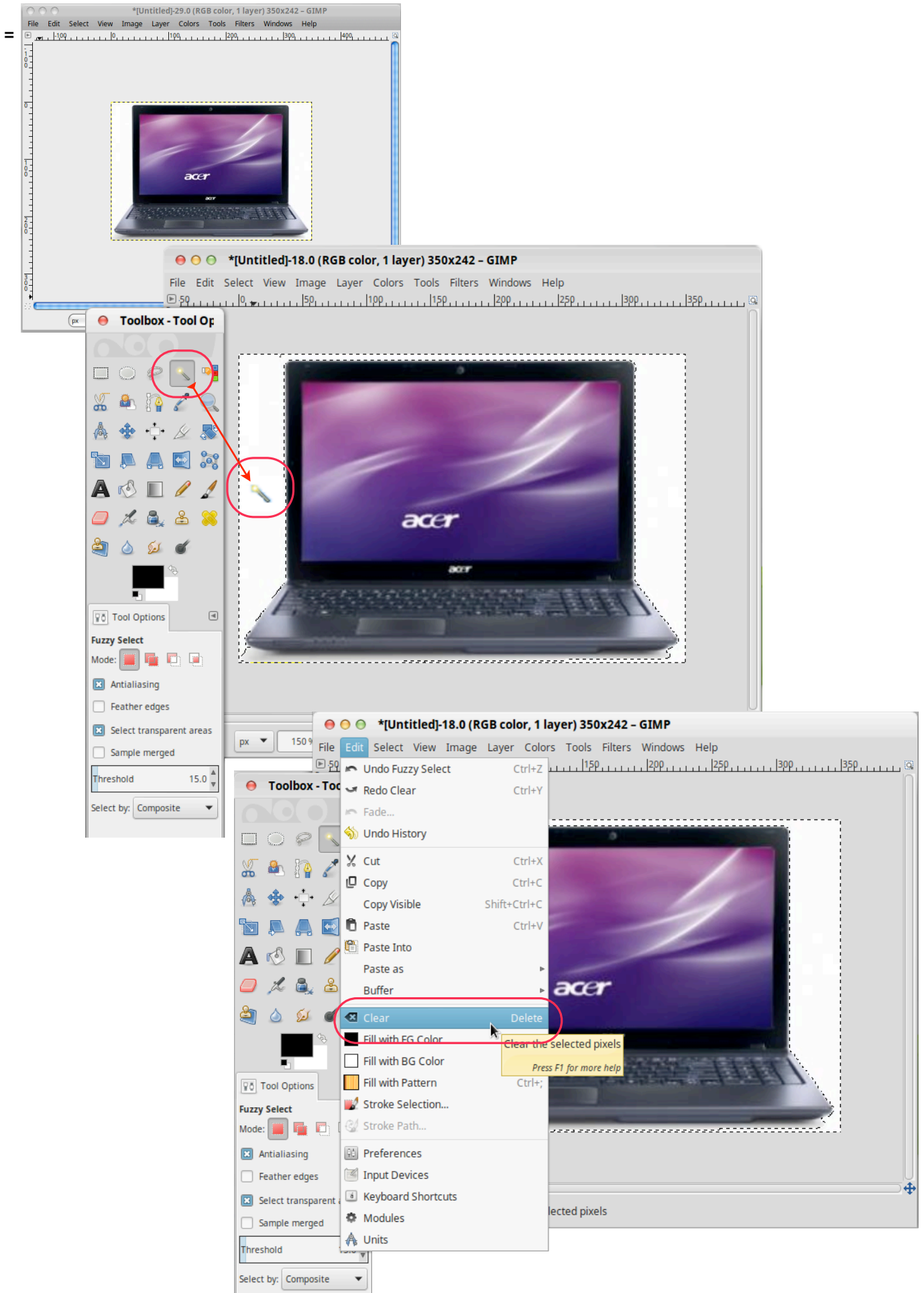
Search on the Internet a symbol illustration that is already
isolated on a plain background. This saves time and labor.

Just follow the illustrated instructions, it is self-explanatory:



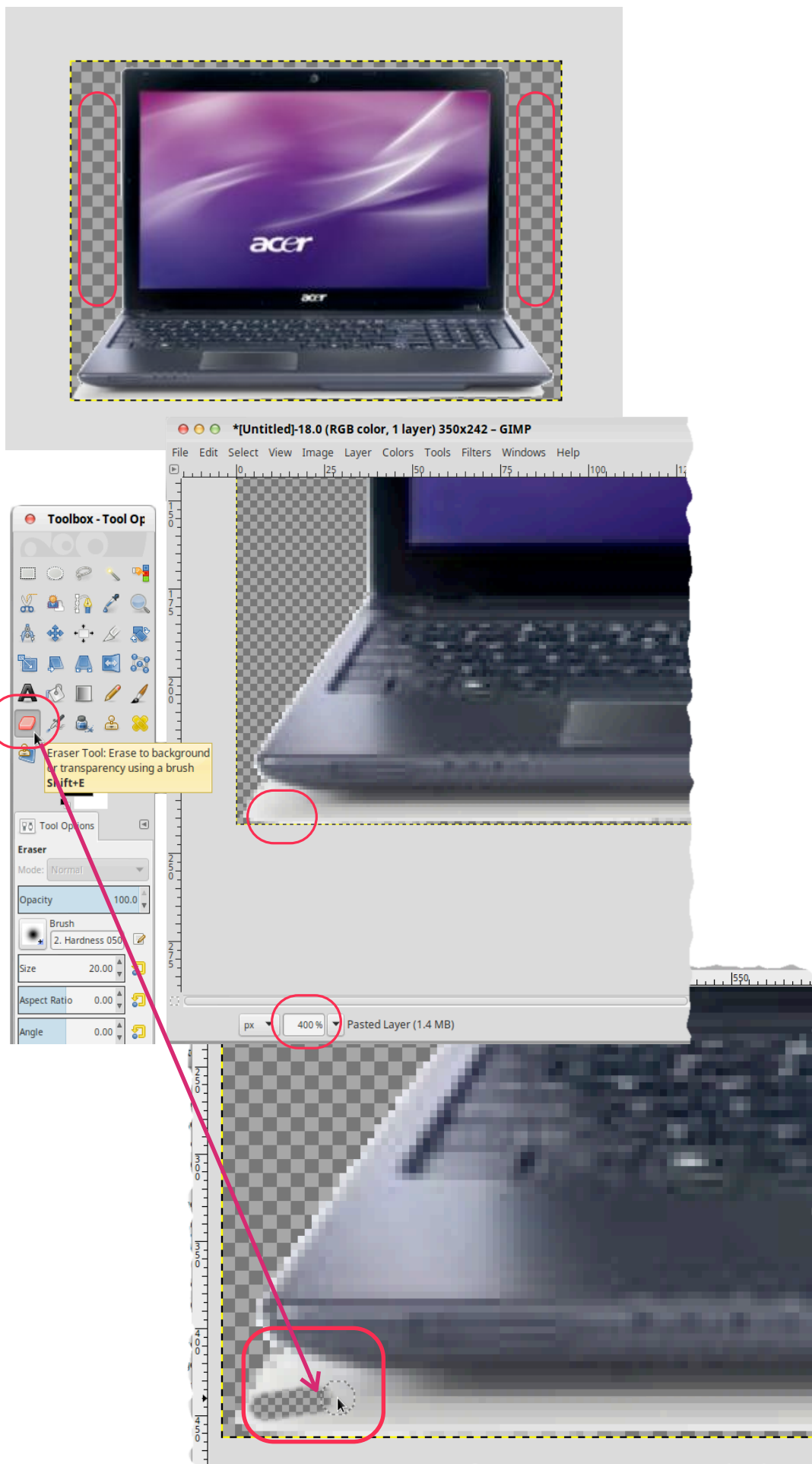
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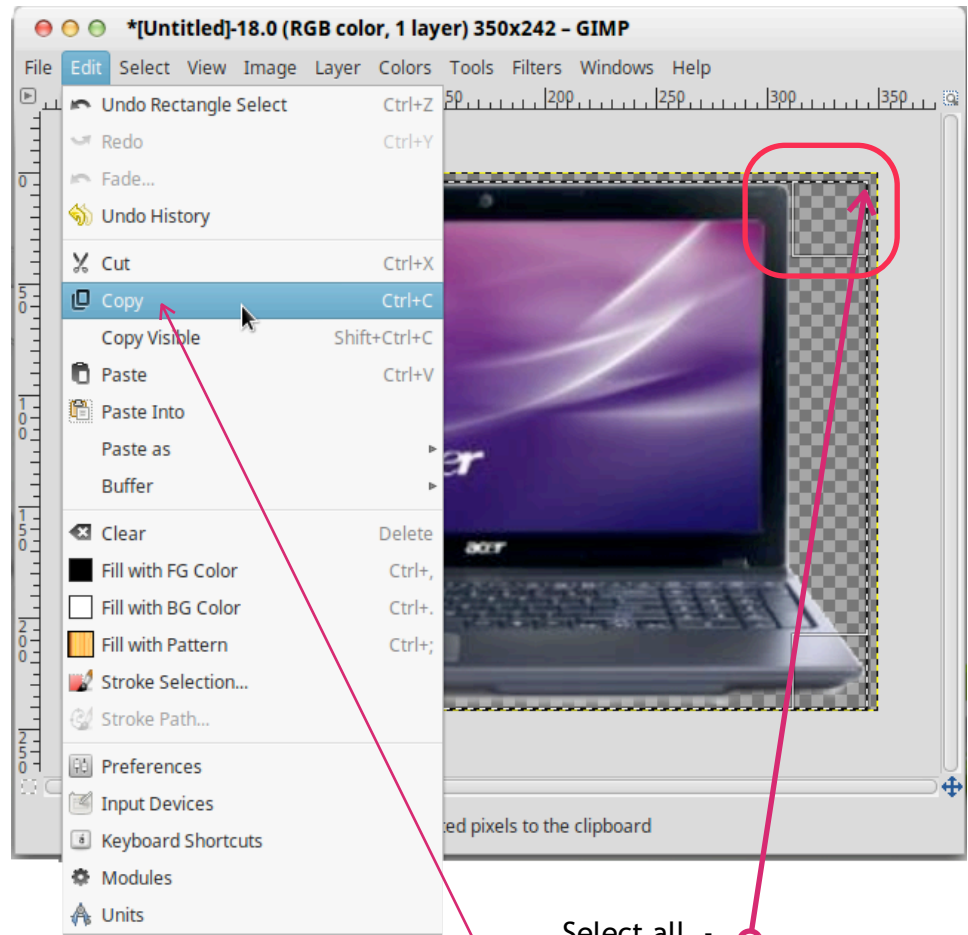
=



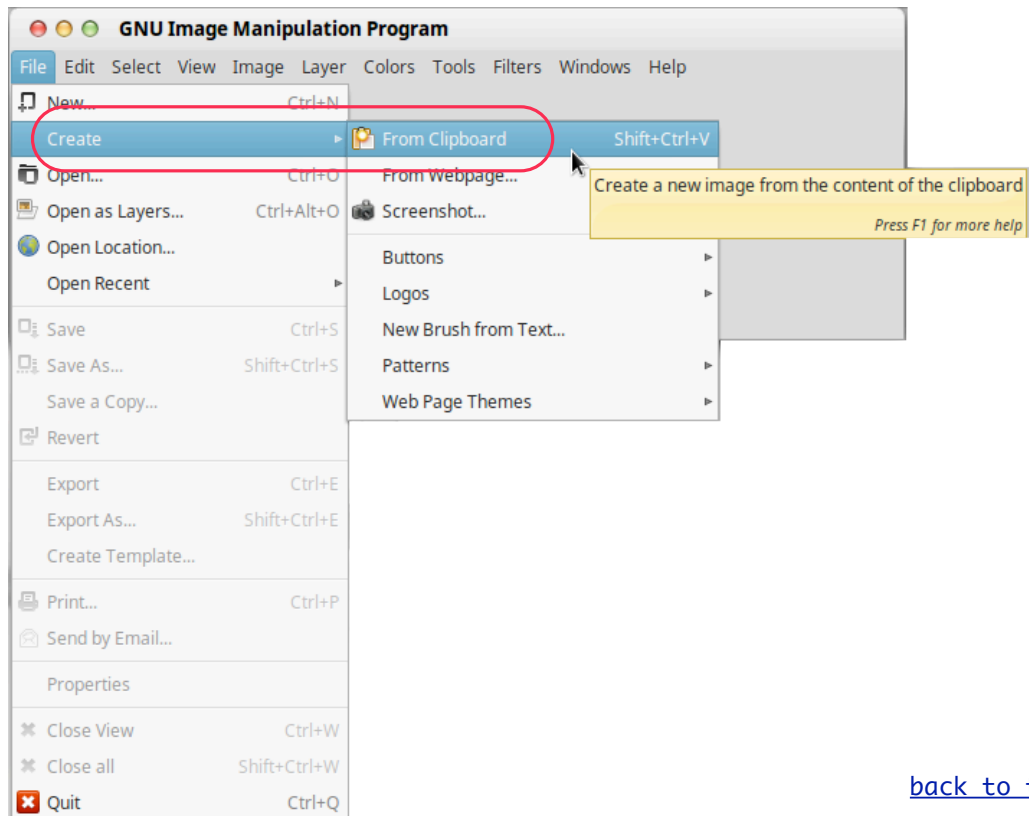
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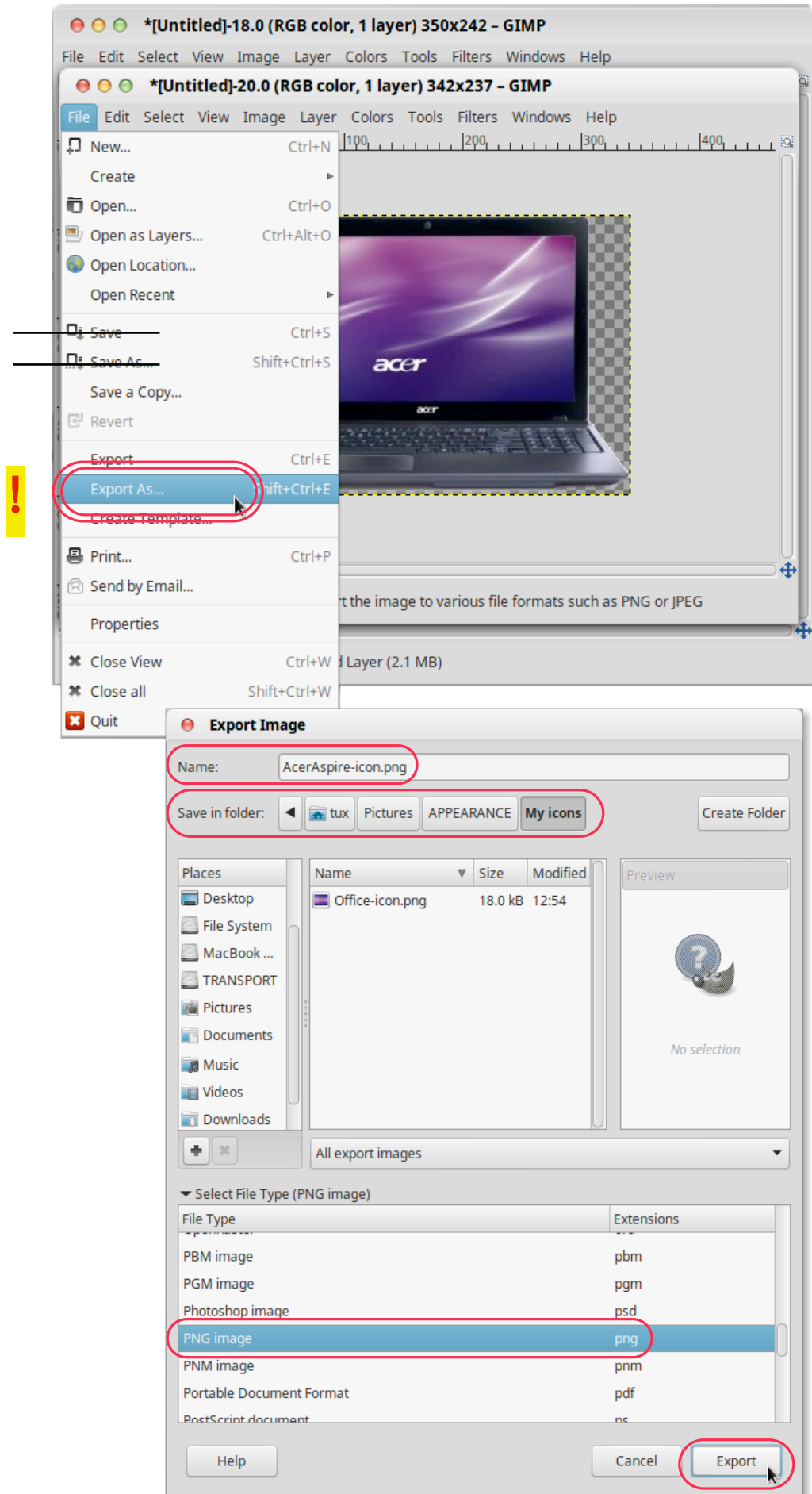
Select all -
or make a selection
with rectangle tool -
then Copy



[back to top](#)

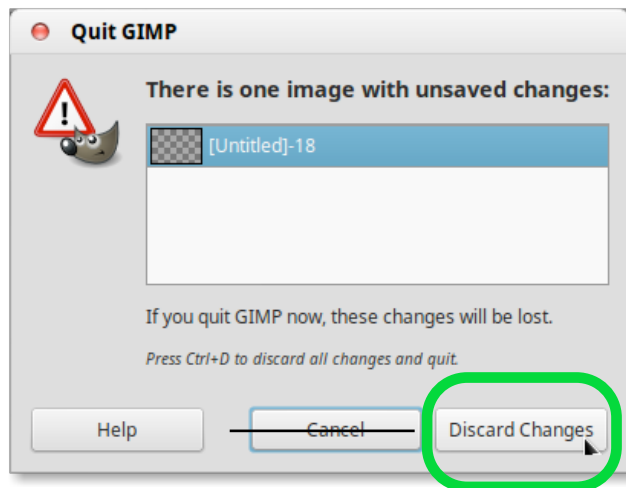
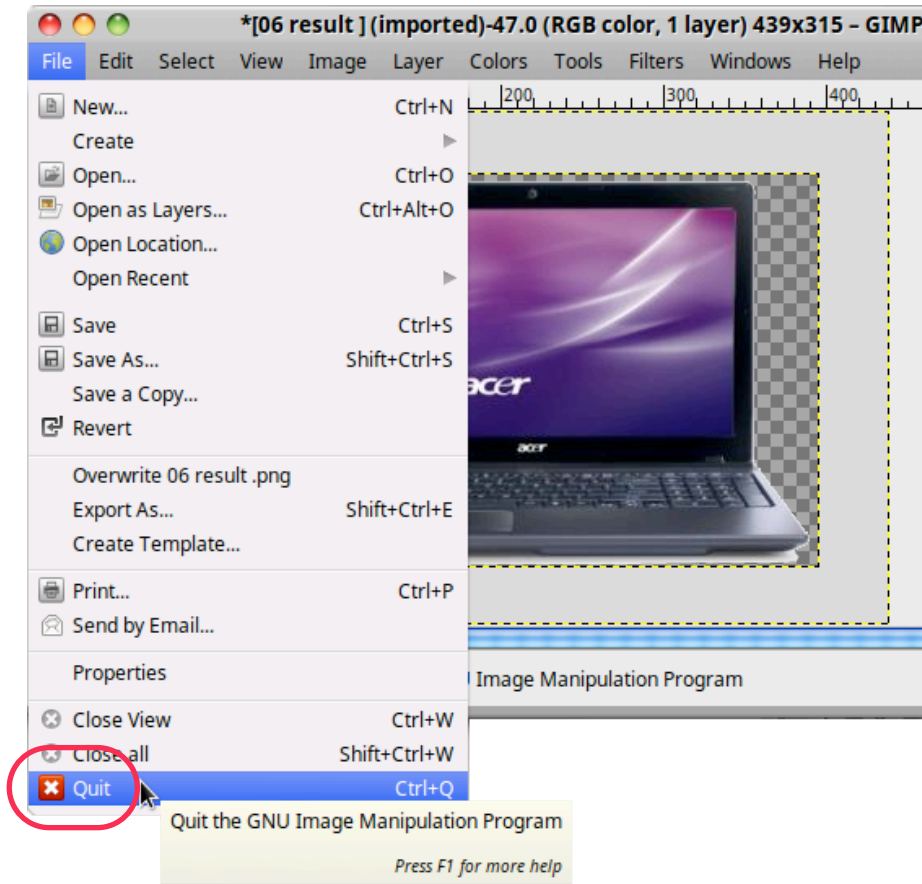
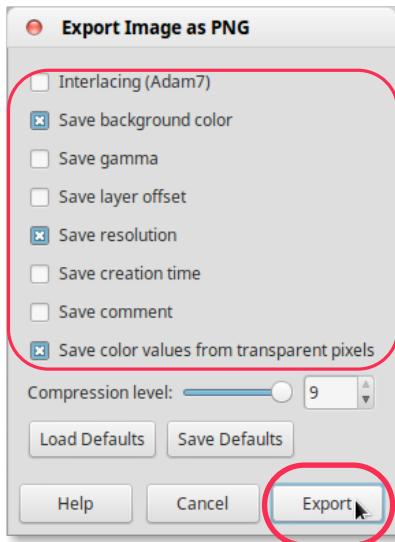
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How To: Customize the Linux Mint17.2 appearance for the real look and feel like Mac

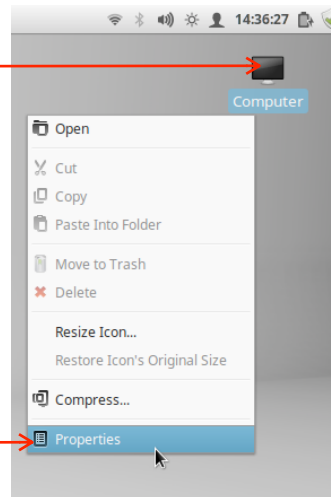
=



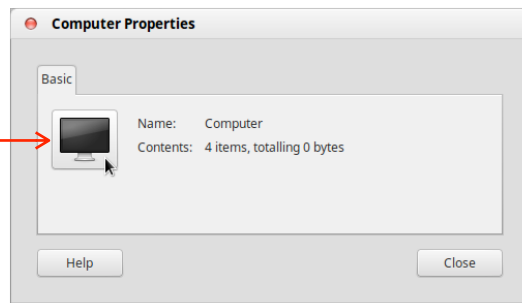
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Next: Replace the icon for the computer with the created icon

1. Right-click on Computer :○

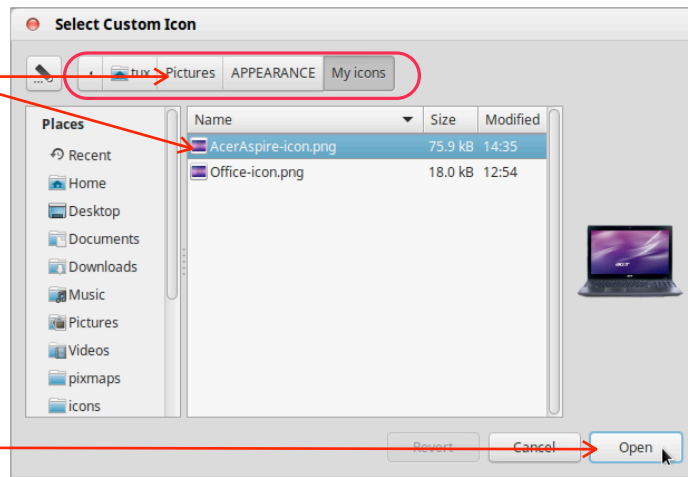


2. Click on Properties:○



3. Click on the icon:○

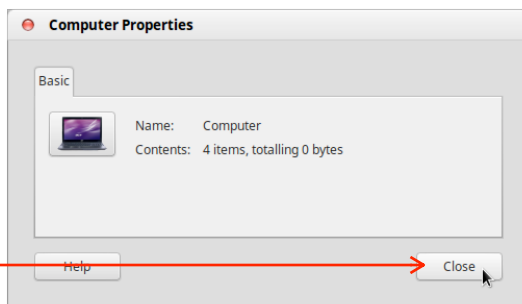
4. Select from your home:○



5. Click on the Open :○

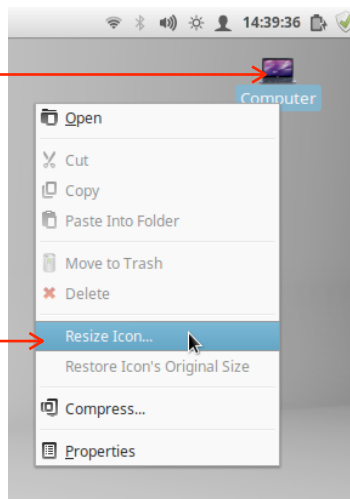
=

6. Click on the Close :○



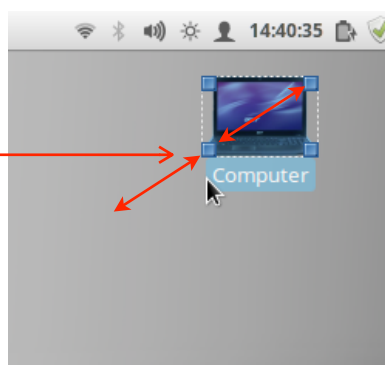
How To: Customize the Linux Mint17.2 appearance for the real look and feel like Mac

7. Right-click on Computer : ○

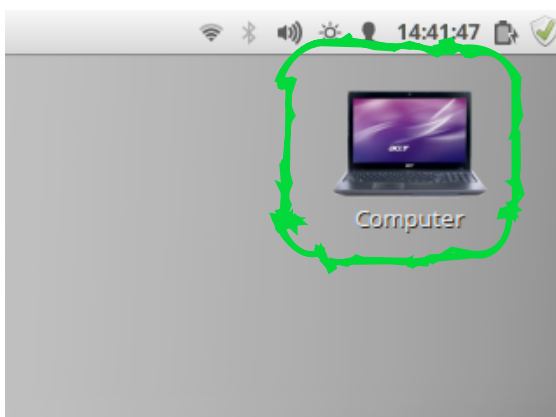


8. Click on the Resize Icon : ○

9. Drag a corner for resizing the icon: ○



Now the computer has received a matching icon:



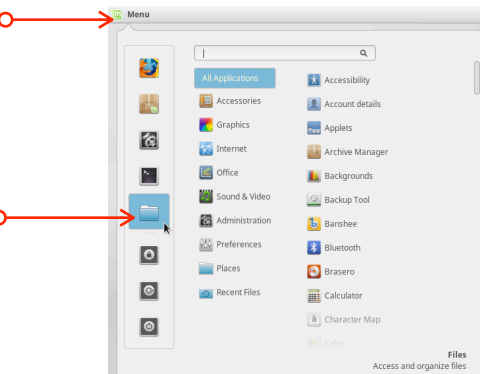
Note: ! The same procedure applies as well to folder icons !

= Done.

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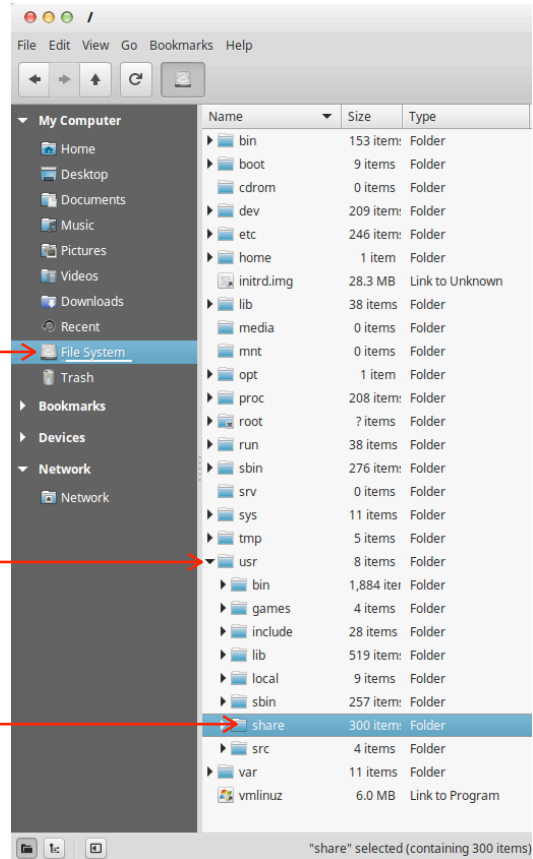
Next: Replace the icon for an application with an own icon
This example shows how an already existing icon out of the folder "My Icons" used and applied to the "LibreOffice" application:

1. Click on Menu :



2. Click on Files :

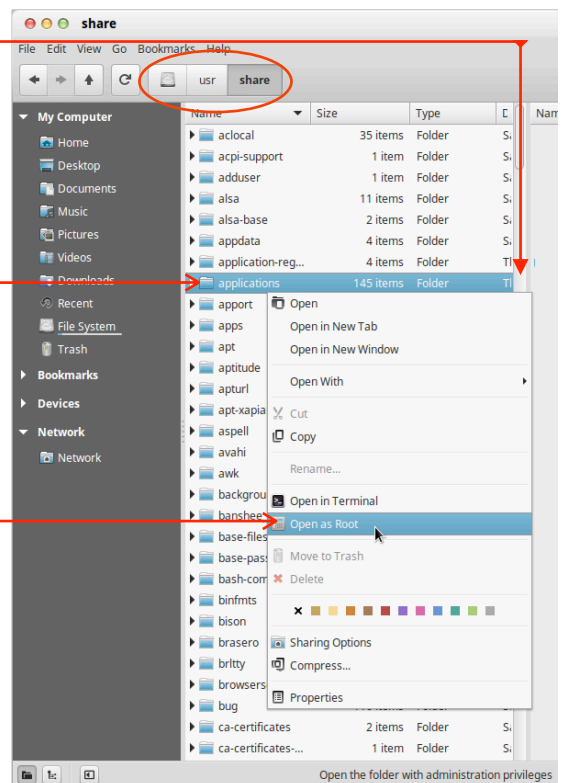
3. Click on File System :



4. Open the `usr` folder as shown:

5. Double-click on `share` :

6. Scroll down to `applications` :



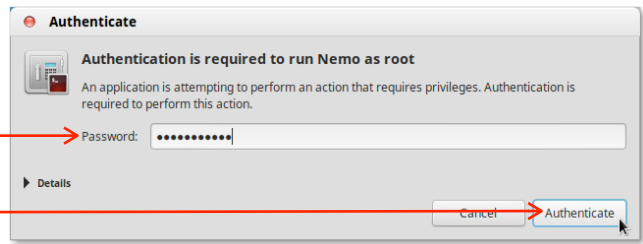
7. Right-click on `applications` :

8. Click on `Open as Root` :

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9. Enter your password

and click Authenticate

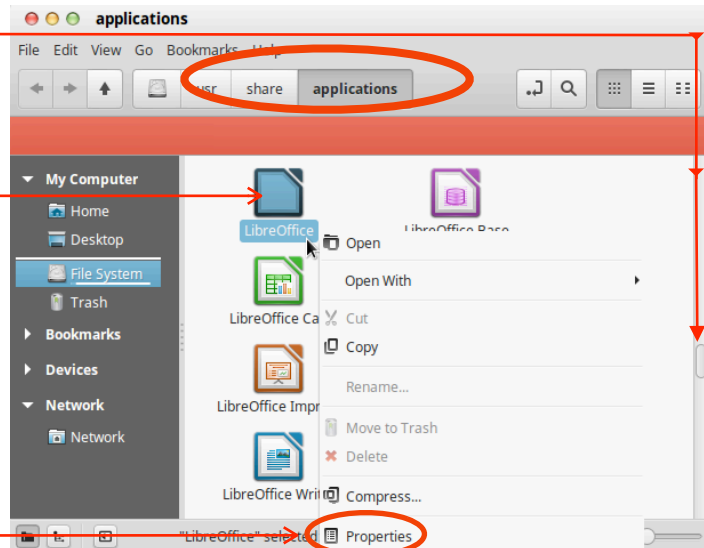


= The window *applications* opens in administrator mode now:

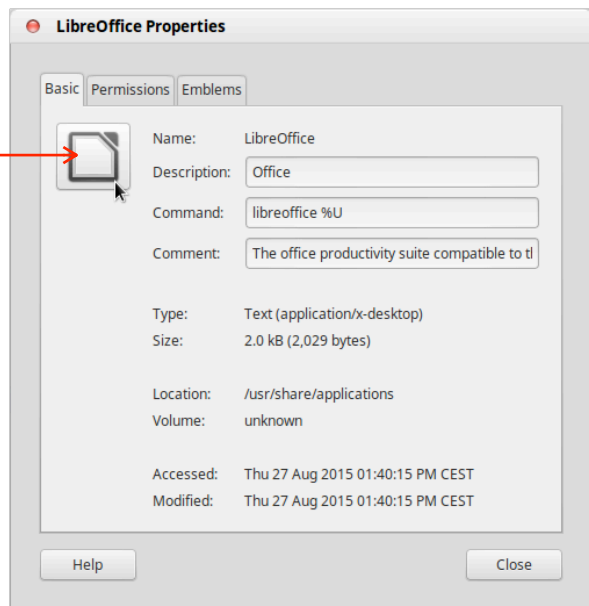
10. Scroll down to LibreOffice

11. Right-click on LibreOffice

12. Click on Properties



13. Click on the symbol



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=

Note: In this example the own icon is named „Office-icon.png“:

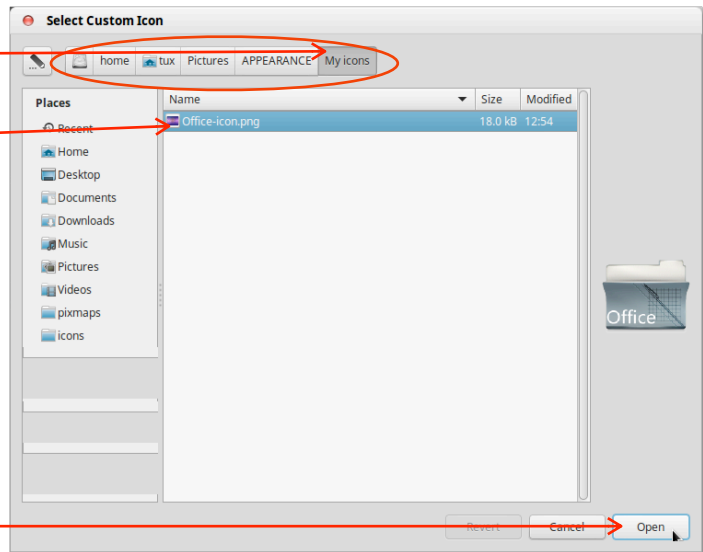
13. Navigate to the destination:

14. Click on your own icon:

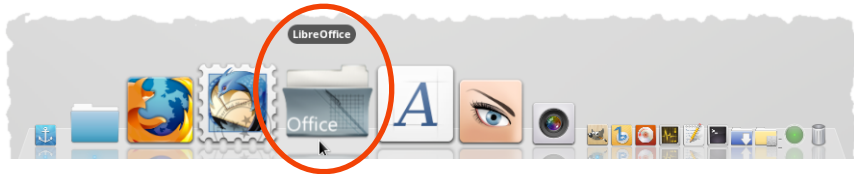
15. Click on Open :

16. Close all windows.

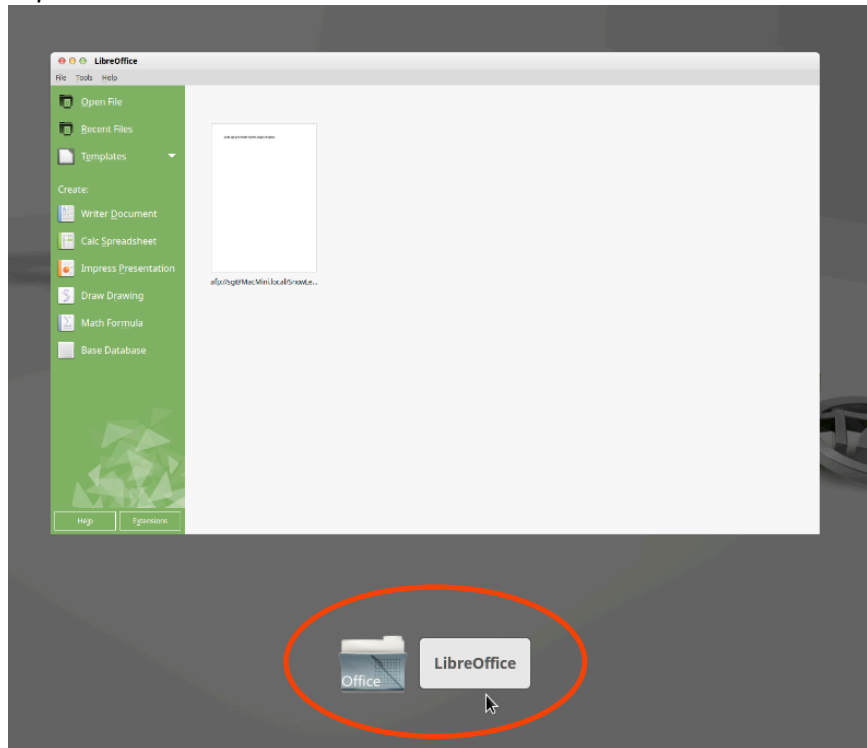
=



The own icon is now established and appears inside the dock -



- and also on *alt-tab* , *workspaces* and so on.



= Done.

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Epilogue

Now that you have an environment which no longer feels to be a stranger - do not fail to explore the other possibilities of Mint Cinnamon itself - the necessary tools you know already a little.

The author wants to think that this *little* How2 showed some tricks and that you will have some fun with it.

At least you will know a bit more about the possibilities of customizing cinnamon now. And this is just the beginning...

On one day - not so far - you will not miss your OS X anymore - you will see.

Enjoy, have a look on my other How2s - and if you like, and you can afford it - may be, you think about to become a Mint donor one day.

Regards,

[Rebel450](#) ->

