

# New Features

## Linux Mint 21.1 Xfce

Linux Mint 21.1 is a long term support release which will be supported until 2027. It comes with updated software and brings refinements and many new features to make your desktop experience more comfortable.



Linux Mint 21.1 "Vera" Xfce Edition

## Look and feel

Linux Mint 21.1 was given a fresh look and feel.

The operating system looks cleaner and more modern. It's also more configurable and comes packed with a variety of themes.

### Desktop

The desktop was tidied up and now only shows essential items: The installation icon, items you drop on the desktop, files placed in ~/Desktop and mounted devices.

The home folder was already easily accessible so it was removed from the desktop. It's pinned in the panel and can be opened from the main menu or by pressing Super+E on the keyboard.

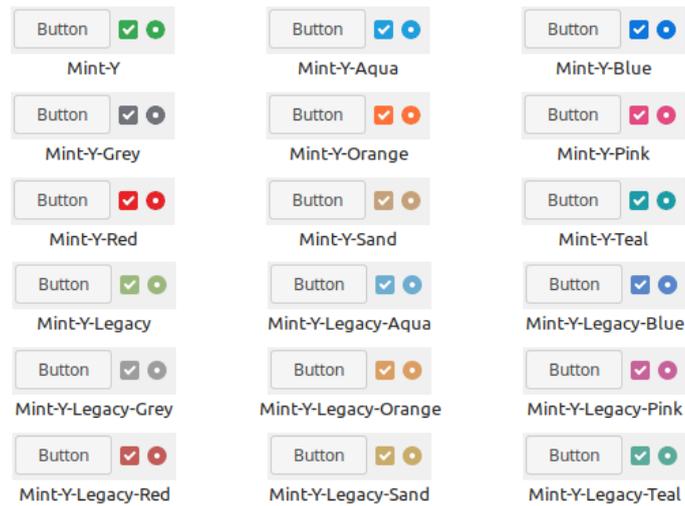
Computer, Trash and Network icons were also removed. They are only used occasionally and remain available within the file manager.

These changes only affect the defaults. If you want these icons on your desktop you can of course bring them back in the preferences.

### Vibrant Colors

The accent colors are way more vibrant than before. They lift the mood and make Linux Mint more trendy and more beautiful.

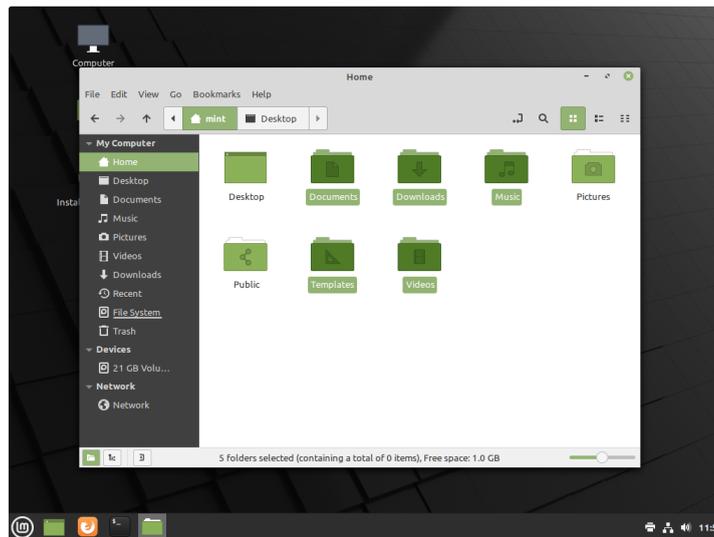




**New colors compared to legacy ones**

This is something we've been wanting to do for a while but it was difficult to achieve. Vibrant colors compete with information for your attention and they create high contrasts which can lead to an unpleasant experience. We want the desktop to look great but not at the cost of comfort.

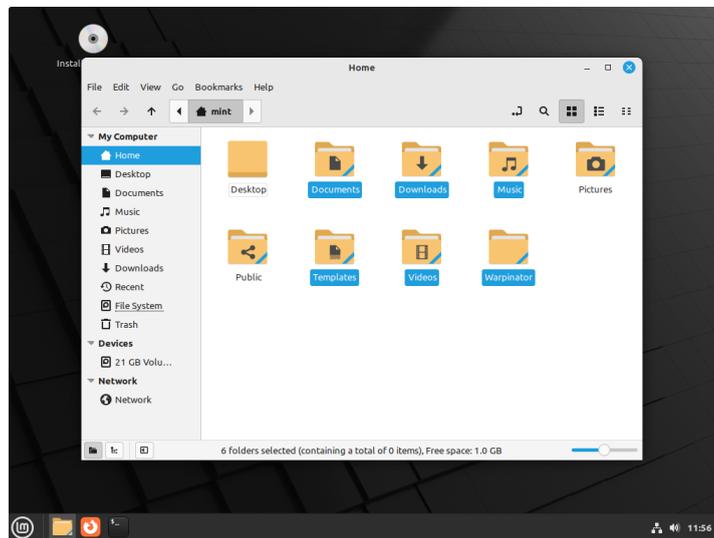
To use vibrant accent colors we had to use less accents. In the past our themes used soft colors but these colors were featured in many widgets and desktop elements. You would see a lot of green but that green was muted.



**The legacy look**

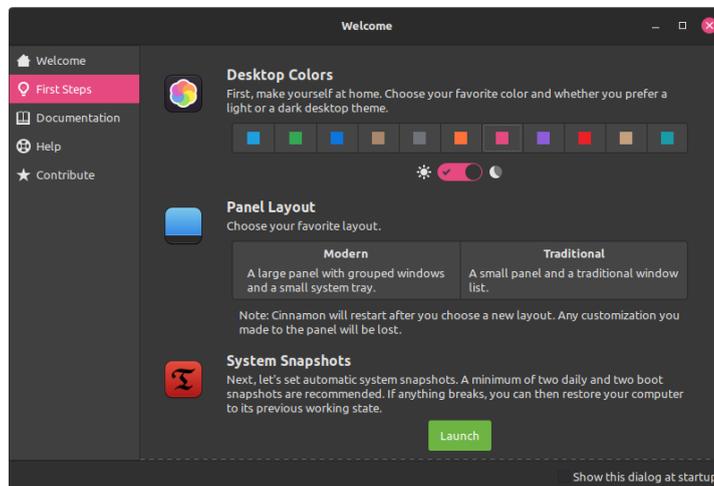
We removed the use of accent colors on the panel, in the menus and we switched to yellow folders. So you now see only a little bit of green, but when you do it's more flamboyant.

We also switched to Aqua by default. We don't need to look green to be Linux Mint. We're Linux Mint no matter what and we want to use the color that looks the most sexy out of the box.



### The new look and feel

It's all subjective of course. One of the first things we suggest you do when customizing your desktop is to pick your favorite color:



### Switch to a dark pink desktop from the welcome screen

### Legacy Options

Whenever we make drastic changes we make sure to give people the choice and the ability to go back to the way things were.

The way Linux Mint looked in 20.2 is now named "Mint-Y-Legacy" and is available as an alternative in the theme options.

Legacy themes and icons are installed by default.

### Mouse Pointer

Linux Mint 21.1 switched to the [Bibata](#) mouse pointer theme from [Abdulkaiz Khatri](#).



### The Bibata mouse pointer

This beautiful theme gives a fresh new look to the operating system.

In addition to Bibata and the traditional DMZ-White and DMZ-Black, a collection of alternative pointer themes was also added to give users more customization options.





## Driver Manager

The Driver Manager received many improvements.

### User Interface

#### Sounds

The manager now runs in user mode so you no longer need a password to launch it.

The system sounds were also changed to improve the user experience. The new sounds come from [Material Design V2](#). They feel modern and

Offline support was redesigned. The Driver Manager now shows a dedicated screen if you are offline:

#### Icon Themes

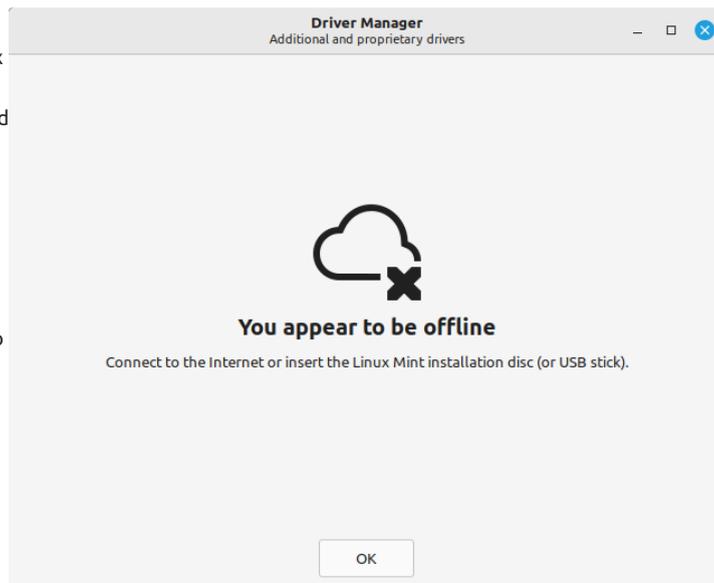
To give users more choice Linux

In addition to Mint-X, Mint-Y and

- Breeze
- Papirus
- Numix
- Yaru

Note: Some of these themes do not support Numix, Yaru.

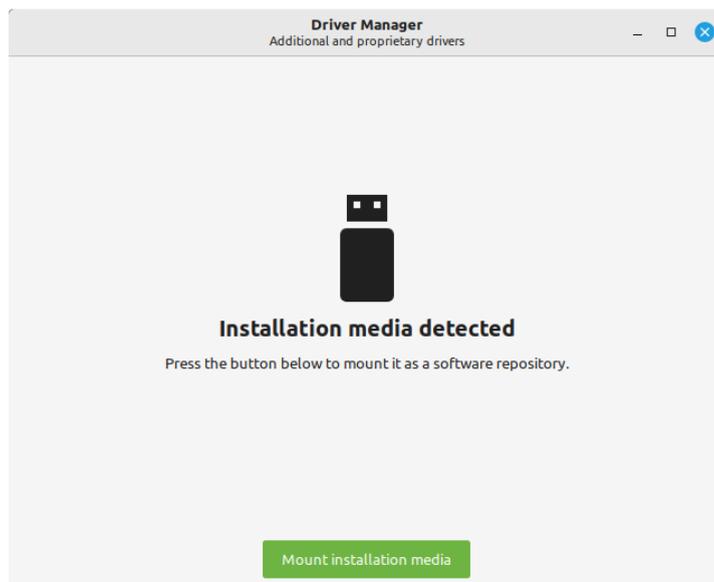
### Mouse pointer themes



med, try one of these: Breeze,

### The Driver Manager in offline mode

And a different screen if it detects a live USB stick (or DVD):

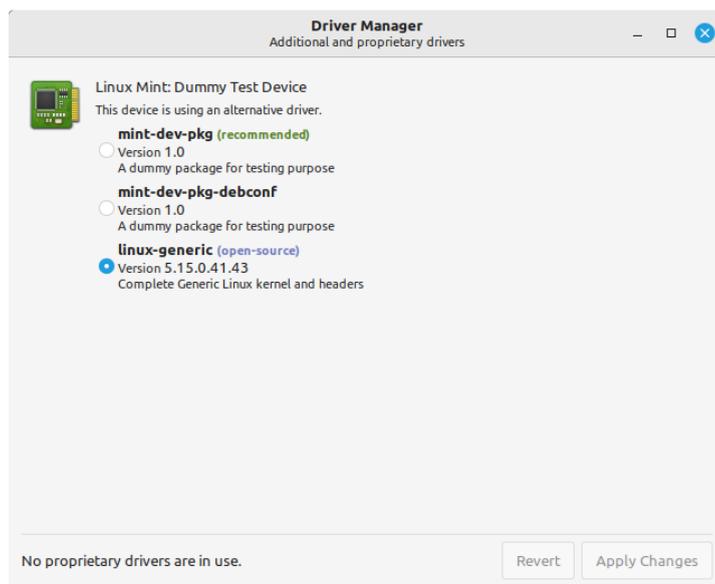


### Mounting the live media is easier than before

The way it mounts the live USB stick and adds it as a source to install drivers is more robust than before. These improvements make installing Broadcom wireless drivers easier than before.

NVIDIA, secureboot and packagekit

A dummy hardware device, dummy packages with exotic dependencies and a test mode were added for developers to easily troubleshoot a variety of different scenarios.



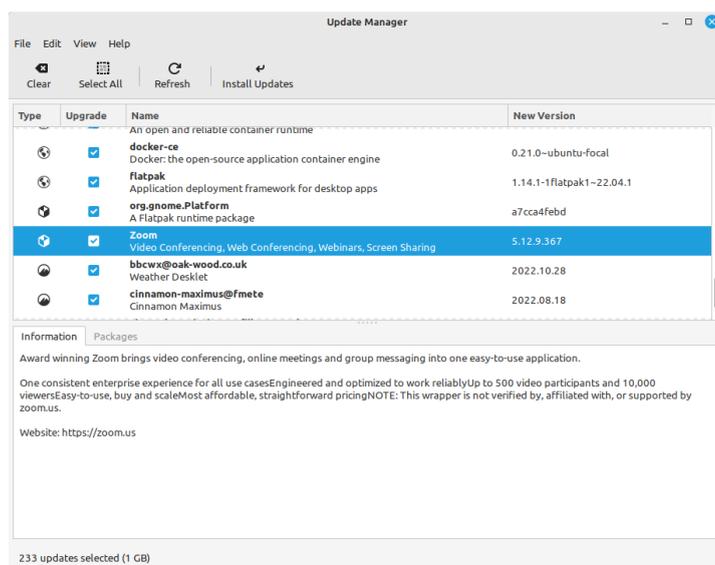
#### Dummy test devices for easy troubleshooting

Debconf is now properly supported. This was an issue for NVIDIA drivers when SecureBoot was enabled. This scenario was fixed.

Packagekit was patched to receive the ability to purge packages (i.e. to not only remove them but to also remove their configuration files). The driver manager now purges removed drivers. This fixes a niche issue with NVIDIA drivers when switching between different versions of the drivers.

## Full Flatpak Integration

Flatpak support was added to the Update Manager.

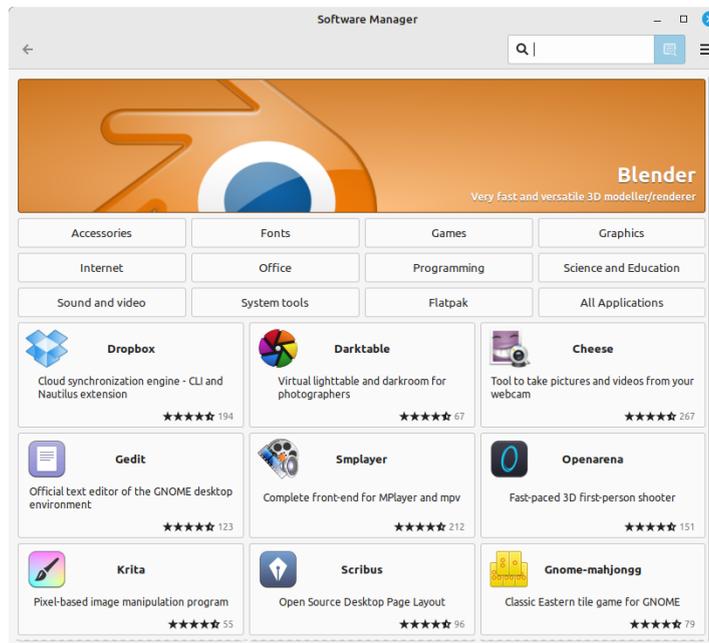


#### Flatpak updates in the Update Manager

Flatpak applications and runtimes can be updated like any other supported types of software.

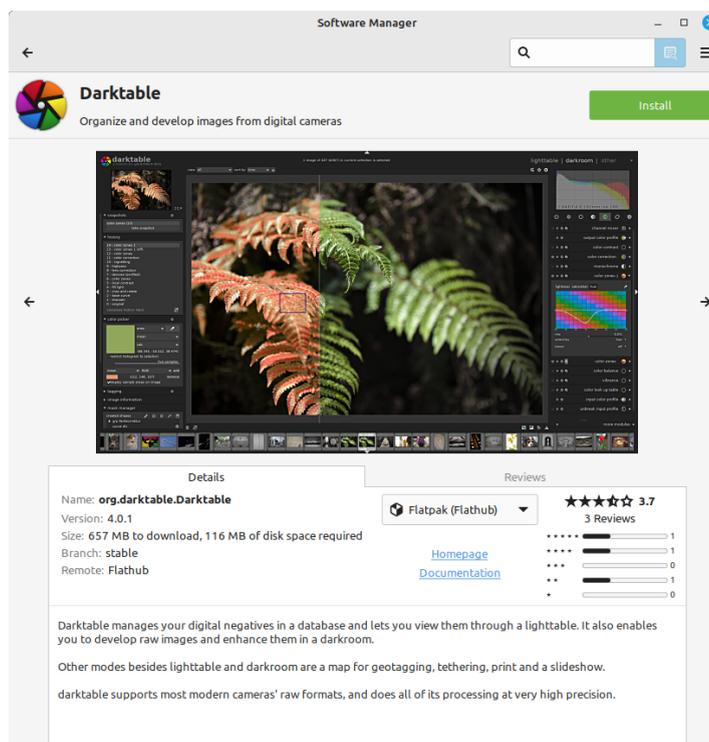
The Software Manager features a refreshed user interface which makes it easier to distinguish between Flatpaks and system packages.





### UI Improvements in the Software Manager

When looking at an application which is available both as a system package and a Flatpak, you can switch back and forth between its two versions.



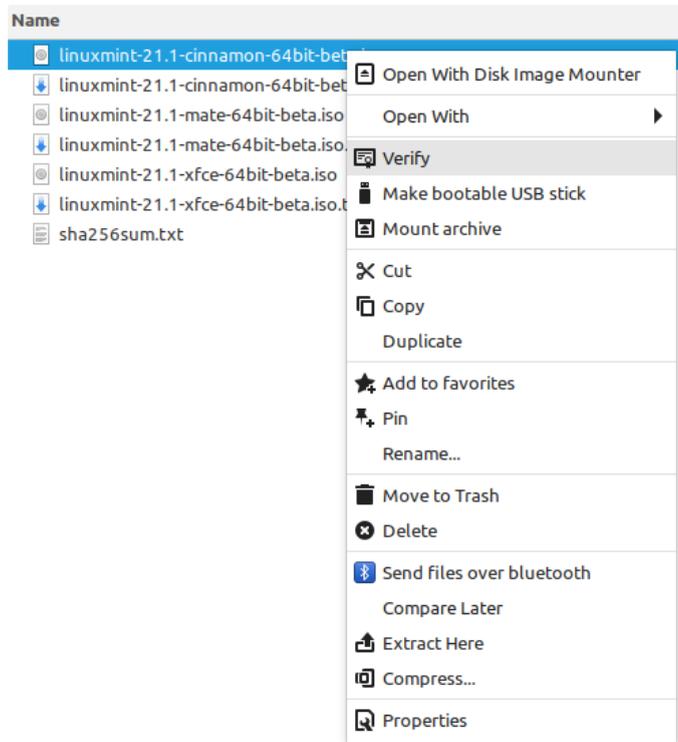
### Switch between Deb and Flatpak with a click of a button

New Flatpaks from Flathub are automatically added to the Software Manager on a daily basis.

## ISO Verification Tool

It is important to verify the integrity and authenticity of your ISO image before writing it to a stick. It's also quite tedious and confusing. So we made it easier.

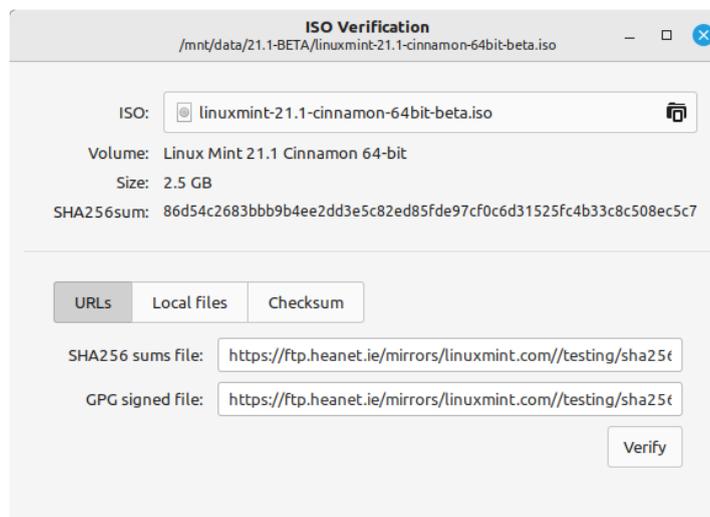




Right-click your ISO image, select "Verify"

Right-click your ISO image, select "Verify" and voilà.

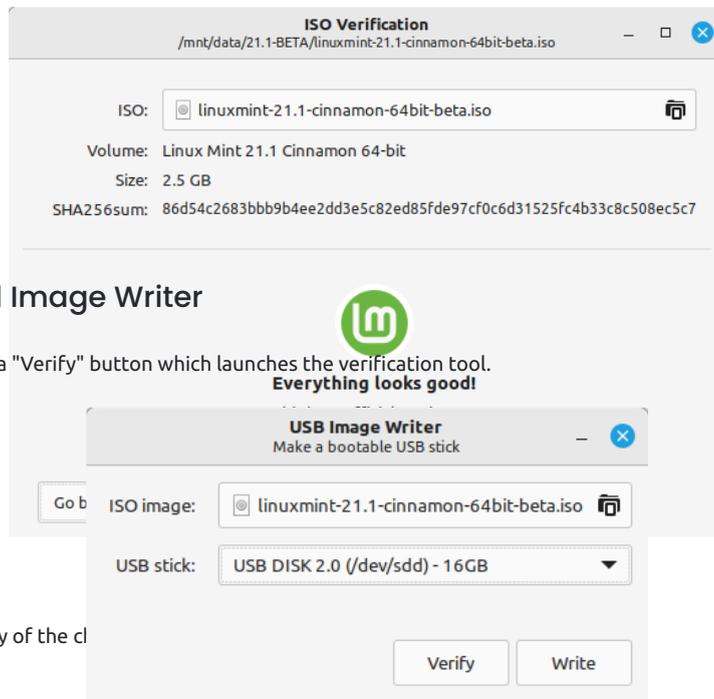
The technology at play here is still complex. We're dealing with signatures and checksums but the verification tool does most of the work for you.



Choose the verification method

If your ISO is from Linux Mint or Ubuntu, the URLs to the SHA256sum and GPG files are automatically filled in. Just click the verify button.





## Stick Formatter and Image Writer

The ISO Image Writer features a "Verify" button which launches the verification tool.

**Everything looks good!**

The tool checks the authenticity of the cl

### ISO Image Writing Tool

If you try to write a Windows image, it no longer fails. It directs you to helpful documentation.



### More information for Windows ISOs

The user interfaces for the Stick formatter and the Image Writer were also improved.

Support was added for CPIO devices.

## XApps improvements

The login screen's mouse pointer theme and size are now configurable (in the past, the theme was set globally and the size couldn't be changed).

Warpinator features hardened security. Without a secure group code set some of its settings are unavailable and the application exits after 60 minutes.

The WebApp Manager allows additional settings when editing Web Apps, such as the presence of a navigation bar, profile isolation and private browsing.

## Other improvements

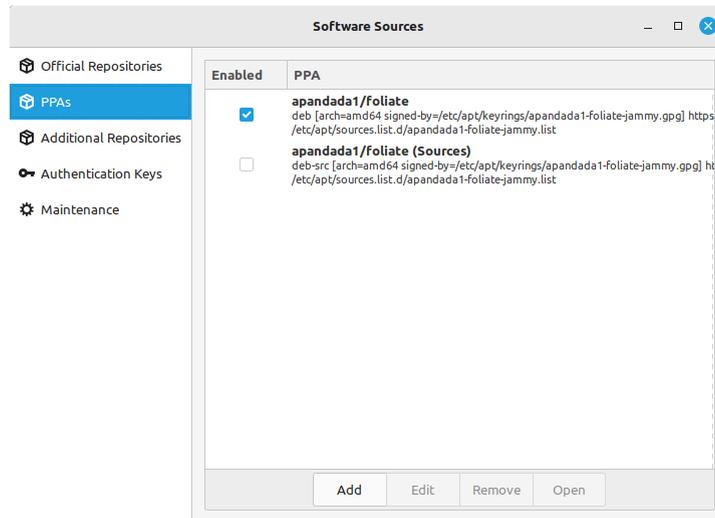
The code which lets you remove applications from the main menu was reviewed and password prompts were removed in situations where

administrative permissions weren't required.

Removing a Flatpak will no longer require a password to be entered. Same goes for simple shortcuts and local applications (i.e. applications which aren't installed system-wide).

Synaptic and the Update Manager will now also ask pkexec to remember your password so you won't have to enter it every single time if you perform multiple operations.

Following the upstream deprecation of apt-key, the Software Sources received changes to rework the way it handles PPA keys.



#### PPA signatures are now use specifically for their own PPA

When a PPA is added its key is now only accepted for the PPA itself, not globally for all APT Sources.

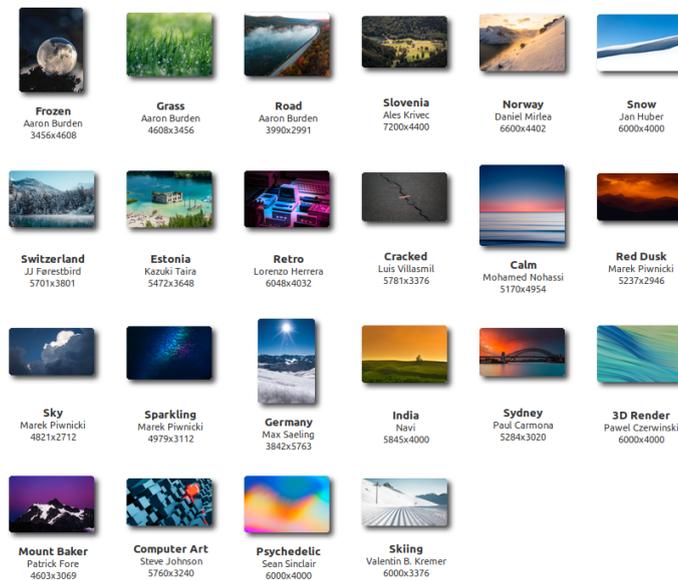
Continuous integration for all Linux Mint projects moved from Circle CI to Github Actions. This gives the development team greater control over docker.

Documentation was written and added to the User Guide to cover the following topics:

- How to reset a forgotten password
- How to have Bluetooth disabled at boot
- How to make a Windows live USB stick or a multiboot USB stick

## Artwork improvements

Linux Mint 21.1 features a superb collection of backgrounds from [Aaron Burden](#), [Ales Krivec](#), [Daniel Mirlea](#), [Jan Huber](#), [Joel & Jasmin Forestbird](#), [Kazuki Taira](#), [Lorenzo Herrera](#), [Luis Villasmil](#), [Mohamed Nohassi](#), [Marek Piwnicki](#), [Max Saeling](#), [Navi](#), [Paul Carmona](#), [Pawel Czerwinski](#), [Patrick Fore](#), [Steve Johnson](#), [Sean Sinclair](#) and [Valentin B. Kremer](#).



An overview of the new backgrounds

## Main components

Linux Mint 21.1 features Xfce 4.16, a Linux kernel 5.15 and an Ubuntu 22.04 package base.



## LTS strategy



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