AN INTRODUCTION TO "LINUX MINT" FOR "WINDOWS.." USERS

An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

Web location for this presentation:

http://aztcs.apcug.org

Then click on "Meeting Notes"

email: fchao2@yahoo.com

TOPICS

- Taskbar versus Panel
- Applications Menu
- "Task View" versus "Workspaces Switcher"
- File Management
- Keyboard Combinations
- File Extensions
- File Format Identification
- Device Manager

TASKBAR

- The "Panel" in Linux Mint serves the same function as the "Taskbar" in Windows 11 and Windows 10.

APPLICATIONS MENU

- Windows:
  Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "Start" button
  OR
  press on one of the "Windows" keys of the keyboard.
  The menu that pops up is often called the "Start Menu".

APPLICATIONS MENU (continued)

- Linux Mint:
  Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "LM" menu button at the end of the "Panel"
  OR
  press on one of the "Super" keys of the keyboard.
- The big three column menu that pops up is called either the "Application Menu" or the "Cinnamon Menu".

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER"

"Task View" in "Windows" and

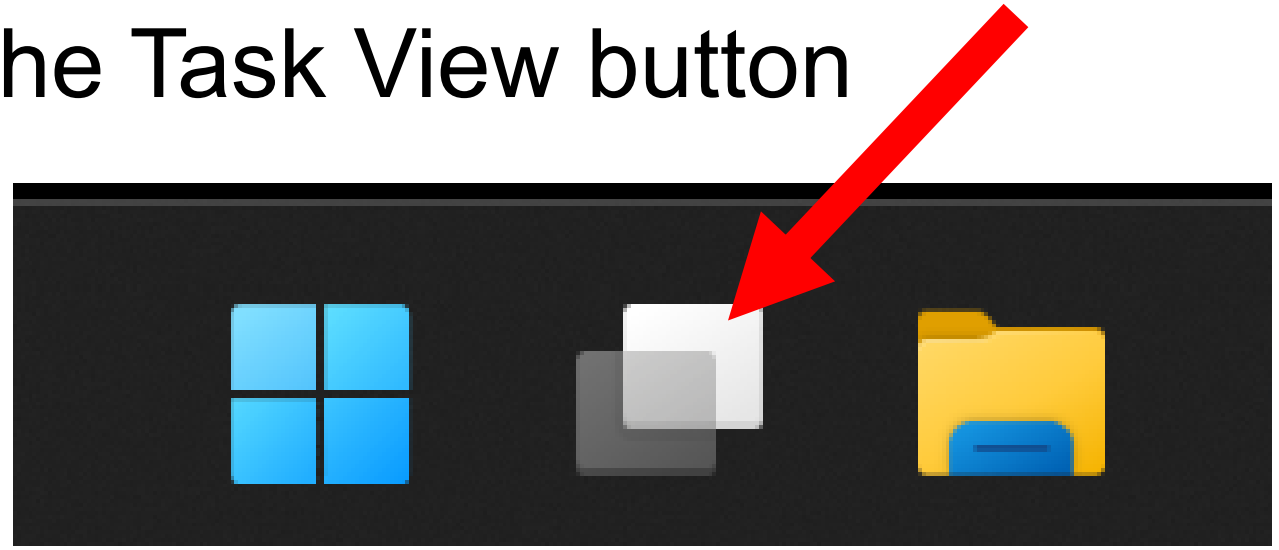
"Workspaces Switcher" in "Linux Mint":

- Use "Task View" in "Windows" to manage multiple **active** app windows across multiple virtual desktops
- Use "Workspaces Switcher" in "Linux int" to manage multiple **active** apps across multiple virtual desktops

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

Windows:

- To start "Task View", use the LEFT mouse button to click on the Task View button



or press Alt + Tab on the keyboard

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

Linux Mint:

- Two Steps:
  Step 1: Enable "Workspaces Switcher"
  (Step 1 only needs to be done once)
  Step 2:
  Add, remove, and modify "Workspaces"
  (Needs to be done as needed.)

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

Linux Mint:

STEP ONE: ENABLE "WORKSPACES SWITCHER"

- Use RIGHT mouse button to click on unused space on any Panel.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Applets" on the pop-up menu
- Use the LEFT mouse button to s croll or page downward vertically.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Workplace Switcher" to highlight it

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

Linux Mint:

STEP ONE: ENABLE "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

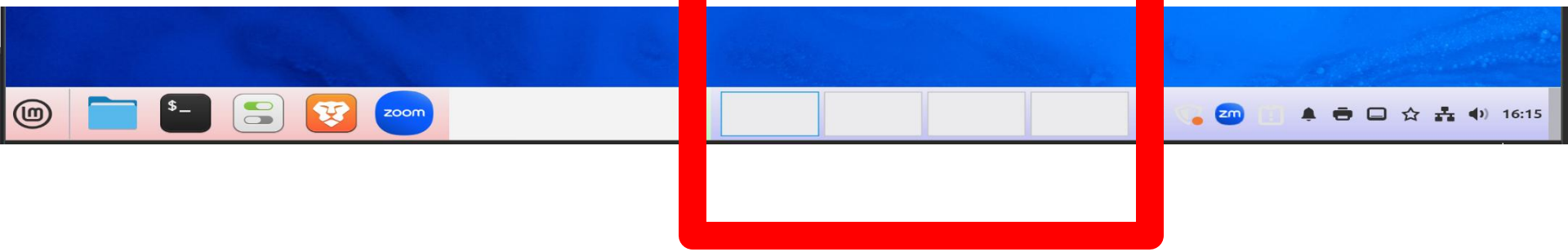
- Then use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "+" button
- Use the LEFT mouse button to close the "Applets" box

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

Linux Mint: (continued)

STEP ONE: ENABLE "WORKSPACES SWITCHER" (continued)

- At least four "Workspace" rectangles will now appear on the right side of the middle third of the Panel:



"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES" (continued)

Linux Mint (continued)

STEP TWO-- Add, remove, and modify "Workspaces"

METHOD 1:

- Press Ctrl + Alt + Up on the keyboard to open the Workspace overview.
- Click the + symbol on the right side of the screen to add a new workspace.
- Add, remove, or modify any existing workspace
- Press Escape on the keyboard to return to your active desktop.

"TASK VIEW" VS. "WORKSPACES" (continued)

Linux Mint (continued)

STEP 2-- Add, remove, and modify "Workspaces"

METHOD 2:

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on any of the Workspace rectangles.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to select from the pop-up menu
- Add, remove, or modify any existing workspace
- Press Escape on the keyboard to return to your active desktop.

FILE MANAGEMENT

Windows:

Standard privileges:

Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the File Explorer button in the Taskbar or the Start menu. The File Explorer button looks like a folder.

OR

Use the keyboard to press on

Windows key + e

FILE MANAGEMENT (continued)

Windows (continued):

Administrative privileges:

- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the File Explorer button in the Taskbar or the Start menu or use the keyboard to press
  "Windows Key" + e
- Go to the C: drive.
- Scroll or page vertically downword
- Go to the "Windows" folder
- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on explorer.exe
  A pop-up menu will be displayed.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on
  "Run as administrator"

FILE MANAGEMENT (continued)

Linux Mint:

Standard privileges:

The file management app in Linux Mint is called "Nemo":

Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "Files" button on the "Panel". It looks like a folder.

OR press the Super Key + e on the keyboard

FILE MANAGEMENT (continued)

Linux Mint:

Standard privileges (continued):

- If the "Files" button is missing from the Panel: Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "LM" "menu" button.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Accessories" in the center column.
- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on "Files" in the right-most column.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "+ Add to panel"

FILE MANAGEMENT (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

- **Administrative privileges:**
  Use the LEFT mouse button to start "Terminal"
  Type in
  sudo nemo
  Press the Enter key of the keyboard.
  Enter in your password for "Linux Mint"
  Press the Enter key of the keyboard.

KEYBOARD COMBINATIONS

Action	Windows Shortcut	Linux Mint Equivalent
Open Menu	Windows key	Super key
Open File Manager	Windows key + E	Super + E
Show Desktop	Windows key + D	Super + D
Snap Window (Left/Right)	Windows key + Left / Right	Super + Left / Right
Switch Applications	Alt + Tab	Alt + Tab
Lock Screen	Windows key + L	Ctrl + Alt + L
Open Workspace Overview	Windows key + Tab	Ctrl + Alt + Up
Open Command Terminal	N/A	Ctrl + Alt + T
Close Active Window	Alt + F4	Alt + F4

FILE EXTENSIONS

Windows:

- The "File Explorer" app in Windows.. defaults to hiding file extensions. This default configuration is often confusing so we recommend removing the checkmark in the View tab of "File Explorer Options"

Linux Mint:

- The Nemo "Files" app in Linux Mint does not hide file extensions

FILE FORMAT IDENTIFICATION

Windows:

File formats are identified by the 3 or 4 digit file extension of a file name.

FILE FORMAT IDENTIFICATION (continued)

Windows (continued):

To identify a file that does not have a file extension or a file that has the incorrect file extension, please see

https://tecnobits.com/en/discover-file-format-without-extension/

and

https://www.thewindowsclub.com/open-unknown-file-type-windows

FILE FORMAT IDENTIFICATION (continued)

Linux Mint:

File formats are identified by both the 3 or 4 digit file extension AND the first few binary characters at the start of a file. The binary metadata at the start of a file is called a "header".

FILE FORMAT IDENTIFICATION (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):
To identify the format of a file that either has no file extension or an incorrect fie extension, see

https://linuxvox.com/blog/check-filetype-linux/#using-file-extensions

for information on using the "file" command and the "xxd" command to identify file formats in Linux Mint.

DEVICE MANAGER

WINDOWS:

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the Start button.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Device Manager"
- Or type "control" in the Run box and then go to "Network Connections" or "Sound" to look for the pertinent devices.

DEVICE MANAGER (continued)

Linux Mint:

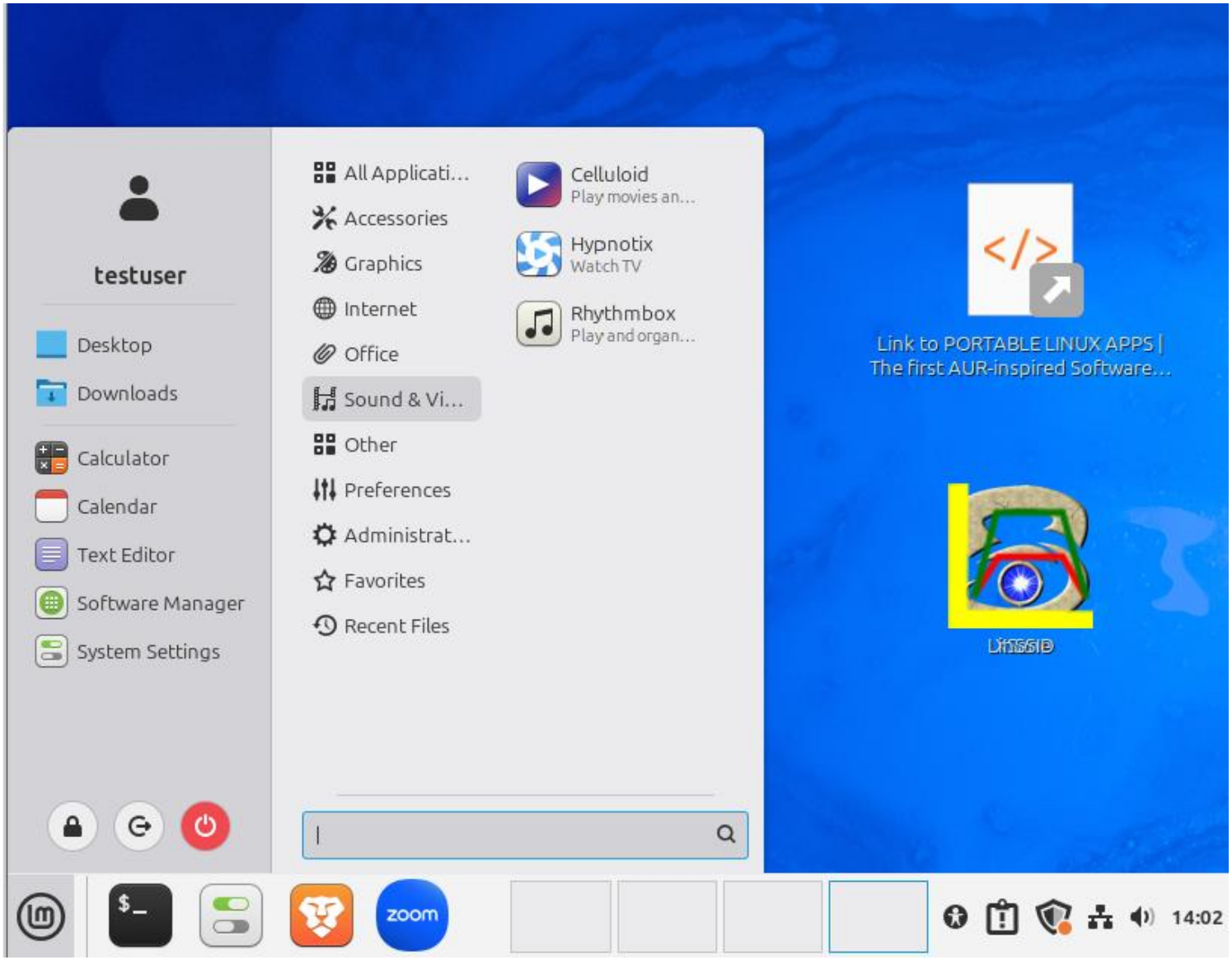
- lsusb in Terminal
- lspci in Terminal
- or go the "Sound" or "Network Connections" in "Settings" or in the "Notification Area" to look for the pertinent device

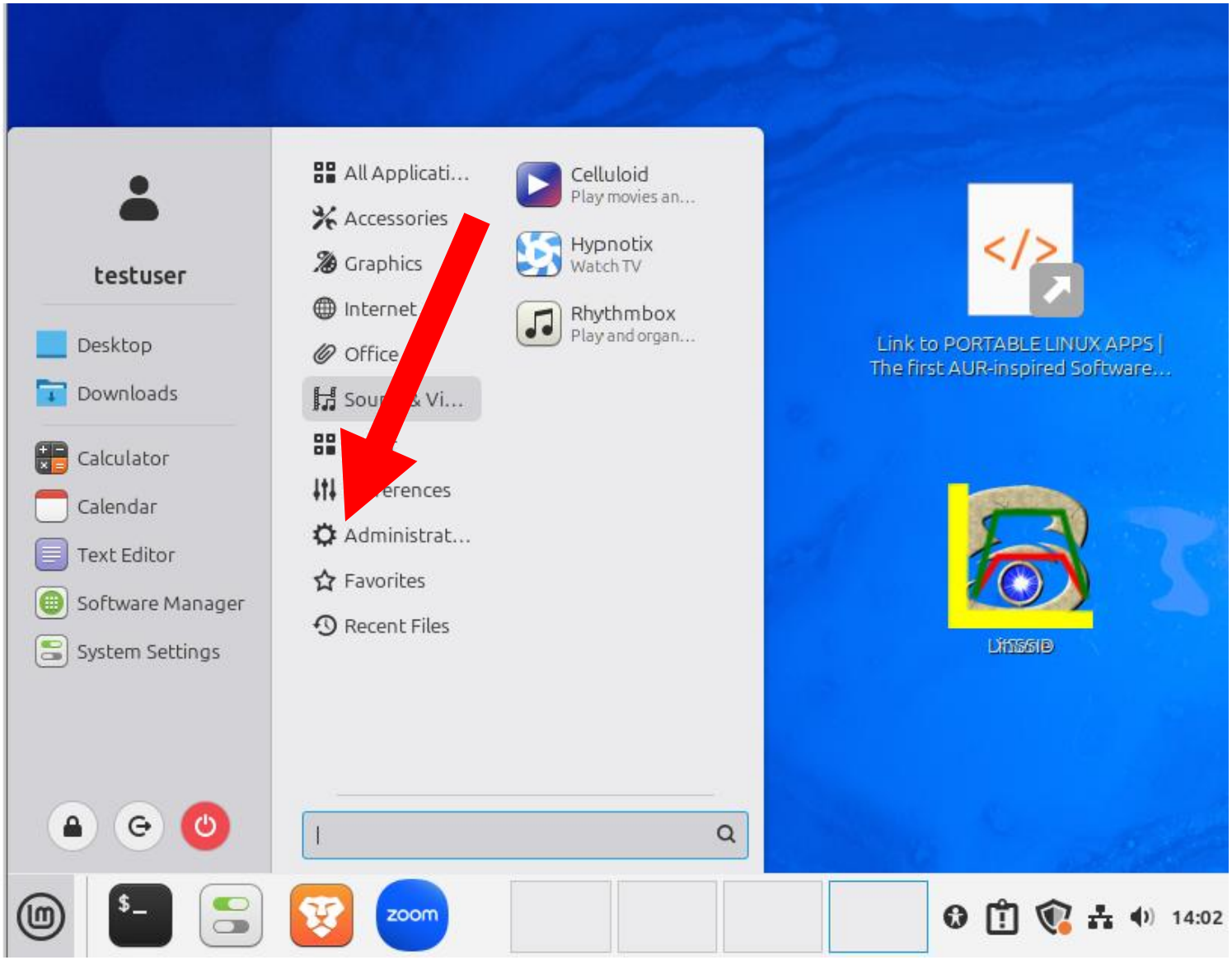
Terminal Commands for Hardware

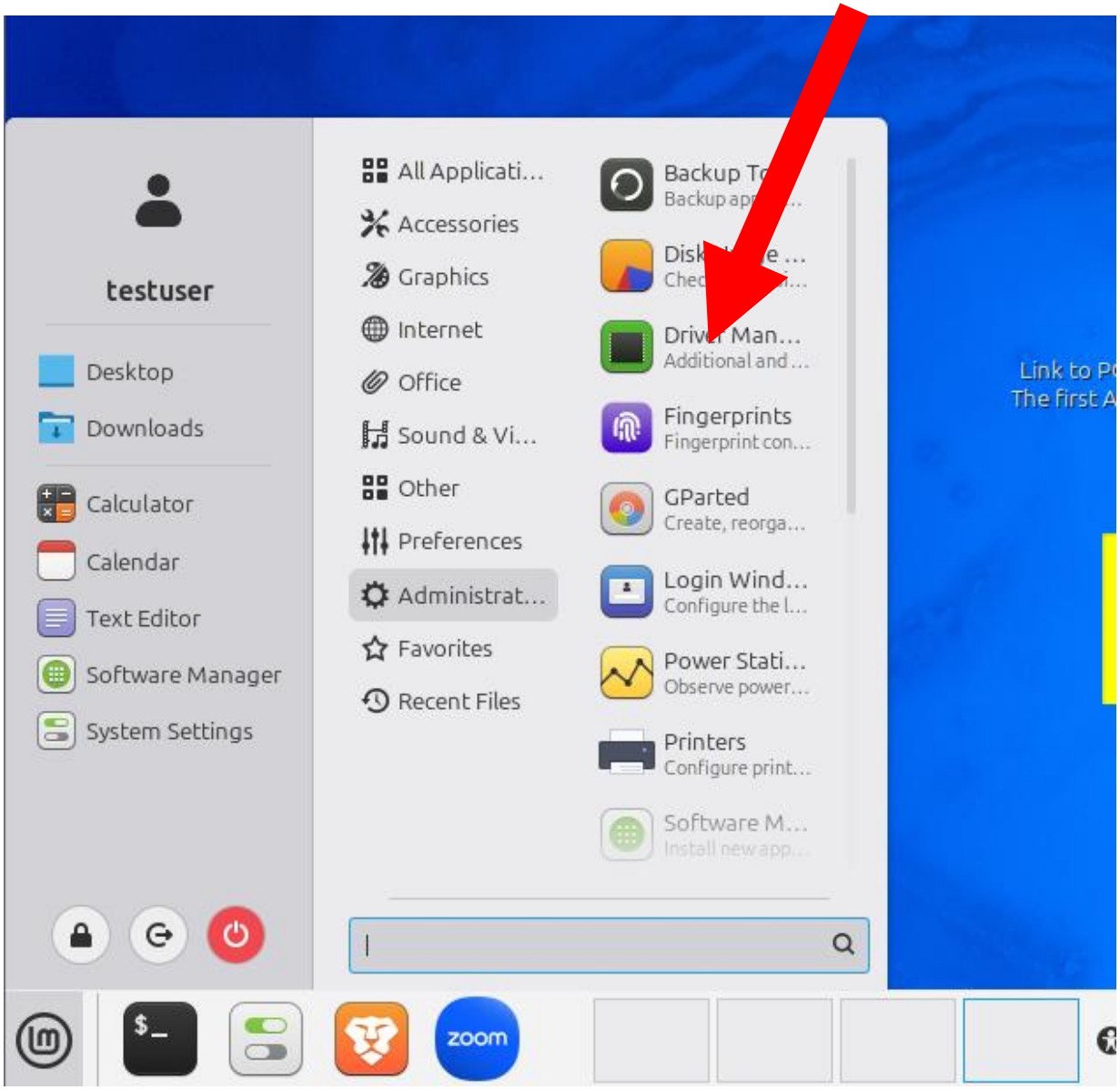
If you need detailed hardware lists or troubleshooting data, Linux users often rely on fast terminal commands:

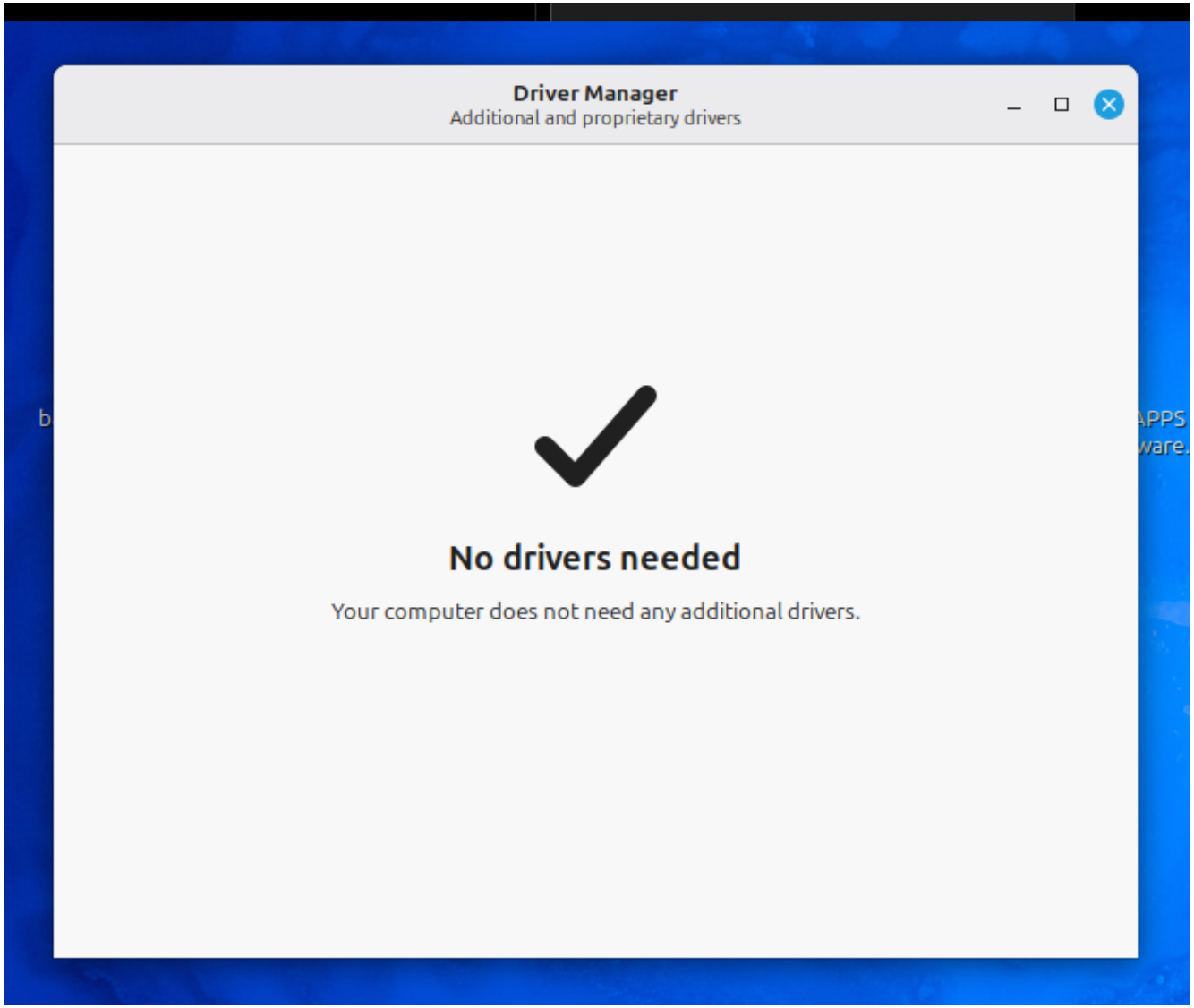
- `inxi -Fz` — Gives a comprehensive overview of your system hardware and drivers.
- `lsusb` — Lists all connected USB devices.
- `lspci` — Lists PCI hardware components (graphics, audio, network cards).

- **Driver Manager:** Go to the Mint menu and search for **Driver Manager** (under Administration). This tool checks your system and helps you install proprietary or extra hardware drivers (like graphics cards or Wi-Fi chips).

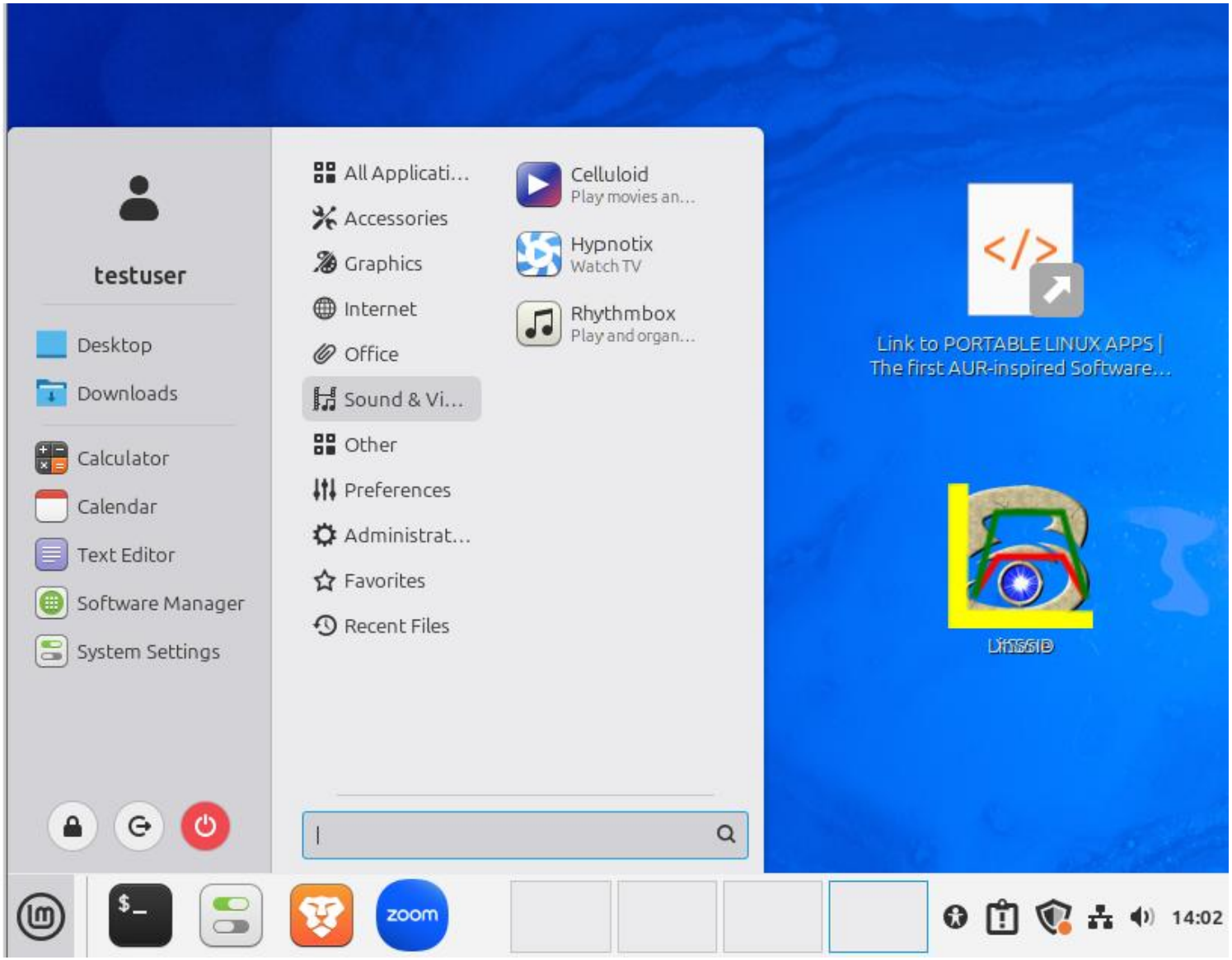

testuser
Desktop
Downloads
Calculator
Calendar
Text Editor
Software Manager
System Settings
All Applicati…
Accessories
Graphics
Internet
Office
Sound & Vi…
Other
Preferences
Administrat…
Favorites
Recent Files
Celluloid
Play movies an…
Hypnotix
Watch TV
Rhythmbox
Play and organ…
Link to PORTABLE LINUX APPS | The first AUR-inspired Software…
zoom
14:02

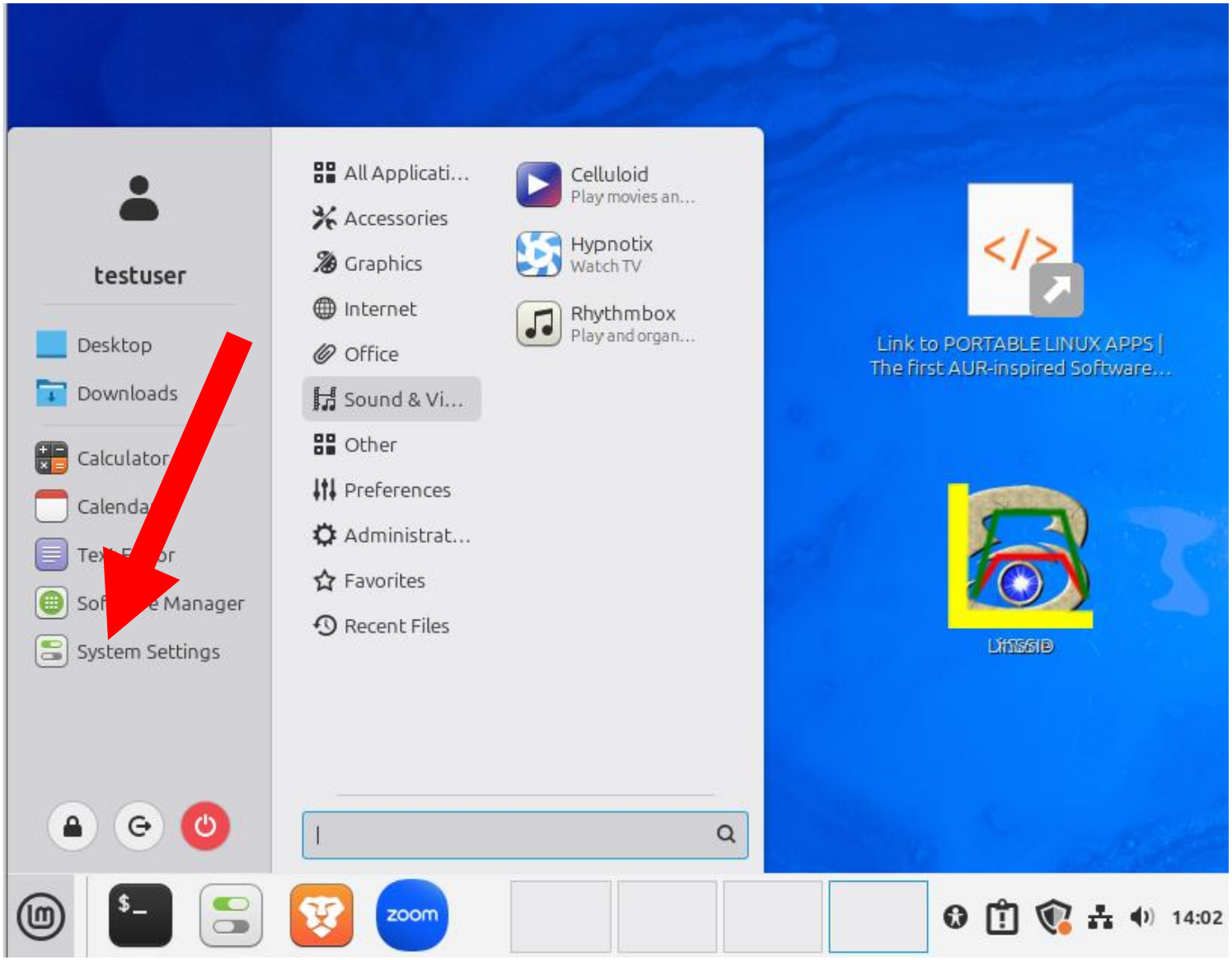

testuser
Desktop
Downloads
Calculator
Calendar
Text Editor
Software Manager
System Settings
All Applicati...
Accessories
Graphics
Internet
Office
Administrat...
Favorites
Recent Files
Celluloid
Play movies an...
Hypnotix
Watch TV
Rhythmbox
Play and organ...
Link to PORTABLE LINUX APPS |
The first AUR-inspired Software...
zoom
14:02

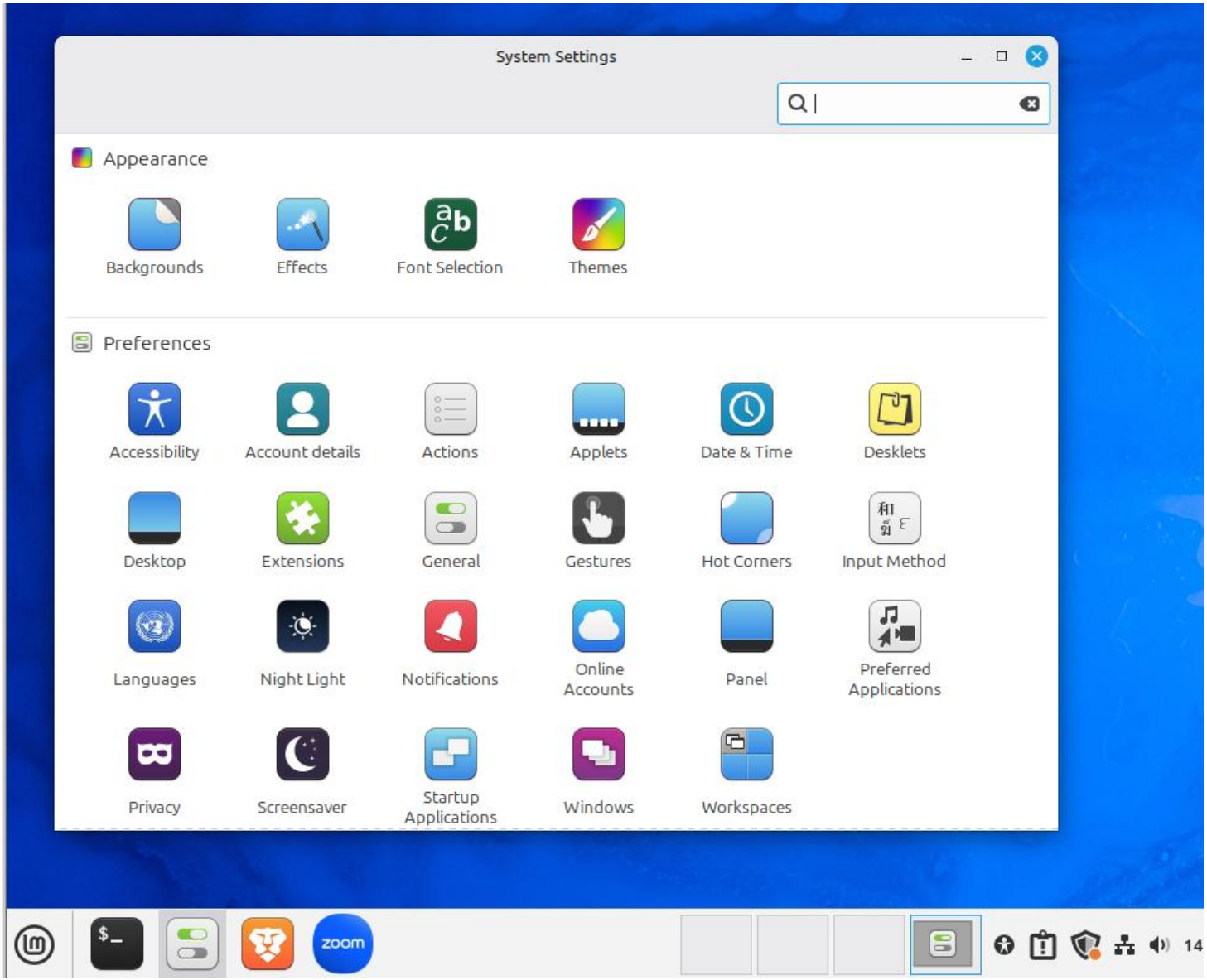

testuser
Desktop
Downloads
Calculator
Calendar
Text Editor
Software Manager
System Settings
All Applicati...
Accessories
Graphics
Internet
Office
Sound & Vi...
Other
Preferences
Administrat...
Favorites
Recent Files
Backup To
Backup ap...
Disk ... e ...
Chec... ...
Driver Man...
Additional and ...
Fingerprints
Fingerprint con...
GParted
Create, reorga...
Login Wind...
Configure the l...
Power Stati...
Observe power...
Printers
Configure print...
Software M...
Install new app...
Link to P
The first A
zoom


Driver Manager
Additional and proprietary drivers
No drivers needed
Your computer does not need any additional drivers.

- **System Settings:** Basic hardware configuration (displays, input devices, sound, network) is handled directly via **System Settings** in your desktop environment.


testuser
Desktop
Downloads
Calculator
Calendar
Text Editor
Software Manager
System Settings
All Applicati...
Accessories
Graphics
Internet
Office
Sound & Vi...
Other
Preferences
Administrat...
Favorites
Recent Files
Celluloid
Play movies an...
Hypnotix
Watch TV
Rhythmbox
Play and organ...
Link to PORTABLE LINUX APPS | The first AUR-inspired Software...
zoom
14:02

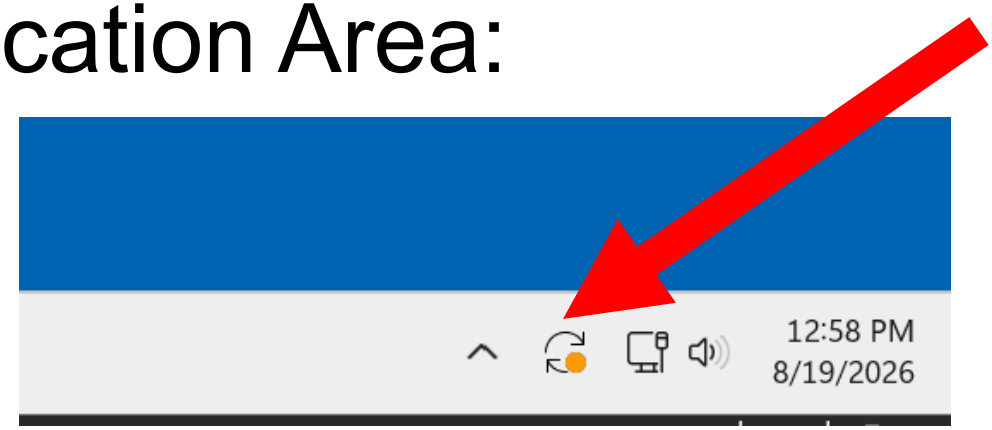

testuser
Desktop
Downloads
Calculator
Calenda
Tex
or
Sof
e Manager
System Settings
All Applicati...
Accessories
Graphics
Internet
Office
Sound & Vi...
Other
Preferences
Administrat...
Favorites
Recent Files
Celluloid
Play movies an...
Hypnotix
Watch TV
Rhythmbox
Play and organ...
Link to PORTABLE LINUX APPS |
The first AUR-inspired Software...
zoom
14:02


System Settings
Appearance
Backgrounds
Effects
Font Selection
Themes
Preferences
Accessibility
Account details
Actions
Applets
Date & Time
Desklets
Desktop
Extensions
General
Gestures
Hot Corners
Input Method
Languages
Night Light
Notifications
Online Accounts
Panel
Preferred Applications
Privacy
Screensaver
Startup Applications
Windows
Workspaces
zoom

SYSTEM UPDATES

Windows:

- When Windows has updates for you to install, it will give you this symbol in the Notification Area:



Use the LEFT mouse button to click on it to start the update process.

SYSTEM UPDATES

Windows (continued):

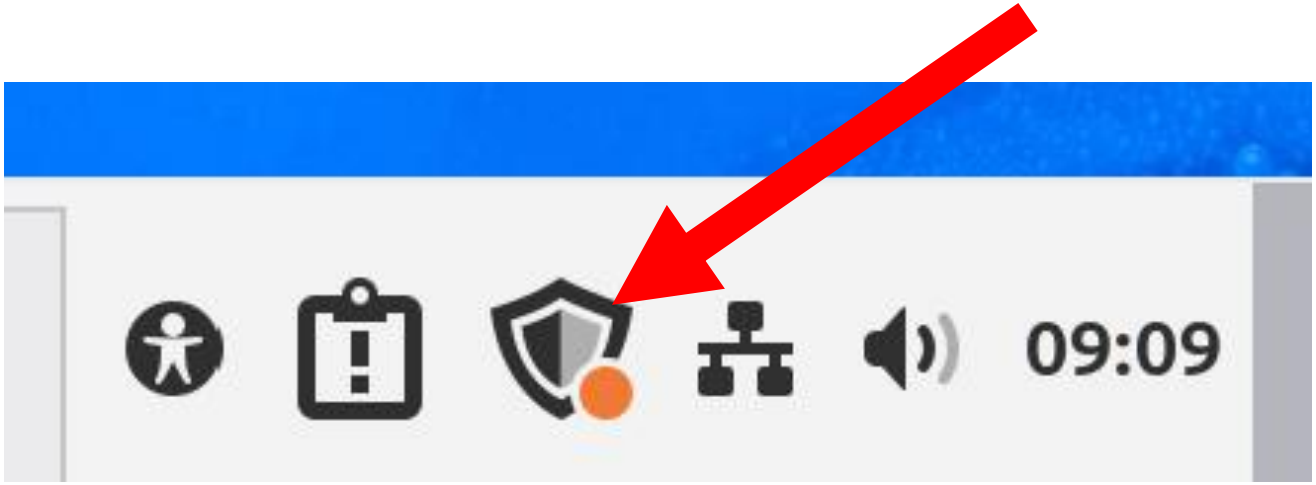
To check for updates when the symbol is not shown:

- Use the RIGHT or LEFT mouse button to click on the Start button
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on Settings in the pop-up menu
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Windows Update"
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Check for updates"

SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint:

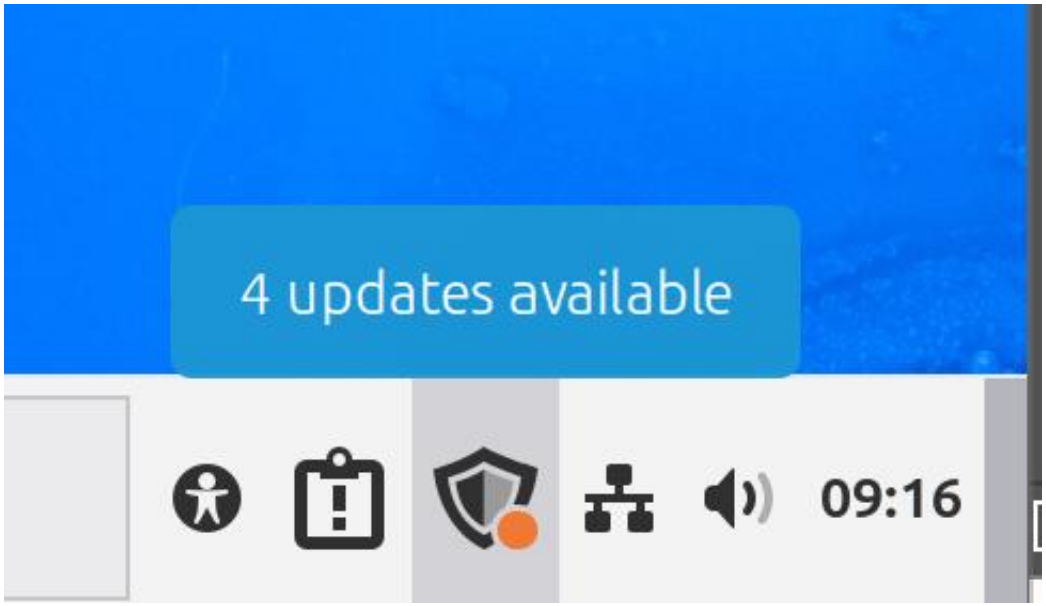
- When the "Update Manager" applet detects that updates are available for download and installation, the Update shield icon will look like this:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

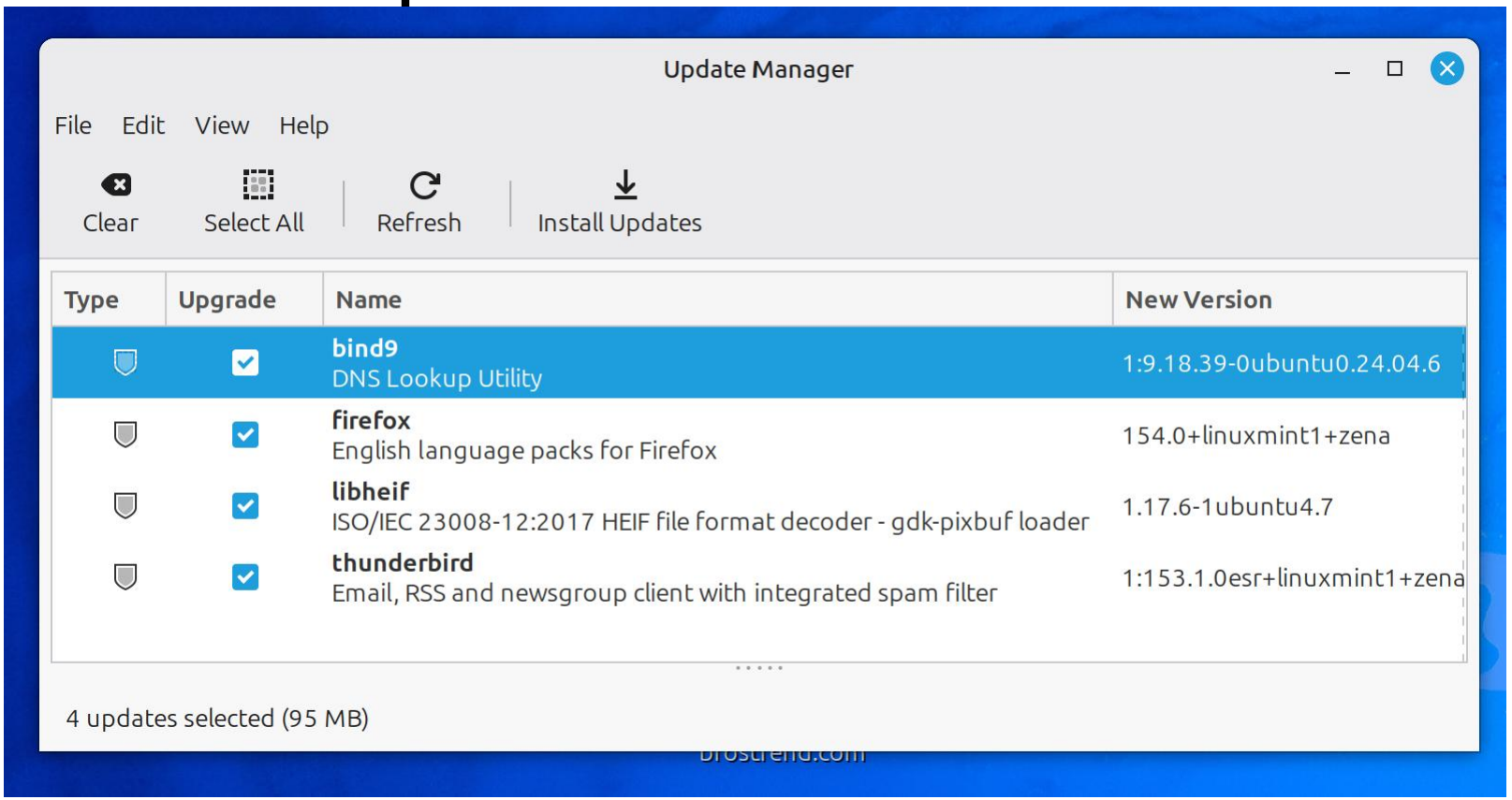
- Then you can use the mouse pointer to hover over on the Update shield icon:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

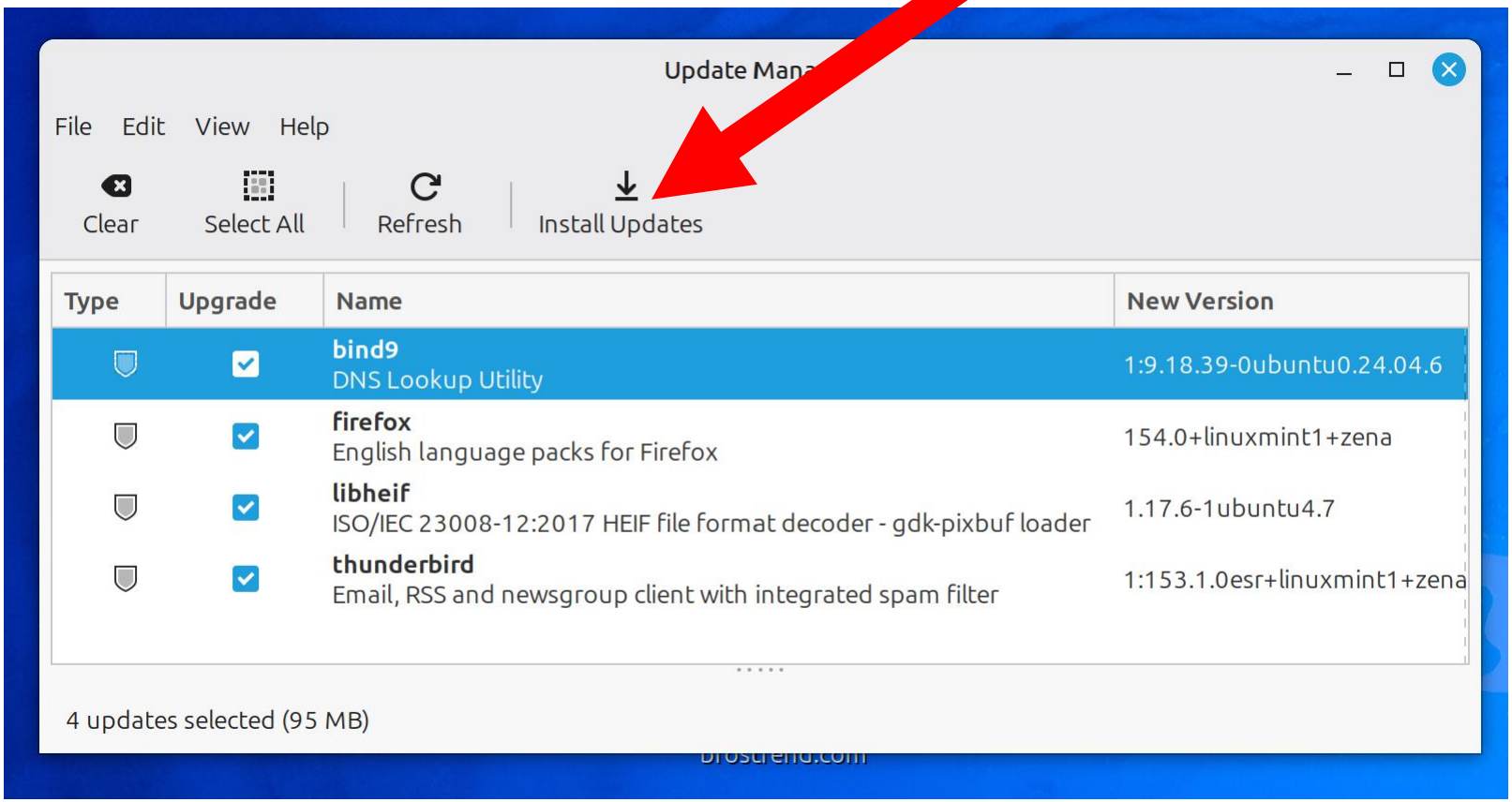
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Install Updates":



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

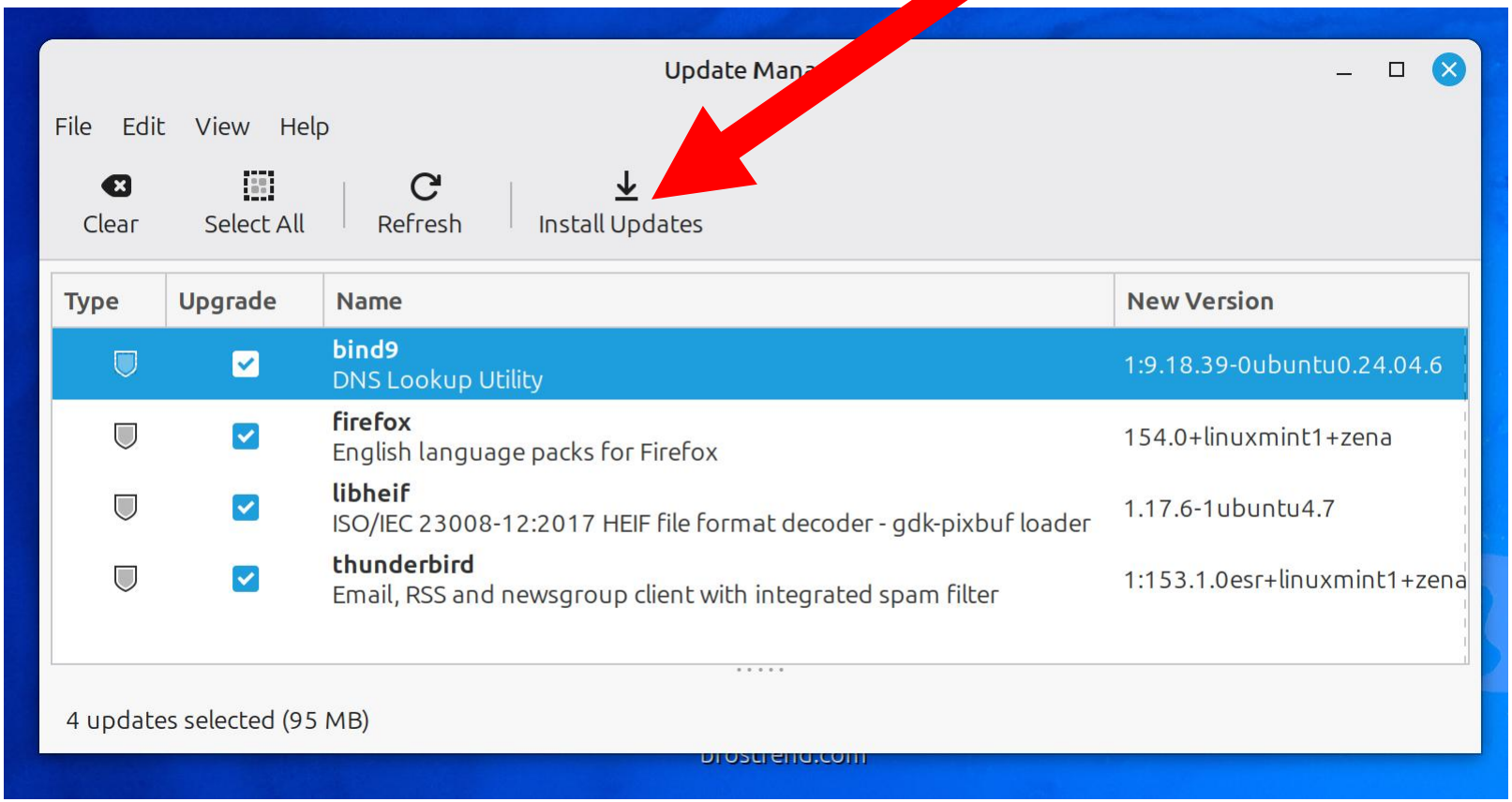
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Install Updates":



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

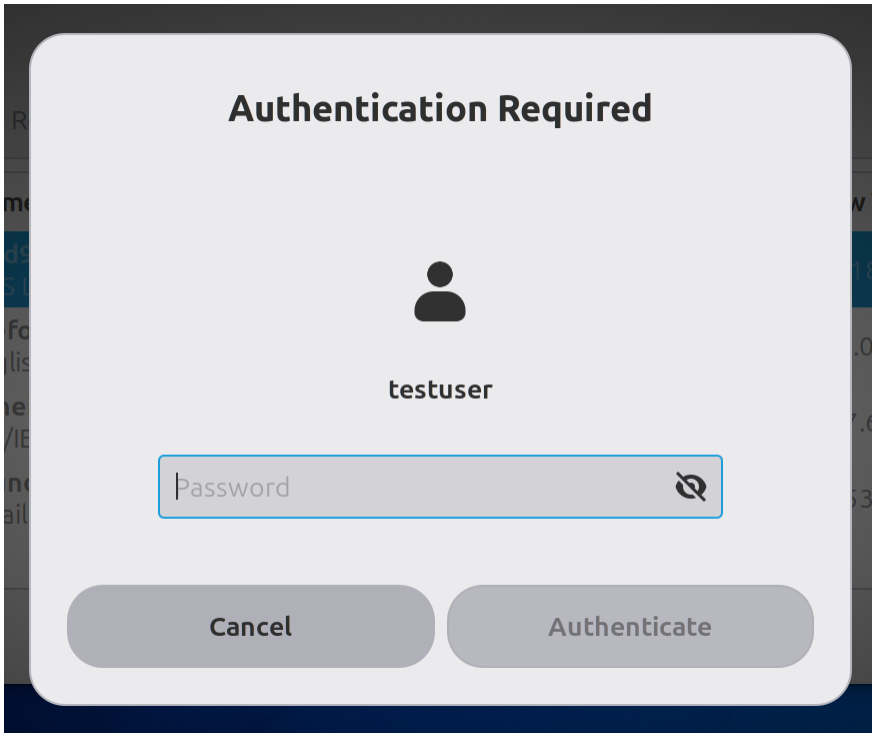
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Install Updates":



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

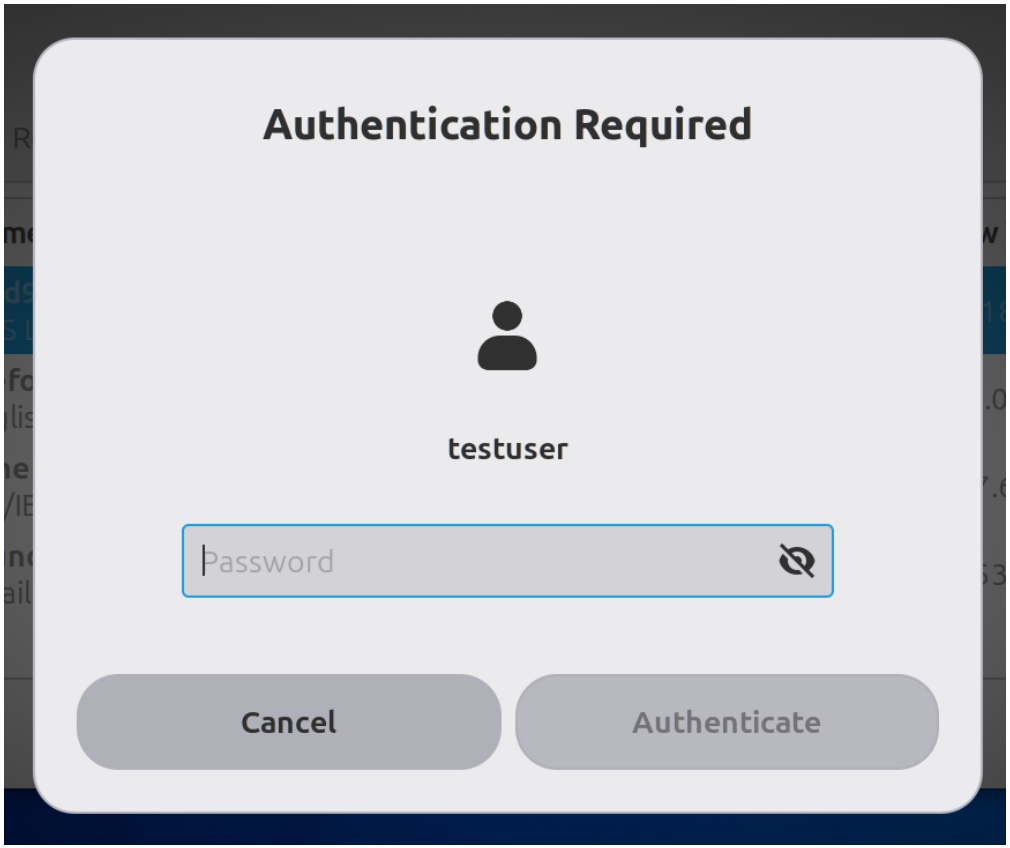
- An "Authentication Required" dialog box will be displayed:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

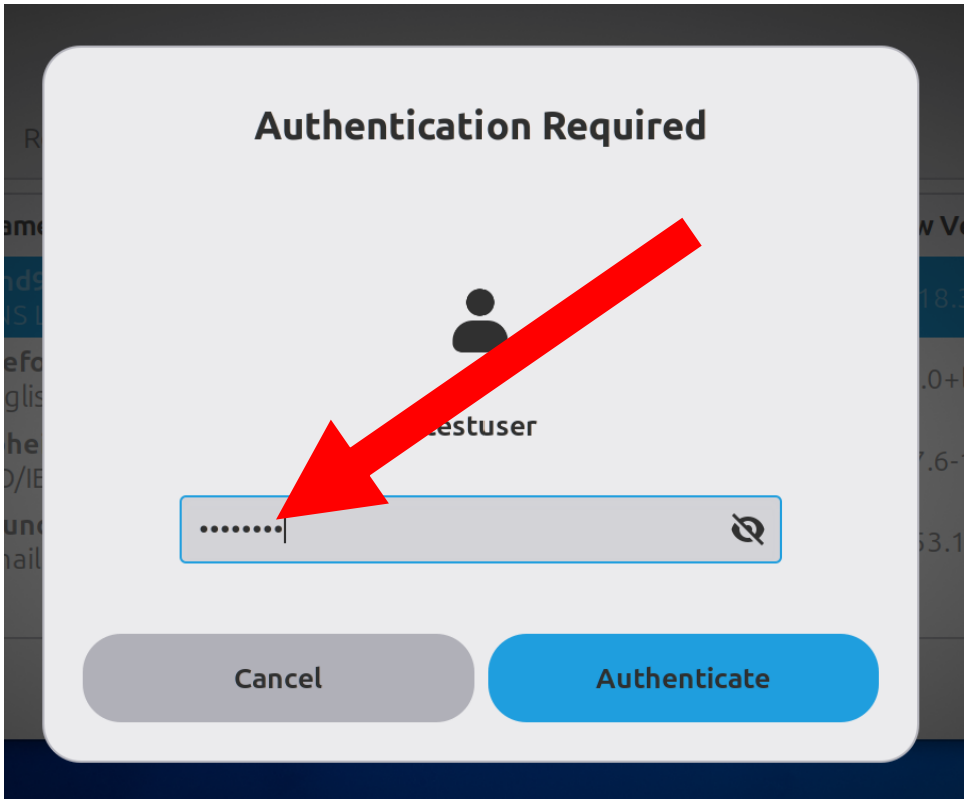
- Type in your password for Linux Mint:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

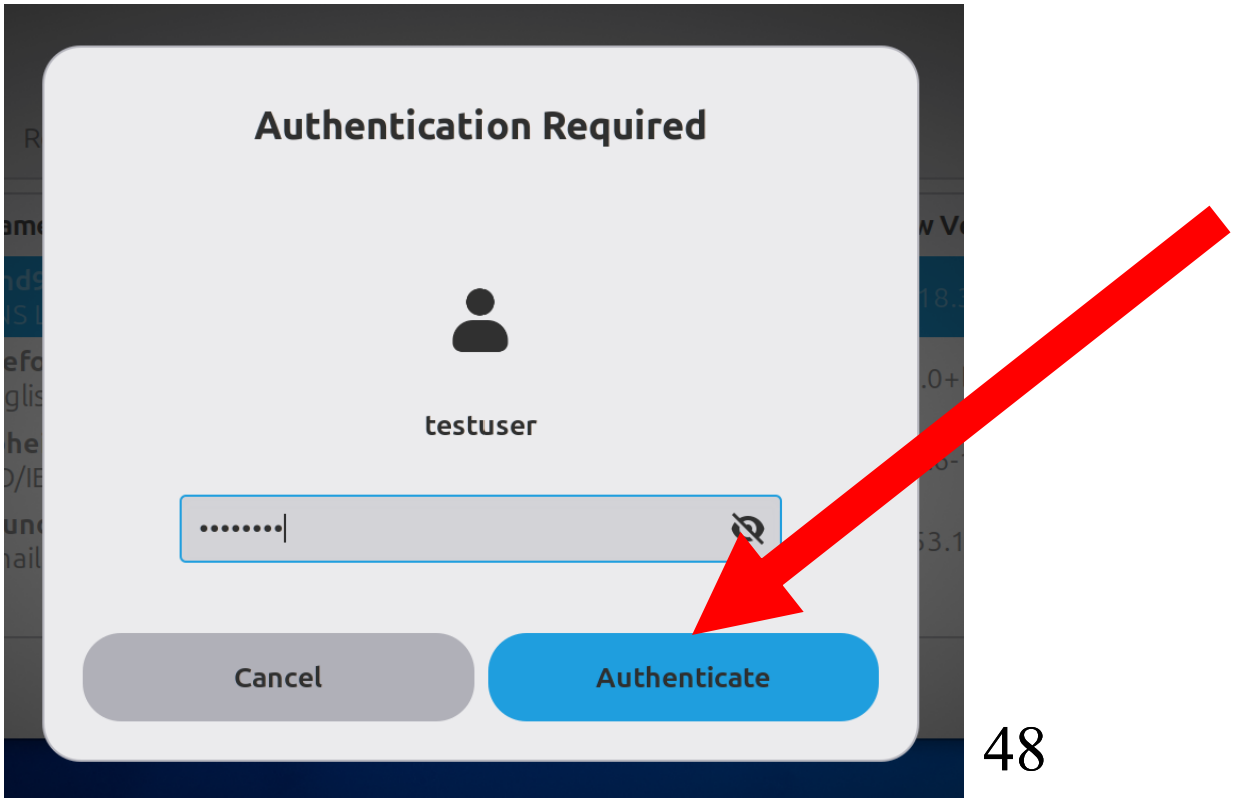
- Type in your password for Linux Mint:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

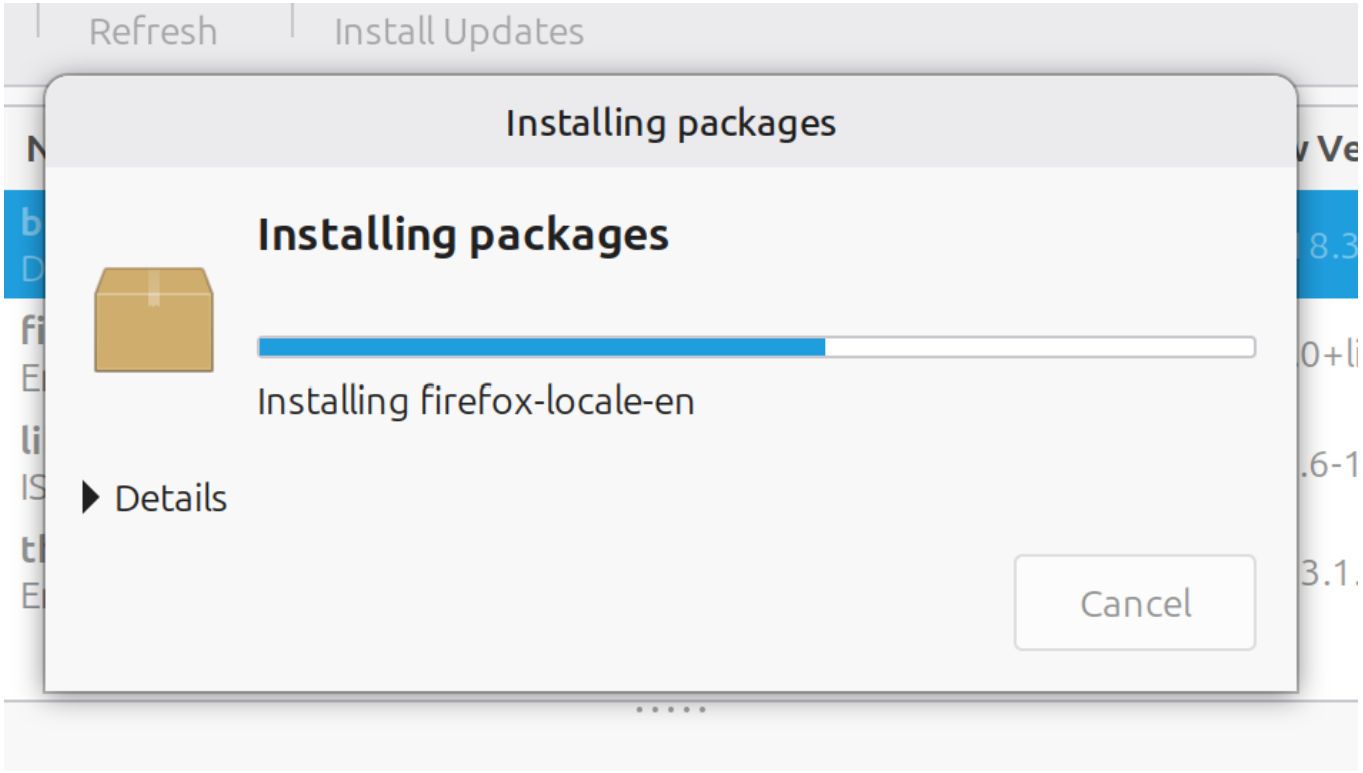
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the Authenticate button



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

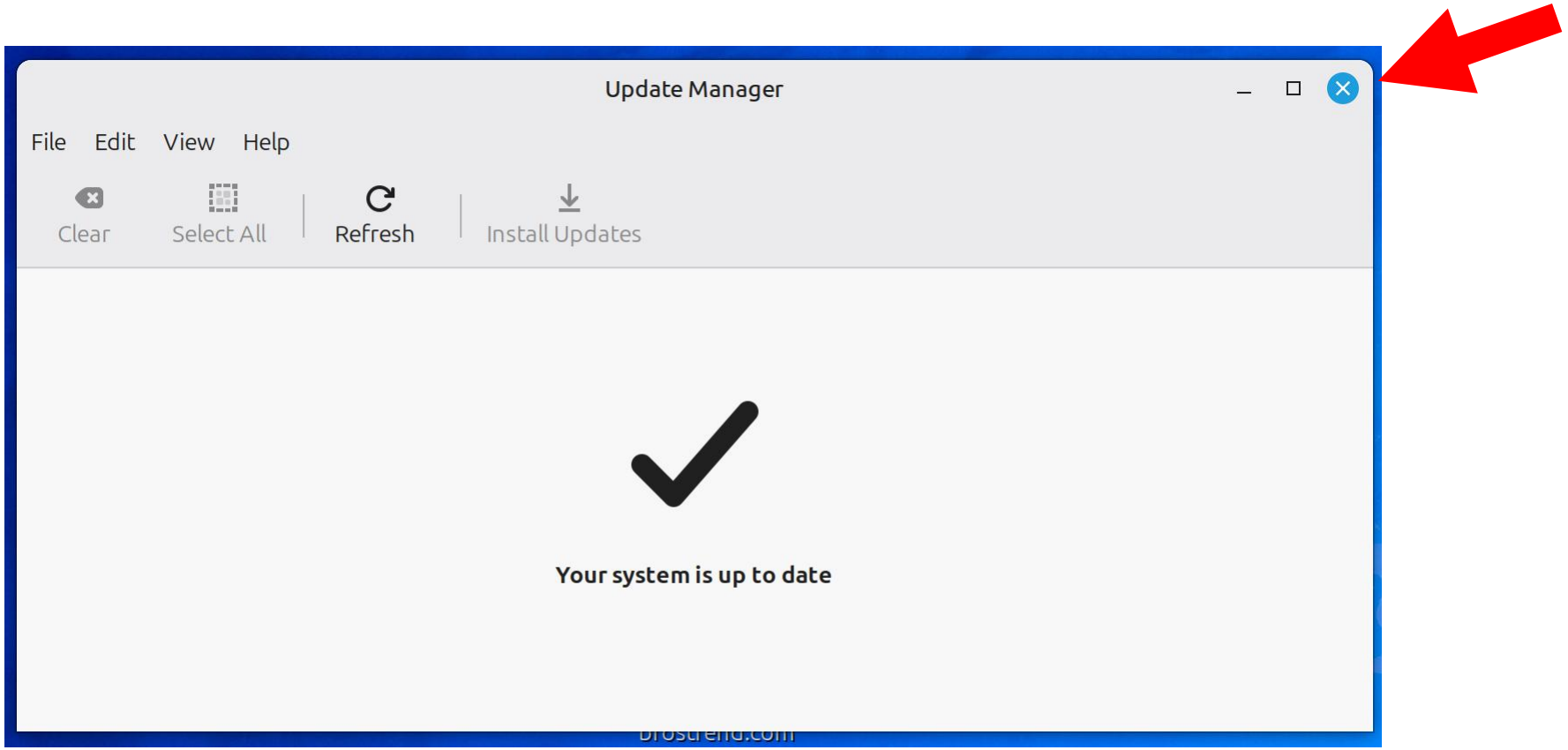
- The updates will download and install:



SYSTEM UPDATES (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

- Close the Update Manager dialog box:



SFC /SCANNOW VS. BUNDLED UTILITIES

Windows:

- SFC scans your system files and confirms they have not been compromised or replaced with unofficial versions.

SFC /SCANNOW VS. BUNDLED UTILITIES(continued)

Windows (continued):

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the Start button
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Terminal (Admin)"
- SFC /SCANNOW
  AND THEN USE
  dism.exe /online /cleanup-image /scanhealth
  if SFC /SCANNOW finds probllems

SFC /SCANNOW (continued)

Linux Mint:

Linux Mint does not have a single command for fixing the operating system:

See https://linuxvox.com/blog/chkdsk-on-linux/

ADVANCED SYSTEM SETTINGS

Windows:

Use the LEFT mouse button to go to Settings, System, About, Related Links, Advanced Systems Settings", "Performance" section, "Settings", "Adjust for best performance, OK

Linux Mint:

No equivalent procedure but Linux Mint does not have the "cute stuff" slowdown (= RAM hog) that Windows has

STARTUP APPLICATIONS

Windows:

RIGHT click on Start button.

LEFT click on Task Manager.

LEFT click on Startup Apps.

Disable any applications that you do not need to have running all the time.

STARTUP APPLICATIONS (continued)

Linux Mint:

LEFT click on Menu button.

LEFT click on Preferrences.

LEFT click on Startup Applications.

Disable any unneeded applications that you do not have starting up during the bootup of Linux Mint.

SCREEN SAVER & POWER MANAGEMENT

Windows:

Use the LEFT mouse button to go to: Settings, System, Power, and then "Screen, sleep, & hibernate timeouts"

or

go to the "Control Panel".
Then use the LEFT mouse button to go to Power Management.

SCREEN SAVER & POWER MANAGEMENT (continued)

Linux Mint:

LEFT mouse button to click on "LM"
"Menu" button
LEFT mouse button to click on
Preferences (in the middle
column),

LEFT mouse button to click on
"Power Management" (in the right-
most column),

etc., etc.

DISK MANAGEMENT

Windows:

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the Start button
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Disk Management"

DISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

Linux Mint:

- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "LM" "Menu" button
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Preferences" in the middle column.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to pull downward in the right-most column
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Disks"

DEFAULT SOFTWARE STORE

Windows:

- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the Start button.
- Use the LEFT mouse button pull downward on the vertical scroll bar.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Microsoft Store

DEFAULT SOFTWARE STORE (continued)

Linux Mint:

- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "LM" "Menu" button.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Preferences" in the middle column.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to pull downward with the vertical scroll bar in the right-most column.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Software Manager".

BUNDLED TEXT EDITING APP

Windows:

- In November 2023, the monthly update for Windows 11 caused the bundled "Notepad" text editing app to open all previously edited text files to open as permanent but removable tabs.
  To stop this annoyance, you can start Notepad. Then click on "Settings". Then click on "Start new session and discard unsaved changes.

BUNDLED TEXT EDITING APP (continued)

Windows (continued):

- In November 2023, the monthly update for Windows 11 caused the bundled "Notepad" text editing app to open all previously edited text files to open as permanent but removable tabs.
  To stop this annoyance, you can start Notepad. Then click on "Settings". Then click on "Start new session and discard unsaved changes.

BUNDLED TEXT EDITING APP (continued)

Linux Mint:

The "Text Editor" in Linux Mint does not have the annoyances that Microsoft has in "Notepad:

- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on the "LM" "menu" button.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Accessories" in the middle column of the pop-up menu.

BUNDLED TEXT EDITING APP (continued)

Linux Mint (continued):

- Use the LEFT mouse button drag downward on the vertical scroll bar.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to drag downward in the vertical scroll bar.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Text Editor".

TIME ZONE SETTINGS

Windows:

- By default, Windows.. configures the hardware clock on the motherboard to run on the time zone of where the computer is physically located.

TIME ZONE SETTINGS (continued)

Linux Mint:

- Whenever you start up Linux Mint it will automatically configure the hardware clock on the motherboard to run on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) rather than local time.
- Linux then adds or subtracts the correct number of hours for your specific time zone when it displays the time to you in the "clock" in the "Panel".

TIME ZONE SETTINGS (continued)

If you boot up a computer with Windows.. after booting the same computer with Linux Mint: Use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the time display in the Notification Area of the Taskbar.

Then use the LEFT mouse button to click on "Adjust date and time".

Then use the LEFT mouse button to turn OFF "Set time automatically".

Then use the LEFT mouse button to turn ON "Set time automatically".

Then use the LEFT mouse button to close the "Settings" dialog box.

TIME ZONE SETTINGS (continued)

This simple procedure will set the clock on the motherboard of the computer back to displaying the time in the time zone that the computer resides.

If you wish to set Windows to use the Universal Time Coordinates that Linux sets the motherboard to, you can do so by following the instructions at https://www.xahertz.com/blog/windows-utc/

DISPLAY THE RECYCLE BIN ON THE DESKTOP

Windows:

- If the Recycle Bin icon is missing from your desktop, you can restore it through the Desktop Icon Settings in Windows.
- Right-click on an empty area of the desktop and select Personalize.
- In the Personalization window, click Themes.

DISPLAY THE RECYCLE BIN ON THE DESKTOP (continued)

Windows (continued):

- Scroll down to Related Settings and click Desktop icon settings.
- In the Desktop Icon Settings window, check the box for Recycle Bin.
- Click Apply, then OK to save changes.

DISPLAY THE RECYCLE BIN ON THE DESKTOP (continued)

Windows (continued):

- If no icons are visible at all, right-click the desktop, select View, and ensure Show desktop icons is checked.

DISPLAY THE RECYCLE BIN ON THE DESKTOP (continued)

Linux Mint:

- Open Desktop Settings
- Right-click on an empty area of your desktop.
- Select Customize or Desktop Settings (wording may vary slightly by Mint version).
- Enable the Trash Icon

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS

Windows:

"Macrium Reflect Home" is the best disk imaging and cloning app for "Windows.." but it is not free.

For both Windows.. and Linux Mint, the free "Rescuezilla" distro of Linux can be used to boot up, clone, and image both Windows.. and Linux Mint disks. See https://rescuezilla.com/

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 2A- Making A "Rescuezilla" Bootable USB Thumb Drive
  is described at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/2A-making-Rescuezilla-thumbdrive.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/2A-making-Rescuezilla-thumbdrive.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 2B- Making a "Rescuezilla" Bootable DVD Disc
  is described at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/2B-making-Rescuezilla-DVD.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/2B-making-Rescuezilla-DVD.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 4-Using a Bootable CD or DVD or a Bootable USB Thumb Drive
  to Start Up
  "Rescuezilla" or "CLONEZILLA LIVE"
  is available at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/4-computer-boot-up-procedure.pdf
  and is also explained
  at http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/4-computer-boot-up-procedure.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 5-Determining Drive Serial Numbers
  For Using "Rescuezilla" or "CLONEZILLA LIVE"
  is available at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/5-drive-identification.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/5-drive-identification.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 6A-Using "Rescuezilla" To Create A Clone Or An Image Backup Of A Drive In Your Computer is available at http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6A-using-Rescuezilla.pdf and is also available at http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6A-using-Rescuezilla.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 6B-If You Use Rescuezilla To Clone A Drive In A "Windows 10.." Or A "Windows 11.." computer and the connect Both Drives to the sae computer by means of SATA or M.2,
  and You Then Boot Up or Reboot the "Windows.." Computer,
  You Will Get A "Signature Collision"
  as explained in
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6B-signature-collisions.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6B-signature-collisions.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- ("Signature collisions" are "fatal" for bootable "Windows.." drives
  but fixable for non-bootable drives.)
  8-How the cloning operations of "Rescuezilla" (free) and "Clonezilla" (free)
  differ from the cloning operations of "Macrium Reflect" (not free) and EaseUS "Partition Magic" (not free)
  is explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/8-free-versus-not-free-cloning-apps.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/8-free-versus-not-free-cloning-apps.pptx

CLONING & IMAGING DISKS (continued)

- 6B-If You Use Rescuezilla To Clone A Drive In A "Windows 10.." Or A "Windows 11.." computer and the connect Both Drives to the sae computer by means of SATA or M.2,
  and You Then Boot Up or Reboot the "Windows.." Computer,
  You Will Get A "Signature Collision"
  as explained in
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6B-signature-collisions.pdf
  and is also explained at
  http://aztcs.apcug.org/meeting_notes/linuxsig/backup/6B-signature-collisions.pptx