

CHAPTER 18.10 BONUS

Updates in Ubuntu 18.10

This short bonus chapter is provided to highlight interesting and important changes to Ubuntu that are available in the new Ubuntu 18.10 release, which came out after the publication of Ubuntu Unleashed 2019. This is an interim release that will be supported for 9 months. The next LTS (long term support) release will be 20.04, scheduled for release in April 2020 and will be supported for 5 years.

Full release notes for Ubuntu 18.10 are available online at <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/CosmicCuttlefish/ReleaseNotes>.

Main Updates

This release received many updates that are not immediately visible. Let us begin with the visible things.

Sure, as always, the desktop wallpaper was updated to match the development nickname, in this case a Cosmic Cuttlefish, and it has more aubergine (purple) in it than orange, likely indicating the balance of desktop work has shifted to more work from the community and less from Canonical.

In addition, there is a new default desktop theme called Yaru that is being made the default which was mostly developed by the community; it has received further improvements and touch ups, but they are subtle.

Part of the desktop update is the introduction of a new icon set called Suru. Suru is designed for consistency of style, which will please those who love a unified look and irritate those who love wide variety.

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As always, other desktop themes and icon sets are available for users to install, so whether you love the changes or not, you should adapt fine.

Most of the updates in this release relate to useful things like toolchains and server software upgrades (see Package Changes later in this document) or performance changes by the GNOME project that are not immediately visible, but which should improve the performance of the shell and make the desktop “feel faster.” Early reports from testers show a measurable performance boost.

Ubuntu continues to push updates and improvements to their Snap app packaging format and currently ships with three Snap apps by default: Calculator, System Monitor, and Characters.

No More 32-bit Support

This was announced some time ago, but as a reminder, those using the old i386 architecture must remain on 18.04 as support for i386 is expected to be dropped soon, although no official timeline has been set.

However, there is no upgrade available for i386 to 18.10 as Ubuntu does not want anyone to be stranded on a release with a shorter support window than the release they are already running.

Other Official Ubuntu Flavors

Perhaps you would like to explore other desktop options. Here are the release notes for all the official desktop flavors (see <https://www.ubuntu.com/download/flavours>).

Kubuntu <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/CosmicCuttlefish/ReleaseNotes/Kubuntu>

Lubuntu <https://lubuntu.me/cosmic-released/> **Note:** upgrading from 18.04 to 18.10 with Lubuntu is known to cause serious problems and is therefore not recommended and not supported. Read the release notes for more information.

Ubuntu Budgie <https://ubuntubudgie.org/blog/2018/09/27/18-10-release-notes>

Ubuntu Kylin <http://www.ubuntukylin.com/news/shownews.php?lang=en&id=843>

Ubuntu MATE <https://ubuntu-mate.org/blog/ubuntu-mate-cosmic-final-release/>

Ubuntu Studio <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/CosmicCuttlefish/ReleaseNotes/UbuntuStudio>

Xubuntu <https://wiki.xubuntu.org/releases/18.10/release-notes>

Package Changes

Each Ubuntu release receives updated packages for almost all the software in the software repositories. Ubuntu Unleashed readers will likely find the following few highlights of this release of greater interest:

- ▶ **OpenSSL:** has been upgraded to the 1.1.1 long-term support series, which supports the new TLSv1.3 standard. The older 1.0.2 series OpenSSL is still available, but it is expected to be removed in the next Ubuntu release.
- ▶ **Python:** Python 2 is no longer installed by default. Python 3 is now the only Python installed on new systems, although Python 2 is still available in the repositories. The transition has been done slowly, but if you still have any Python 2 programs you have written, you should make this a priority.
- ▶ **Toolchain updates:** Many toolchain-focused packages have been updated include new upstream releases of glibc, OpenJDK, boos, rustc, GCC, Python 3, ruby, PHP, Perl, Golang, and more.
- ▶ **Server updates:** Server packages also received updates, such as QEMU, libvirt, DPDK, Open vSwitch, cloud-init, curtin, and s390x.
- ▶ **Desktop updates:** The desktop has been upgraded to the latest GNOME release, 3.30. Desktop packages also received updates, such as Firefox, Rhythmbox, LibreOffice, Thunderbird, and more.
- ▶ **Linux kernel 4.18:** The new, updated kernel has received bug fixes, security improvements, additional hardware support, and improvements to performance. These are all behind-the-scenes improvements that you might not see directly but that make the inclusion of this kernel a plus.

Installing Ubuntu 18.10

To perform a fresh install of Ubuntu 18.10, download the appropriate image (desktop or server, etc.) from <http://releases.ubuntu.com/releases/18.10/> and follow the install instructions provided in Chapter 1.

Upgrading from Ubuntu 18.04

You can upgrade your desktop from Ubuntu 18.04 by inserting an Ubuntu 18.10 disc or USB drive while 18.04 is running. A pop-up window appears and asks whether you want to upgrade. Just follow the onscreen directions.

A more common option is to do an online upgrade. On the desktop, you can do this using Software Updater by clicking the **Upgrade** button when it appears. Again, just follow the onscreen instructions while you are connected to the Internet, and you will be all set.

But what if you don't want to wait for the notification? Or what if you accidentally clicked Don't Upgrade when notified? Not to worry. You can choose to upgrade any time.

To upgrade from Ubuntu 18.04 on a desktop system, follow these steps:

1. Press **Alt+F2** and type **update-manager** into the command box.
Update Manager should open and tell you, "New distribution release '18.10' is available."
2. Click **Upgrade** and follow the onscreen instructions.

To upgrade from Ubuntu 18.04 on a server system, follow these steps:

1. Install the `update-manager-core` package if it is not already installed.
2. Launch the upgrade tool with the command `sudo do-release-upgrade`.
3. Follow the onscreen instructions.

Note that the server upgrade will use GNU screen and automatically reattach in case of dropped-connection problems.