

Useful Linux software you might not know about

List of software

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List of software

■ SpaceFM ■

A fully customizable file manager! By "fully" I truly mean it - you can edit **everything**. Choose what is seen on the sidebar - devices, shortcuts, tree view? Or nothing, leaving the whole window for managing files. Click on any toolbar button or bookmark to set its shortcut. Set custom icons for bookmarks. Format or backup devices. But the most important feature is

custom commands. For a tutorial, we will be adding a command to **move all selected pictures to the Pictures folder.** Right click on any file, then on Copy, choose New, and click Command. For its name, type "Move to Pictures folder". The actual command will be "mv %F /home/hackerman/Pictures" (of course replace hackerman with your real username). Now you have to choose **upon which conditions the command will appear.** For that, go to the Context menu, and choose rule "MIME type" "equals". Inside the textbox, type "image/jpeg", and click Add. That will display the command for every jpeg file. Now do the same but with "image/png" and "image/gif". Voila! Now, every time you right click an image (or many), there will be an option to put it (them) in an appropriate place. Note: if there are multiple files, **all of them have to fit the command's requirements.** So if you select 100 files, of which 99 are images and one is a music file, the command will not appear. Anyway, that's the power of SpaceFM. Our command is pretty basic, but the possibilities are endless. **Works with GTK2.**

● qBittorrent ●

A torrent client with an **in-built search engine!** There are more of them but the others all suck. For example, Vuze has ads in its free version. Tixati is bloated to hell and back. Frostwire is also bloated - video players have no place inside torrent clients. KTorrent is the only other one that's open source but the last time I used it, most of its search engines didn't work and displayed a big ugly error. That, then, leaves qBittorrent, which also has a really nice, clean user interface (though an unfortunate qt dependency). Note: almost all of the search plugins rely on connecting to websites that are behind Cloudflare - so if you are blocking that, then they won't work (and you might be surprised by getting little or even no results). A workaround is to run qBittorrent through TOR (eg. proxychains), lift the torrents you want, then close it and run it back through a VPN (since downloading through TOR won't work due to requiring UDP).

🐼 aMule 🐼

Even better than torrents. As qB, it has a search engine, but is also more configurable in other ways. You can add friends and send messages, but the most important feature is the **ability to set a SOCKS proxy server** - yes, this means you can **download files through TOR**. In an age where ISPs literally send letters trying to scare you from torrenting, and some people **even get fined**, this is very important. Note: I wasn't able to get High ID with TOR - it doesn't seem to be possible, and apparently **is** with some VPNs. However (most) VPNs are paid, and can rat you out. Also, only TCP traffic goes through TOR, while aMule still sends some UDP traffic, **but the actual file is downloaded through TOR** - I know because when I turned it off, the download stopped. I think the UDP is just for server requests. Regardless, this is **uncharted territory** - not much information at all on running aMule through TOR, so some issues could still pop up. TOR does not provide perfect security regardless - even with all the effort spent on the TOR browser, they can barely deal with simple things such as fingerprinting. TOR itself was deanonymized many times, and probably many more tactics are in preparation or even active, but unknown to the public. But it is better than relying on direct connections, and is your best free option. **Works with GTK2.**

🐼 QuodLibet 🐼

The best Linux music player! (and I think I've tried them all). The UI is great. Everything is so intuitive and usable. You can choose what you see on the sidebar - playlists, album lists, your folders, etc. Its preferences menu has everything it needs to and nothing more (while some other players, like DeadBeeF or Clementine, have too much stuff shoved in there). In the track view, you can easily add or remove the visible columns that you need - and there are LOTS of

them, while DeadBeeF only has a few. Supports ratings and grouping tags (which can also be displayed as columns in the song list) - and **here we come to QuodLibet's most important feature**, which is missing in other music players. The **advanced tag filtering capabilities**. Every option that is available as a column can be used as a search term. So you can search by length, album, author, whatever. And combine all those in any way you want. Let's say I'm not in the mood for short or sad songs and I've assigned those a relevant grouping value. So I can type **(grouping = !sad, grouping = !short)**, which means "show me songs where the grouping tag is NEITHER sad nor short". I also don't want any badly rated songs, so let's add a rating over 0.5. **&(grouping = !sad, grouping = !short, #(rating > 0.5))**. See? You can do everything with this, and **no other player has this capability**. A detailed explanation of QuodLibet's filtering is available [here \(archive\)](#) ([MozArchive](#)). **QuodLibet 2.4.1 works with GTK2** and doesn't appear to be missing any relevant features despite being 11 years old. The only player other than QuodLibet that has the regex search is *cmus* - but it is console-based and requires ~~taking systemdicks up your ass~~ elogind.

Claws Mail

A mail client that (similar to SpaceFM) manages to be featureful while not getting in your way. UI is clean and immediately understandable; I especially like the Preferences menu where you can see all the categories at once on the left side and the options they consist of on the right side. Using Claws Mail has been painless and very efficient for me - you can easily do literally everything you want in regards to mail handling (PGP support available through plugin - works very well) - while being able to ignore the things you don't care about without hassle. More importantly - when the security of various mail clients against the [EFAIL attack \(archive\)](#) ([MozArchive](#)) was tested - only Claws and Mutt passed them with flying colors:

Product	First contact	Case number
Outlook 2007	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
Outlook 2010	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
Outlook 2013	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
Outlook 2016	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
Win. 10 Mail	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
Win. Live Mail	2017-10-25	MSRC Case: 41826
The Bat!	2018-03-20	*
Postbox	2018-03-21	
eM Client	2018-02-27	
IBM Notes	2018-03-20	
Thunderbird	2017-10-25	Bugtracker: 1411592
Evolution	2018-02-19	
Trojitá	2018-03-10	
KMail	2018-02-11	
Claws	—	
Mutt	—	
Apple Mail	2017-11-15	Follow-up: 678142418
MailMate	2018-02-27	
Airmail	2018-03-20	
iOS Mail	2017-11-15	Follow-up: 678142418
R2Mail2	2018-03-10	
MailDroid	2018-02-27	
Nine	2018-02-27	
GMail	2017-11-03	Issue Nr. 68838312
Horde IMP	2018-03-21	
Exfiltration channel (no user interaction) No exfiltration channel found Exfiltration channel (user interaction required)		

Contrast that to Thunderbird (usually the E-mail software of choice for Linux systems) which was one of the **only clients vulnerable to all three of the above attacks** (two of them **without user interaction**). Then again, it is not even a mail client but an abomination consisting of an **RSS reader, calendar, task manager, and a fucking chat program**. It even has a **default search engine and fucking tabs** - like what the fuck? This isn't a web browser! Of course, the UI is also

terrible - check out Principles of bad software design to know more. There is also Sylpheed (from which Claws Mail had been forked a long time ago) which is a decent choice but lacks some important features while not really being more usable. The Preferences menu is badly designed as well. **Important privacy warning:** Claws Mail reveals your timezone by default (in the headers of sent E-mails), which could be sensitive especially if you have a rare one like +12 or such. To remove that "feature", go to `/home/username/.claws-mail/` and open the file `clawsrc`. In it, find the line `hide_timezone` and change the value to 1. **Works with GTK2.**

Liferea

An RSS client joining the list of lean, simple and solid software with just enough features to be useful without overburdening the user. But first - what are RSS clients and why use them? Briefly - some websites choose to supply a document called an RSS (or Atom) feed which contains all the articles / news it has submitted. A client can then mass download those with one click, save them and read them locally. It is a great debloater of the Web, displaying all the headlines at once while avoiding the fluff. You can then quickly choose what interests you and read it in Liferea's simple viewer (there's a gimped version of the article sometimes, though - depending on what the site has chosen) or go to the site directly. Liferea's features are exactly what's needed and no more - the ability to group feeds by folders, marking them so they avoid being automatically dumped, searching, exporting the feed list, offline mode, auto-detection of a site's RSS feed location...It's the perfect combination of usefulness and simplicity. Contrast with RSSOwl which has way too much shit integrated into it. Anyway, I really recommend RSS clients in general - you don't know what you're missing until you try them, like with mail clients versus webmail. Another advantage of RSS is being able to **push / view all the updates since you've last read a site**. Really handy for both web developers and readers! There are not

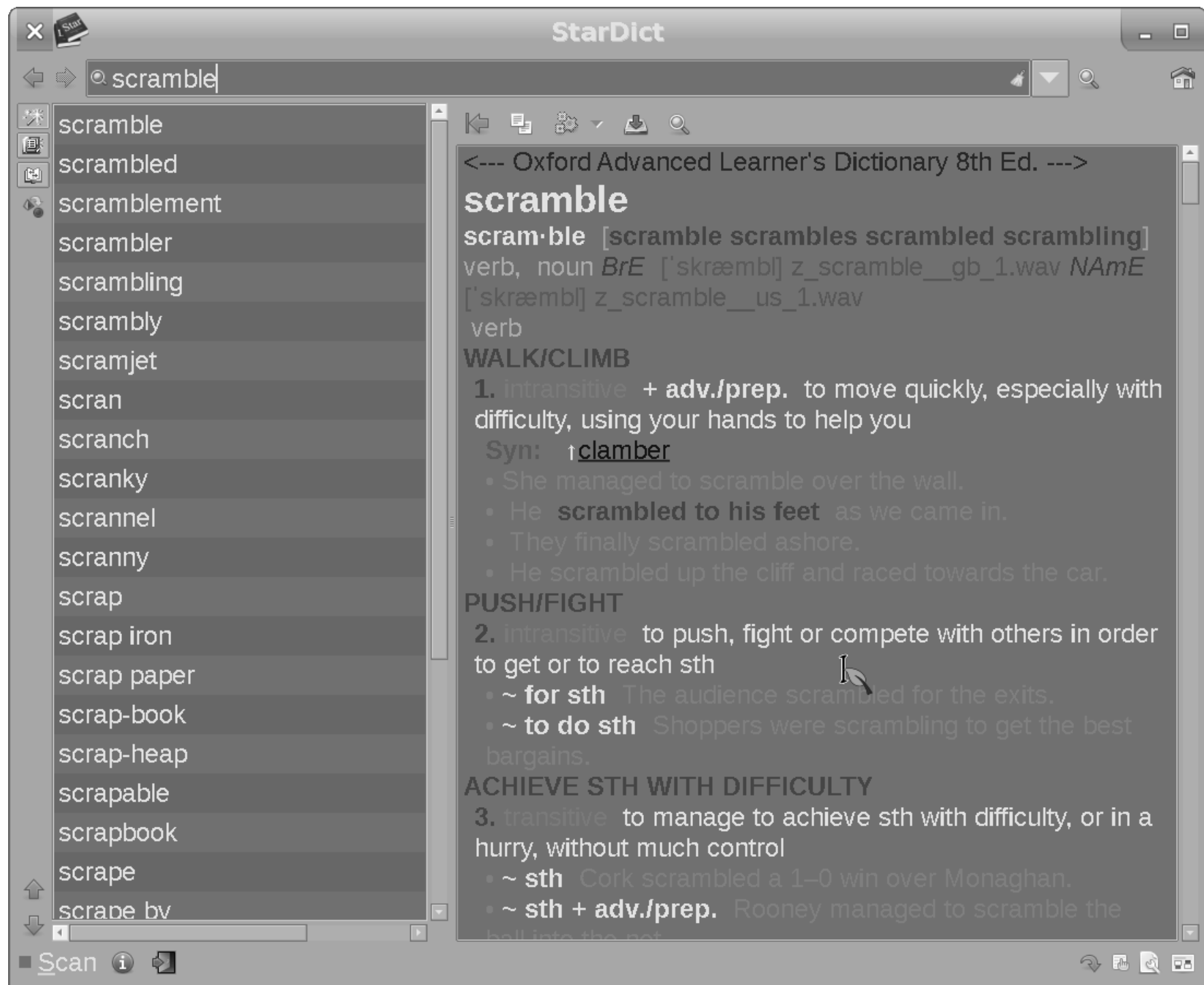
many RSS clients at all - pretty much just RSSOwl (bloat), Thunderbird (mozillaware), QuiteRSS (bloated qt dependency...) and some console-only ones - so Liferea is the recommendation. **UPDATE:** the latest version I can find that supports GTK2 is **1.8.7**. It works perfectly fine.

StarDict

Recently I got annoyed by having to go to a website to find a definition of a word once again, and realized it's finally time to setup a local solution for this functionality. Obviously, it's better to not connect to the internet if you don't have to; the website (or the entire connection) might be down, there might be spy scripts included, long loading times, or the online dictionary definitions might become compromised as happened during Covid (archive) (MozArchive). So I went on a journey to find the best local dictionary software but flaws kept turning up - such as requiring online (making it pointless), being terminal-only, having undesirable dependencies, not having good dictionaries available, etc. I almost gave up until StarDict showed up - which was the only one that satisfied my standards. In Slackware, you can install it by the usual way of *“slapt-get --install stardict”*.

Now, by default it's as useless as any other one, and it might seem hard to find dictionaries for it. Fortunately I've found this site (archive) which has many really good ones. I especially like the *Oxford English Dictionary* ones, which I just picked because they had big size so I assumed they'd have all the words. But there are also ones for slang, synonyms, other languages, and other stuff I didn't try because I haven't needed it (so far). To make StarDict recognize a dictionary, you'll need to extract the archive and put all the resulting files in */usr/share/stardict/dic*. Keep in mind that searching for a word might get slow if you have a lot

of big dicts installed. You can enable or disable them at any time in the settings, and **you might want to disable the default ones**, as some of them connect to the Internet. Finally, a problem I've had for quite a while has now been solved, and I hope you can benefit from this software too.



Looking at the screenshot, you should be able to see the “*Scan*” option on the bottom left. Now, that is something I didn't expect nor is what I wanted such software for, but it turned out very useful. What it does when enabled is that - when you select a word **in any software other than StarDict**, then hover over it, a small StarDict notification will appear under your cursor, showing the definition right there. Very convenient if you're reading an article with a lot of technical words, etc. and can't be bothered alt+tabbing to the StarDict window every time you can't figure something out. **If you want to use this option, you really should disable the default dictionaries, because otherwise, every text selection will be sent to those.** StarDict can - of course - easily be used without it if you don't like stuff popping up, and still does the job then.

Other GTK2 software

PeaZip or xarchiver for archive management. Older versions of Transmission for torrenting, alternatively rtorrent. MPlayer is the only video player as far as I can see, and it lacks any actual user interface. Atril for PDF viewing. Veracrypt works for disk encryption. The only "modern" GTK2 browser is Pale Moon. Geany IDE requires an actual review, but for now putting it in here. Pidgin or old versions of Gajim as XMPP clients; alternatively Profanity. Ristretto image viewer (edit: actually, Mirage is better, with more features especially the default zoom). All system settings, etc. tools from Xfce 4.12 work.

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