**apt**

**apt (Advanced Package Tool)** is a package management software in Debian and other Linux distros based on it (Ubuntu, Mint).

Originally developed for Ubuntu, apt appeared after the mighty apt-get command as an attempt to simply workflows and to make managing packages easier. *apt* is not a complete replacement for **apt-get** functionality, but core functions are there.

Like so many things in Unix world, apt is more than one thing. Here are the meanings:

- **apt** a package management system
- **apt** is a tool (a Linux command)
- **apt** is a collection of tools for package management (apt-*)

**apt** is an advanced tool capable of resolving dependencies (pulling additional software packages and installing them if your selected package requires them). It’s also using online APT repositories which allows for many commercial and independent developments to be provided and distributed in a very elegant way, without conflicting with default Debian/Ubuntu packages.

**Useful command line options for apt**

These are some of the best options you can use with **apt** command:

**Most popular apt commands**

As confirmed above, **apt** is also a collection of tools, most of them starting with word apt-. Here are some of them:

- **apt-get** – download and install packages, or even upgrade your distro to the new release (which means complex
update of majority of the packages)

- **apt-add-repository** – command for adding software repositories into the `/etc/apt/sources.list` or `/etc/apt/sources.list.d` directory. Can both add and remove repos.
- **apt-key** – manage list of APT keys. These keys allow you to make sure only trusted APT repositories are used for software installs.
- **apt-cache** – low-level APT cache manager

See Also

- [Linux Commands](#)
- [How To: List files in Ubuntu/Debian package](#)
- [List Installed Packages on your Ubuntu Linux](#)
- [How To: compare two Linux servers with dpkg](#)
- [Automatically Remove packages in Ubuntu](#)
- [How To: Install 32-bit Debian packages on a 64-bit system](#)