

5 great apps that make your Raspberry Pi really useful

Although Pi is known as a project and programming computer, it is also a fully functional device, even capable of replacing a desktop computer. Therefore, there are a variety of applications, utilities available and some of which can enhance Pi's ability.

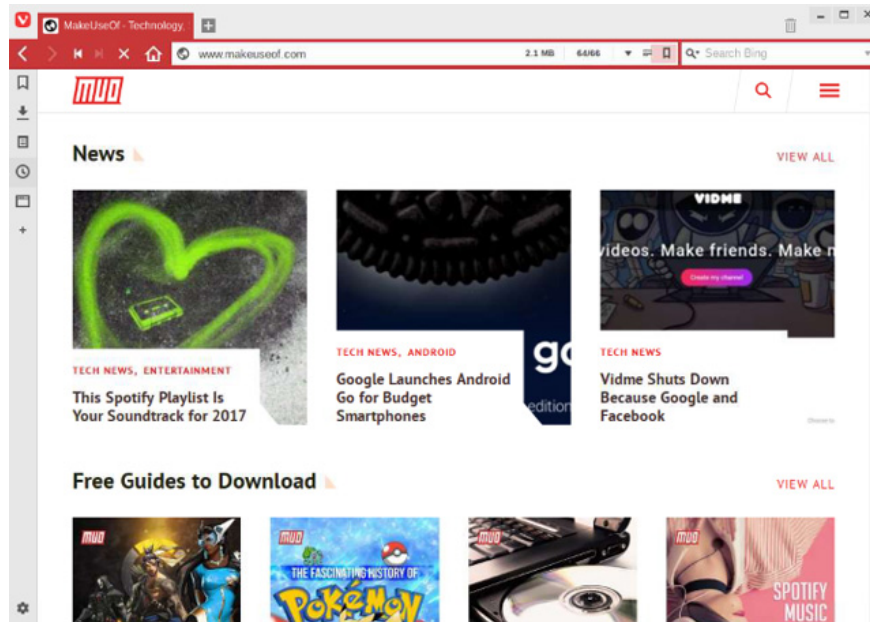
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Although tools like the LibreOffice open source office suite are preinstalled in Raspbian Stretch, but some other user software is ignored. If you want to maximize the power of Pi as a desktop device, here are five great applications that you should consider installing.

Most of these applications can be found through the **Add / Remove Software** tool, but you can use other software installation methods on Pi.

1. Vivaldi Browser

No need to use fancy words to convince users to switch to Vivaldi because this is a good web-surfing application. It was developed by Opera co-founder, Jon von Tetzchner, and like the old version of Opera, Vivaldi is working hard to redefine the web browser.



To install on Raspberry Pi, you will need to use wget to download it to the correct directory.

```
cd ~/Downloads/ wget "https://downloads.vivaldi.com/stable/vivaldi-stable_1.13.10000.deb"
```

Then, unzip the DEB file to install.

```
sudo dpkg -i /path/to/deb/file
```

Finally, install with the following command:

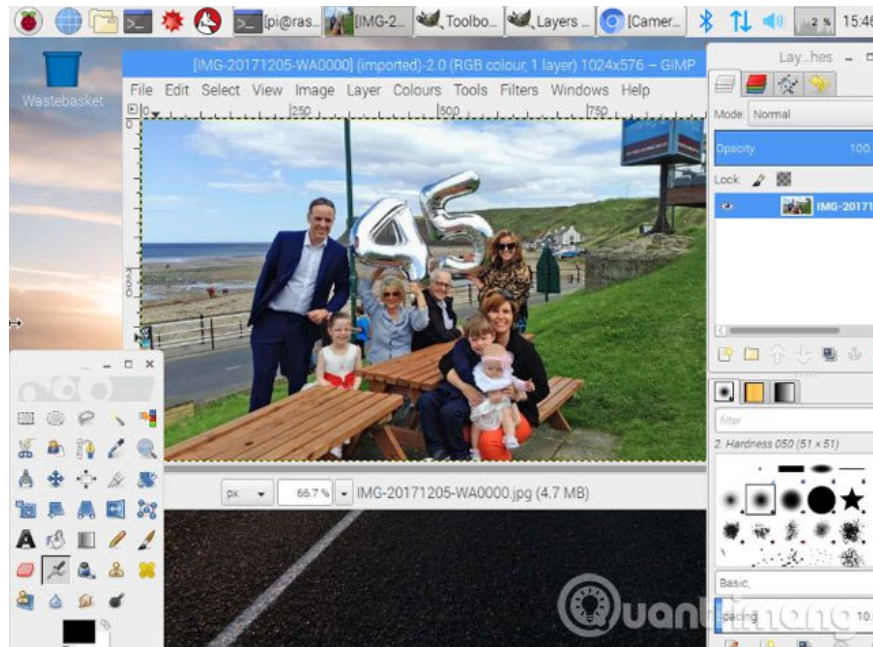
```
sudo apt-get install -f
```

After installation, you will find Vivaldi in **Menu > Internet**. However, currently users cannot install Vivaldi from **Add / Remove Software**, but can use the command line because this is a packaging tool that brings some great new features to the web. It includes advanced tab management, screen capture tools and built-in note-taking tools.

1. Which web browser is best for Windows computers?

2. GIMP

Probably the most absurdly named application ever developed, GIMP is used for creating or editing images. Often criticized as an alternative to Adobe Photoshop (it's similar to an older version), GIMP is compatible with Raspberry Pi.



You can find GIMP in the **Add / Remove Software** tool. If you want to use the command line, you can install it with the following command:

```
sudo apt install gimp
```

After installation, users can use it for some image editing tasks such as retouch photos or create graphics. Although it cannot replace Photoshop, it is almost as powerful.

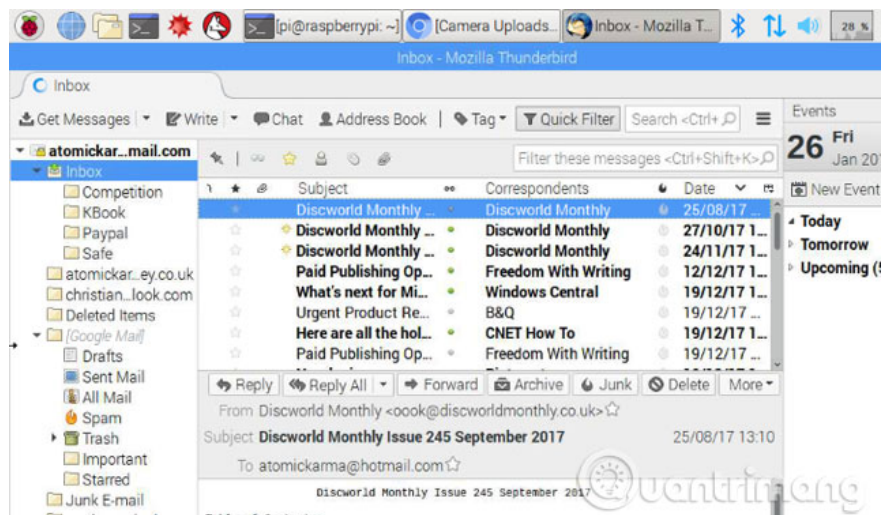
Admittedly, Raspberry Pi is not the ideal hardware for efficient image manipulation, but the end result is generally good, though it takes a bit of time.

1. A full guide to editing photos in GIMP

3. IceDove

If you are planning to use Pi as a desktop computer, you will need an email application. Although Claws Mail is pre-installed, IceDove offers much better customization features. Based on Mozilla Thunderbird mail application, IceDove manages email, provides access to Newsgroups on Usenet, RSS feeds and even supports chat. If using Google Hangouts, IceDove is the ideal application. In addition, it also supports Filelink, the "big" file sending service (it actually links to a cloud-based copy).

1. Top free email services



After installing from **Add / Remove Software** , you will be able to tweak IceDove to your liking.

```
sudo apt install icedove
```

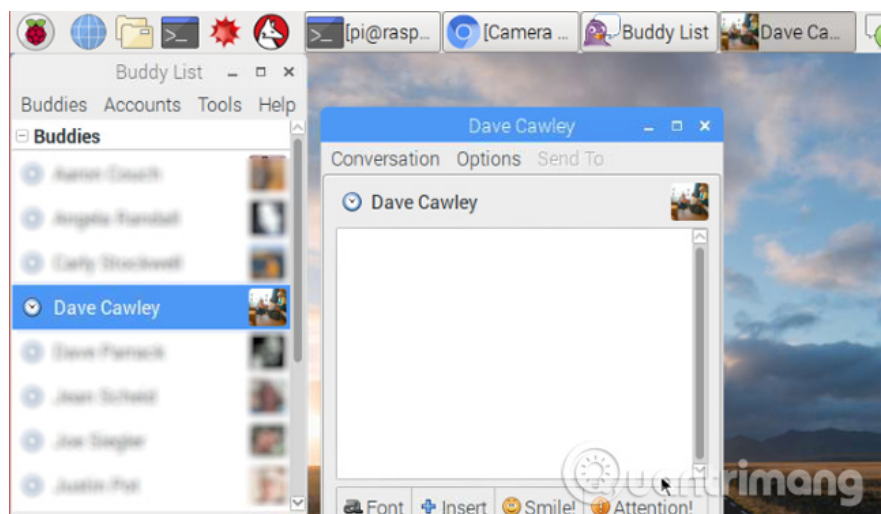
To launch IceDove, look in the **Other** folder in the menu on the screen. You will find it labeled **IceDove -> Thunderbird**. There is no complete email application without a calendar, so why not add iceowl extension, to start organizing your time and Enigma for email encryption.

You can also change the default interface with some available themes, just open Tools> Add Ons to find the theme that suits you.

4. Pidgin

You may have heard of the multi-platform Pidgin messaging application. It can merge chat accounts like Google Hangouts, Yahoo Messenger and many other things into a single interface. In addition, users can use the plugins available to bring Skype and WhatsApp into the application.

If you do not want to use the chat application on Raspberry Pi, then you can use Pidgin for other desktop purposes (or just chat while programming).



Users can install Pidgin via **Add / Remove Software** tool or use the command line in Terminal:

```
sudo apt install pidgin
```

You will find a bunch of useful plugins for Pidgin in its library. It has quite a few plugins, so users should choose appropriately. For example: The OTR (Off the Record) plugin will encrypt conversations, PaintBoard allows sharing tables with friends who are chatting with you, Facebook Chat allows replacing the Facebook plugin XMPP is built-in but no longer available use.

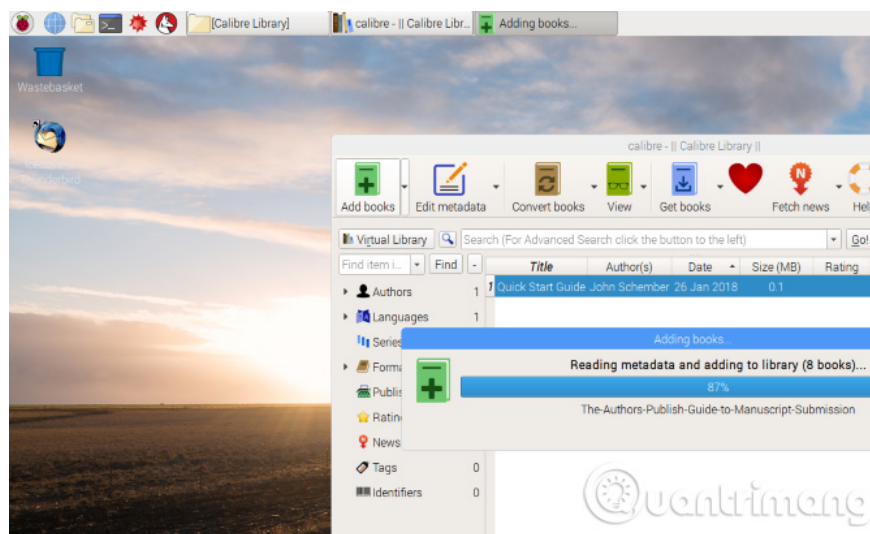
You can also change the theme in Pidgin with thousands of themes in the Theming Pidgin library. Installing one of these themes, you will get new icons, emoticons, fonts and wallpapers.

5. Caliber

If you want to read an ebook on Raspberry Pi, you can do this with Caliber. This application can read books encrypted in traditional ebook format or in Kindle library. To install Caliber use the following command:

```
sudo apt install calibre
```

Also, you will find it in **Add / Remove Software** . After installation, users will see Caliber listed in **Applications> Office> Caliber**.



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