

# How to disable and remove LightDM on Linux

Want to experiment with other display managers? Or maybe your proprietary graphics driver conflicts with LightDM.

Whatever the reason, in this article you will find instructions on how to disable and uninstall LightDM in Linux.

## What is LightDM?



LightDM is a fast and reliable display manager for Linux. The login screen is what you see every time you boot up - that's when the display manager comes into play. However, it should not be confused with the display server. The display server, although working in tandem with the display manager, is a completely different unit and serves a distinct purpose.

LightDM, as its name suggests, is not resource intensive, which is why it is chosen as the default display manager of the top Linux distributions.

## How to Disable and Uninstall LightDM in Linux

To disable LightDM, all you need to do is kill the service with the `systemctl` command (if you are using `systemd`) or the `sv` command (if you are using `runit`). However, if you want to remove LightDM from your system, that's a whole different story.

To disable LightDM on `systemd`, run the `systemctl` command and disable the `lightdm` service:

```
sudo systemctl stop lightdm.service
```

To disable LightDM on `runit`, stop the service with the `sv` command:

```
sv stop lightdm.service
```

To permanently uninstall LightDM from the system, use the distribution's package manager to remove it:

On Arch-based distributions:

```
sudo pacman -R lightdm
```

On Debian/Ubuntu based distributions:

```
sudo apt purge lightdm
```

On Fedora, CentOS and RHEL:

```
sudo dnf remove lightdm
```

## The best alternatives to LightDM

The best thing about Linux is that you're never forced to stick with anything you don't like. There are always alternatives to any software you can run. Display manager is no exception to this rule. If you want, try your hand at the display managers listed below.

### 1. GDM (GNOME Display Manager)

GDM or GNOME Display Manager is the default display manager for the GNOME desktop environment. It sports the GNOME interface and supports compatibility with X11 and Wayland.

### 2. SDDM (Simple Desktop Display Manager)

SDDM or Simple Desktop Display Manager has replaced KDM as the default display manager for all distributions running KDE Plasma 5. Like GDM, it also supports X11 and Wayland.

### 3. LXDM

LXDM is a lightweight GTK+ based display manager for the LXDE desktop environment. Although aimed primarily at the LXDE desktop, LXDM is also cross-compatible, due to its manageable list of dependencies.

You can configure LXDM by editing the configuration file located at `/etc/lxdm`. As mentioned earlier, make sure to back up your files before tinkering.

If you are looking for a new desktop experience, you should consider changing the desktop environment of your Linux system. It is a core component that determines the look and feel of the operating system. If you are interested, here is a list of the best alternative desktop environments to choose from.

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