

How to install dictionaries in Linux Terminal

A locally stored dictionary utility can really be useful when no other dictionary is available. There are many options in the Linux software world. Among these, there is an option that runs fairly 'smoothly' from the system terminal, called SDCV.

Learning new words can be a difficult process. Thankfully, the Internet has many powerful tools that streamline such processes. Even Google gives you the definition of the word right in the search results. However, even Google can't help when you're stuck offline.

A locally stored dictionary utility can really be useful when no other dictionary is available (even if it exists). There are many options in the Linux software world. Among these, there is an option that runs fairly 'smoothly' from the system terminal, called SDCV.

What is SDCV?

SDCV is a command line version of the popular StarDict extended GUI dictionary application. SDCV stands for StarDict Console Version. StarDict itself runs on all major operating systems, including Windows, BSD and Linux.

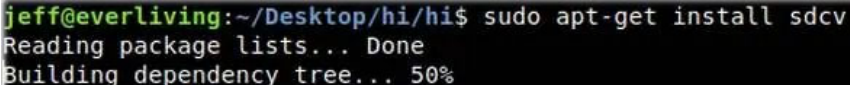
What makes StarDict and SDCV so special is that there is a large collection of dictionary files to combine with its lookup function. For advanced users, the option to manually create a dictionary is also available.

In addition to the potential to search multiple dictionaries simultaneously, SDCV also benefits from configurable search patterns.

Install SDCV

Installing SDCV is very simple in Ubuntu with the **apt** utility and it is also available in the Debian archive. Here is the command to install SDCV in Ubuntu:

```
sudo apt-get install sdcv
```



```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ sudo apt-get install sdcv
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... 50%
```

Install SDCV

Once installed, SDCV can be called, but there is nothing to offer if no dictionary has been installed.

Install the dictionary file

First, you'll need to find a dictionary file that SDCV can handle (DICT format). Fortunately, there are some great options linked in the StarDict homepage.

The article will use the Collaborative International Dictionary of English for this example.

This file is compressed as a tarball. You need to extract it and put it in the right directory for SDCV to recognize it. The following code snippet accomplishes both tasks at once:

```
sudo tar -xjvf YOURFILEGOESHERE -C /usr/share/stardict/dic
```

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ sudo tar -xjvf stardict-dictd_www.dic
ct.org_gcide-2.4.2.tar.bz2 -C /usr/share/stardict/dic
stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-2.4.2/
stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-2.4.2/dictd_www.dict.org_gcide.dict
.dz
stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-2.4.2/dictd_www.dict.org_gcide.idx
stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-2.4.2/dictd_www.dict.org_gcide.ifo
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ |
```

Install the dictionary file

To use the code above, replace '**YOURFILEGOESHERE**' with the full name and extension of the tar file you downloaded. The command will extract the files contained in the shared dictionary directory of SDCV and StarDict at **/usr / share / stardict / dic**.

Run the search

Now, you can run SDCV from the terminal with the following command (change '**WORD**' to the word you want to look up):

```
sdcv WORD
```

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ sdcv pie
Found 1 items, similar to pie.
-->dictd_www.dict.org_gcide
-->pie

Pi \Pi\, n. [See {Pica}, {Pie} magpie, service-book.] (Print.)
A mass of type confusedly mixed or unsorted. [Written also
{pie}.]
[1913 Webster]

Pi \Pi\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. {Pied}; p. pr. & vb. n. {Pieing}.]
(Print.)
To put into a mixed and disordered condition, as type; to mix
and disarrange the type of; as, to pi a form. [Written also
{pie}.]
[1913 Webster]

Camp \Camp\ (k[a^]mp), n. [F. camp, It. campo, fr. L. campus
plant, field; akin to Gr. kh^pos garden. Cf. {Campaign},
{Champ}, n.]
1. The ground or spot on which tents, huts, etc., are erected
```

Run the search

If SDCV offers many options, you can specify what you are interested in by selecting its number.

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ sdcv gus
Found 10 items, similar to gus.
0)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Bus
1)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Bush
2)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Busk
3)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Buss
4)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->bust
5)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Busy
6)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Cusk
7)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Cusp
8)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Duse
9)dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-->Dusk
Your choice[-1 to abort]:
```

Specify options by selecting a number

Wikit

As a useful complement to SDCV, you can also use another command-line tool for information queries called Wikit.

Wikit allows you to quickly search Wikipedia from the terminal and view summaries for any terms contained in this community-maintained encyclopedia.

Note : Wikit requires Node.js (and npm) to be installed on the system and not work offline. To install Node.js and npm for Ubuntu, use the following code:

```
https://deb.nodesource.com/setup\_12.x | sudo -E bash - sudo apt-get install -y n
```

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ curl -sL https://deb.nodesource.com/setup_12.x | sudo -E bash -

## Installing the NodeSource Node.js 12.x repo...

## Populating apt-get cache...

+ apt-get update
Hit:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Hit:2 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Hit:3 http://ppa.launchpad.net/samoilov-lex/aftl-stable/ubuntu artful InRelease
Hit:4 https://deb.nodesource.com/node_12.x bionic InRelease
Hit:5 https://dl.winehq.org/wine-builds/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:6 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Hit:7 https://repo.windscribe.com/ubuntu zesty InRelease
0% [5 InRelease gpgv 6,257 B] [6 InRelease 31.9 kB/88.7 kB 36%] [Wai
```

Wikiti requires Node.js and npm

To install Wikiti, just use the following command:

```
npm i wikiti -g
```

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ npm i wikiti -g
[.....] / rollbackFailedOptional: verb npm-session 6070
```

Install Wikiti

Once you have Wikiti installed, you can call it with the following command (change **SEARCH_PHRASE** to your own search terms):

```
wikiti SEARCH_PHRASE
```

```
jeff@everliving:~/Desktop/hi/hi$ wikiti burger king
Burger King (BK) is an American global chain of hamburger fast food restaurants. Headquartered in the unincorporated area of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the company was founded in 1953 as Insta-Burger King, a Jacksonville, Florida-based restaurant chain. After Insta-Burger King ran into financial difficulties in 1954, its two Miami-based franchisees David Edgerton and James McLamore purchased the company and renamed it "Burger King". Over the next half-century, the company would change hands four times, with its third set of owners, a partnership of TPG Capital, Bain Capital, and Goldman Sachs Capital Partners, taking it public in 2002. In late 2010, 3G Capital of Brazil acquired a majority stake in the company, in a deal valued at US$3.26 billion. The new owners promptly initiated a restructuring of the company to reverse its fortunes. 3G, along with partner Berkshire Hathaway, eventually merged the company with the Canadian-based doughnut chain Tim Hortons, under the auspices of a new Canadian-based parent company named Restaurant Brands International. The 1970s were the "Golden Age" of the company's advertising, but beginning in the early-1980s, Burger King advertising began losing focus. A series of less successful advertising campaigns created by a procession of advertising
```

Call Wikiti

With SDCV and Wikiti, you can quickly find information and definitions for almost anything. Try adding additional dictionary files to your SDCV library for a broad offline search!

You finished reading the article "**How to install dictionaries in Linux Terminal**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.
