

How to share a mobile connection from any smartphone to Linux

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Laptops are always limited to WiFi connections; desktop computers never have integrated mobile internet. What if you need to keep your Linux computer online but don't have wireless or Ethernet?

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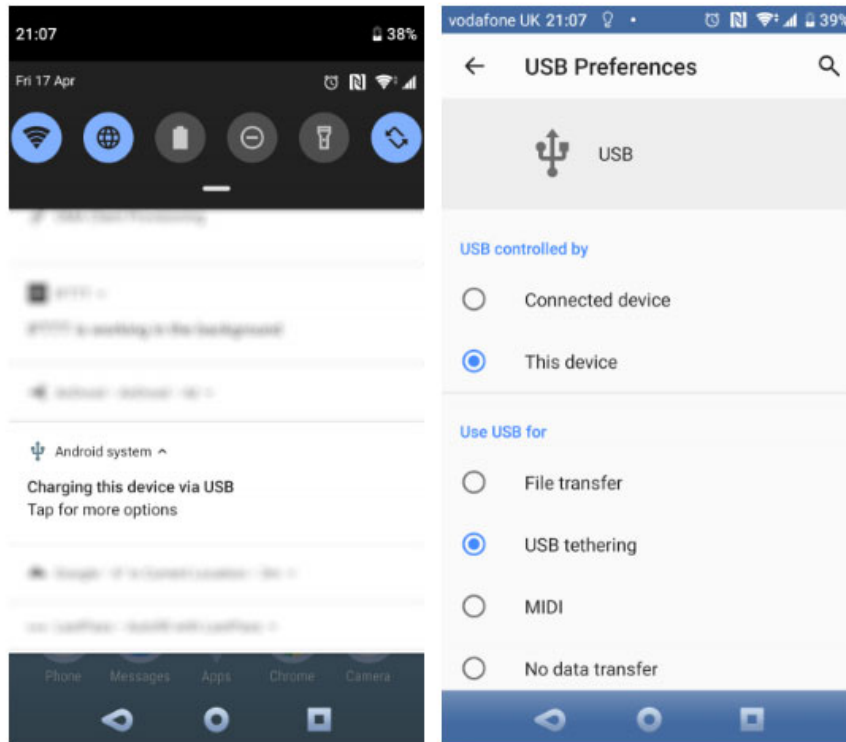
As long as your service provider doesn't limit how you use your data, sharing an Internet connection (also known as netshare) with your Linux computer is a good option. WiFi connection sharing is an option. Here's how to use the USB tethering feature on Linux with Android and iPhone.

How to share an Android phone connection with Linux

If you have an Android device, sharing your connection is simple, thanks in part to both Linux phones and phones.

If you want to share your Android connection with Linux via a USB cable, do the following:

1. Connect the USB cable to the phone and Linux PC.
2. Android will detect the connection, when prompted to allow access, select **Allow**.
3. In **Notifications** , find the **USB** notification and touch it.
4. In **Use USB for** , select **USB tethering**.



How to share an Android phone connection with Linux

In most cases, the connection will be established automatically. Check the device's IP address to confirm that it is working, using `ifconfig` `ip` address. Look for the option labeled **usb0**.

```
usb0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.42.105 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.42.255
    inet6 fe80::3a14:1178:fb16:a2ed prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 36:2e:8e:a1:24:24 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 14 bytes 1491 (1.4 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 28 bytes 4992 (4.8 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

wlan0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.1.85 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.1.255
    inet6 fe80::81b2:c08d:889:73db prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether dc:a6:32:01:44:f2 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 178 bytes 31146 (30.4 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 85 bytes 13418 (13.1 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Find options labeled `usb0`

For some distributions, you may need to choose a USB connection.

1. On a Linux system, find the network tray applet.
2. Click here to find a network option called **auto usb0**.
3. Select this option to connect Linux to the phone via a USB cable.

If you don't have a tethering data plan, installing custom Android ROMs can help avoid restrictions.

Readers can also refer to the article: [Instructions for accessing the Internet via phones running Android](#) for more details.

Share connection on BlackBerry device?

Depending on the age of the BlackBerry device you own, there are several options for connecting it to a Linux system. If you have a BlackBerry, it will run:

1. Android (since 2015)
2. BlackBerry 10 (2013 - 2018)
3. Blackberry 7.0 operating system (2011 - 2013)

For BlackBerry devices running Android, refer to the section above. For BlackBerry 10 and BlackBerry OS 7.0, see the section below.

To share your phone connection via USB running BlackBerry 10, start by connecting your device to a computer. Later:

1. Open **Settings> Network Connections> Internet Tethering** .
2. Click **Connect**.
3. Select **USB**.
4. Enable **Internet Tethering**.

For phones running the older BlackBerry operating system:

1. Click **Manage Connections> Network and Connections** .
2. Find **Mobile Hotspot Connections** .
3. Set up network information.

Whichever method you use, select the **usb0** network in your Linux console, if it doesn't connect automatically.

How to share iPhone connection with Linux

If you own an iPhone with tethering, you can set up a USB connection.

However, unlike Android, the iPhone does not connect automatically. Instead, you'll need **libimobiledevice** , described as a cross-platform software protocol library to communicate with iOS devices. Go to www.libimobiledevice.org to confirm current compatibility.

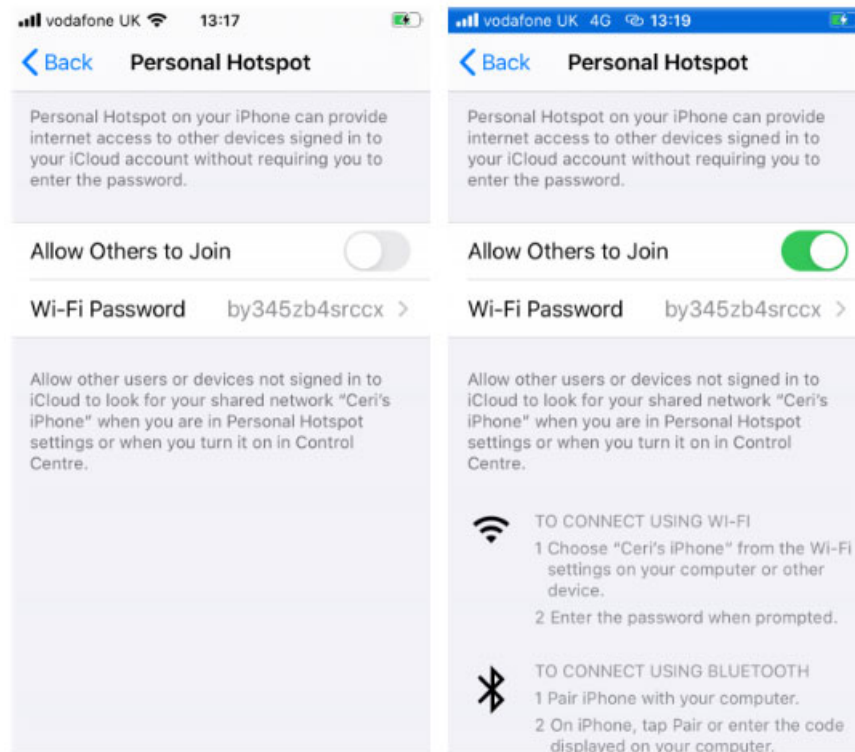
If you use Ubuntu, libimobiledevice is already installed. If not, before sharing your iPhone connection with Linux, open a terminal and enter:

```
sudo apt install libimobiledevice6
```

To connect to the Internet via iPhone:

1. Open **Settings> Personal Hotspot** .

2. Activate **Allow Others to Join** .



Share iPhone connection with Linux

All you need to do now is choose the connection in Linux. Unlike Android, iPhone devices appear as new Ethernet devices, instead of USB. So look for **eth0** or **eth1** , but usually **eth1** , because **eth0** should be assigned to the Ethernet port.

```
eth0: flags=4099<UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    ether dc:a6:32:01:44:f1 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth1: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 172.20.10.3 netmask 255.255.255.240 broadcast 172.20.10.15
    inet6 fe80::d05f:6d97:5963:317a prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    ether 16:20:5e:1d:9d:53 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 41 bytes 5008 (4.8 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 42 bytes 4877 (4.7 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Find eth0 or eth1

Share your Linux phone connection with Linux

Several Linux mobile operating systems are available. These include a mobile version of Pure OS on Librem 5, PostmarketOS on PinePhone and UBPorts, a continuation of Ubuntu Touch.

Surprisingly, not all of these devices have reliable options for USB or wireless tethering. For specifics, check the documentation of any Linux mobile project you're using.

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