

How To: Use 'apt-cache' to Find Homepage for Your Installed Apps

It can come in pretty handy to know for certain the homepage for the applications you have installed. You can do this with 'apt-cache'. I'll show you how. This is a pretty easy article to follow and just another tool to add to your toolbox.

NOTE: This is only valid for systems that use apt. As the title indicates, it requires 'apt-cache'. Without apt-cache, this page will do you no good. None good. That's how much it will do you. None!

Why would you want to know the homepage – and, more so, the preferred homepage? For starters, in the days of GitHub and everyone forking, and awkward application names that aren't easily searched for, it's hard to know which site is the correct one.

Maybe you want to report a bug? Maybe you want to request a feature? Maybe you want to make a donation? Maybe you just want to thank the author for writing such awesome software? Maybe you want to know where the homepage is because you need support and you're not sure where to turn to?

There are all sorts of reasons why you might want to know the homepage of a piece of software. It's actually something that's important. It's also something your system already knows and will happily show you if you know the proper magical incantation.

Like many other articles, you're gonna want the terminal for this. Let's go ahead and get that opened by using your keyboard and pressing CTRL + ALT + T.

Got your terminal emulator open? Good! Let's start with the command.

```
[code]apt-cache show inxi[/code]
```

If you do not have 'inxi' installed, feel free to use a different application. Note that you do not need to use sudo for this. Not all apt commands require sudo. You only need sudo when you're actually doing administrative tasks. See? I saved you some typing!

Anyhow, in the text output from the above command you'll see a line that starts with "Homepage:". If you hadn't already guessed it, that's the line that tells you the authors homepage. This, of course, only works on installed applications. For sanity and space sake, it's not like your system has all that information downloaded for all the possible packages. Thus, it works on naught but the apps you have already installed.

So, let's go ahead and make the command a little more precise. We'll pipe the output through grep and get rid of the cruft we don't actually need. In that same terminal, go ahead and enter:

```
[code]apt-cache show inxi | grep Homepage[/code]
```

NOTE: The command contains a capitalized letter H because Linux is often case-sensitive and is certainly case-sensitive in this case. If you don't believe me, try it with a lowercase h!

But wait, there's more!

Not only is there homepage information in there, there's sometimes some useful nuggets of information in there. If you have LibreOffice installed, go ahead and check (skip the pipe and grepping) to see what the output is. Inside, it has a ton of additional information, including listing ways that you can

extend LibreOffice by installing more software.

And there you have it. You can now easily find the homepage for the applications you have installed. Should you need to contact the author, check for information, or just see if they did anything else, you now know how to do that. It's a little hidden nugget that most folks don't seem to know. Well, now they do...

Yay! You made it all the way to the bottom. You deserve a treat. Seeing as you've already got the terminal open, and seeing as we're dealing with apt-cache, let's just get some pretty neat stats with:

```
[code]apt-cache stats[/code]
```

That's it and thanks for reading. I appreciate the audience and am happy that I finally am putting some effort into this project. I've been meaning to do this for years, but something always got in the way. If you want to get notified when new articles are posted, just scroll up and sign up for the newsletter. I promise not to send you any commercial emails and I won't give any of your private data away.