

Linux

Gentoo Linux Desktop Must have applications

A Gentoo desktop can be as minimal or as feature-rich as you want. Since Gentoo emphasizes customization, the "must-have" applications are usually those that are stable, well-maintained, and integrate well regardless of your desktop environment.

Here's a practical set of applications by category.

Web Browser

- Firefox — Excellent privacy, Wayland support, and extensions.
- Chromium — Great for web compatibility and development.
- Brave — Chromium-based with built-in privacy features.

Terminal

- Kitty
- Alacritty
- Foot (especially for Wayland compositors)
- WezTerm

Text Editor

- Neovim
- Visual Studio Code
- Helix

File Manager

- Dolphin
- Thunar
- PCManFM
- Yazi

Office

- LibreOffice
- OnlyOffice

Media

- mpv
- VLC media player

Images

- GIMP
- Krita
- ImageMagick

PDF

- Zathura
- Okular

Communication

Linux

- Thunderbird
- Element
- Signal Desktop
- Discord (if you use it)

Password Manager

- KeePassXC
- Bitwarden

System Utilities

- btop
- htop
- fastfetch
- ncd
- tmux
- ripgrep
- fd
- fzf
- bat
- eza

Archives

- 7-Zip
- p7zip
- Ark

Development

- Git
- Docker (or rootless alternatives)
- Podman
- CMake
- Ninja

Virtualization

- QEMU
- virt-manager

Audio

- PipeWire
- Helvum
- Easy Effects

Gaming

- Steam
- Lutris
- Heroic Games Launcher
- MangoHud

Clipboard & Screenshots

Linux

- wl-clipboard
- grim
- slurp
- Flameshot

Gentoo-specific essentials

Beyond applications, many Gentoo users consider these indispensable:

- eix
- gentoolkit
- eselect
- ccache
- distcc (if compiling across multiple machines)
- smartmontools
- lm-sensors
- powertop
- ufw or a direct nftables configuration

If I were setting up a modern Gentoo desktop today

My default stack would be:

- Desktop: Hyprland or KDE Plasma
- Browser: Firefox
- Terminal: Kitty
- Editor: Neovim
- File manager: Yazi and Dolphin
- Media: mpv
- Documents: Okular
- Passwords: KeePassXC
- System monitoring: btop and fastfetch
- Containers: Podman
- VM management: QEMU with virt-manager
- Gentoo tools: eix, gentoolkit, and ccache.

That combination provides a fast, modern, Wayland-native desktop while staying close to the Unix philosophy that many Gentoo users appreciate.

συνημμένα::

Μοναδικό αναγνωριστικό λύσης: #1021

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Τελευταία ενημέρωση: 2026-07-02 14:49