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[Install AWN on Hardy Heron](#)

Eye candy dock for Ubuntu users!

As promised, today's tutorial is here to help actual and future Ubuntu 8.04 (Hardy Heron) users to install the latest AWN (Avant Window Navigator). We will offer two methods: from a repository and from sources. But first, a little history lesson about AWN. OK? Good... You should know that [Avant Window Navigator](#), also known as AWN, is a dock-like bar which sits at the bottom of the screen. It has support for launchers, task lists, and third party applets. To get a better idea about what we are talking about here, take a look at the image in the left! We have tried to make this guide as simple as possible, for every user to follow it and obtain a working AWN installation in the end.

Method 1 - The Easy Way This is the easy method and recommend for all users!

Step 1 - Add the repositories Go to *System -> Administration -> Software Sources* and enter your password when asked. A new window appears, click the second tab "Third-Party Software", then click the 'Add' button and paste the following lines (one by one):

```
[CODE=0]deb
http://ppa.launchpad.net/awn-testing/ubuntu hardy main
deb-src http://ppa.launchpad.net/awn-testing/ubuntu
hardy main
```

Now click the 'Close' button of the main window. It will ask if you want to reload the information about available software. Click 'Reload' and wait for the Software Sources window to close.

Step 2 - Install AWN Open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and paste the following command:

```
[CODE=0]sudo apt-get install awn-manager-trunk awn-extras-applets-trunk
```

Hit the "Y" key when asked, and complete the installation. Close the terminal window and start the AWN dock from *Applications -> Accessories -> Avant Window Navigator*.

WARNING: Be aware that AWN will appear over your bottom GNOME panel, therefore you should delete the panel before launching AWN! See the third tip from the "Bonus tweaks" section below.

Method 2 - The Hard Way For an easy reading, I will break this method in three big steps: Installing Dependencies, AWN Compilation, AWN Applets Compilation! Let's begin, shall we?

Step 1 - Installing necessary dependencies Open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and paste the following code:

```
[CODE=0]sudo apt-get install gnome-common automake build-essential
gtk-doc-tools libglib2.0-dev python2.5-dev bzip2 python-gtk2-dev python-cairo-dev libglade2-dev
libdbus-glib-1-dev libgnome-desktop-dev libgnome-dev libgsf-gnome-1-dev libwnck-dev libsexy-dev
libnotify-dev libsvg2-dev libgnome-menu-dev libgtop2-dev libvte-dev python-alsaaudio python-feedparser
python-gnome2-extras-dev
```

Enter your password and hit the "Y" key when asked. Close the terminal when everything was successfully installed.

Step 2 - Compiling the AWN sources Download [Avant Window Navigator](#) from Softpedia, extract the archive by right clicking on it -> Extract Here. Open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and go to the AWN folder with the "cd" command:

```
[CODE=0]cd
/path/to/awn/folder (e.g. /home/marius/Desktop/avant-window-navigator-0.2.6)
```

And paste the following command:

```
[CODE=0]./autogen.sh --prefix=/usr && make
```

When the compilation is over, you must install Avant Window Navigator with the following command:

```
[CODE=0]sudo make install
```

Close the terminal!

Step 3 - Compiling the AWN applets At this point, AWN is installed and functional. But, we will need some applets to make it more useful and powerful. Therefore, open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and fetch the latest AWN applets with the following command:

```
[CODE=0]bzip2 awn-extras
```

Wait a few minutes until the whole applets will download.

Editor's Note: To get a better idea about the applets you are about to install, take a look [here](#). Now, "cd" to the *awn-extras* directory, which should be located in your home folder (e.g. `cd /home/marius/awn-extras`), and paste the following command:

```
[CODE=0]./autogen.sh --prefix=/usr && make
```

When the compilation is over, you must install the applets with the following command:

```
[CODE=0]sudo make install
```

That's it! You can close the terminal now and start the AWN dock from *Applications -> Accessories -> Avant Window Navigator*.

Bonus tweaks

Tip 1 For the Avant Window Navigator to automatically appear every time you log-in, open the Sessions program (*System -> Preferences -> Sessions*), on the "Startup Programs" tab click the 'Add' button and fill the fields like in the image below.

Tip 2 In order to get the software shortcuts you need on the AWN dock, you can drag them from the GNOME panel or from your desktop, on it! Also, from the AWN Manager (*System -> Preferences -> AWN Manager*) you can add software shortcuts and the nice applets

you've just installed! Moreover, you can find some nice AWN themes [here](#). **Tip 3** Next task is to get rid of those old GNOME panels! **ATTENTION:** Before you delete the panels, remove all the applets and software shortcuts (look first at Tip 2 above) from them! It is extremely important to remove all the applets and let the panels "naked" for the AWN dock to perform properly! First, delete the alternative (bottom) GNOME panel, if you have one. Now comes the tricky part, because the remaining panel can't be deleted. So, go to *System -> Preferences -> Sessions* and click the second tab, "Current Session". Click once on the *gnome-panel* entry in that list and then hit the 'Remove' button to delete the last remaining panel. Then, click on the "Session Options" tab and check the '*Automatically remember running applications when logging out*' option and hit the 'Remember currently running applications' button. Close the Sessions window and reboot the computer. **WARNING:** The '*Automatically remember running applications when logging out*' option from the Sessions tool will start all the programs you left open when you've logged out. Therefore, make sure to close the application you do NOT want to start every time you log-in! **Tip 4** Pidgin fans can install a nice plugin which will show their current status (away, busy, available, etc), it will display the number of unread messages and will alert about new messages. First of all, make sure you have a Pidgin shortcut on your AWN dock (see Tip 2). Download the plugin from [here](#) and extract the archive. Go in your home folder and hit the 'Ctrl H' key combination to see the hidden folders and files. Enter the *.purple* directory and create a *plugins* folder if it doesn't exist. Copy the *pidgin_awn.so* file from the Pidgin AWN plugin's folder to the *.purple/plugins* directory. Now, open Pidgin, go to *Tools -> Plugins* and check the 'AWN Plugin' entry. That's it! You will see that the Pidgin shortcut is changed (depending on your status) and when someone will send you messages it will look like this: **Tip 5** Banshee fans can install a nice plugin which will display the cover art of the currently playing song, show the progress of the current song and offer play controls on the right-click context menu. First of all, make sure you have a Banshee shortcut on your AWN dock (see Tip 2). Download the plugin from [here](#) and extract the archive on your home folder. Open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and paste the following commands:

```
[CODE=0]sudo cp $HOME/banshee-awn-plugin/Banshee.Plugins.Awn.dll /usr/lib/banshee/Banshee.Plugins/sudo chmod 644 /usr/lib/banshee/Banshee.Plugins/Banshee.Plugins.Awn.dll
```

 [CODE=1] Now, open Banshee, go to *Edit -> Plugins* and check the 'Avant Window Navigator' entry. That's it! You will see that the Banshee shortcut will show the progress of the current song and the cover art (if you have). **Tip 6** *Special thanks to anon for this tipt!* If you want a curvy style of the AWN dock, open a terminal (*Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal*) and paste the following command:

```
[CODE=0]gconf-editor
```

 [CODE=1] When the GConf Editor window appears, go to *apps -> avant-window-navigator -> bar* (in the left side) and then, on the right side, set the -1 value to the first entry (*bar_angle*). That's it! AWN should change instantly and it should look like in the image below. That's it folks! From now on, AWN should automatically start every time you log in and you can now enjoy a modern eye-candy Linux desktop! **Uninstalling AWN** If you installed AWN using the second method (from sources) and you want to uninstall it, open a terminal and paste the following commands (one by one):

```
[CODE=0]sudo rm -f /usr/bin/awn*sudo rm -f /usr/bin/avant*sudo rm -rf /usr/lib/awnsudo rm -f /usr/share/locale/*/LC_MESSAGES/avant-window-navigator.mosudo rm -f /usr/share/applications/avant*sudo rm -f /usr/share/applications/awn*sudo rm -rf /usr/share/avant-window-navigatorsudo rm -f /usr/lib/libawn*sudo rm -rf /usr/include/libawnsudo rm -f /usr/lib/libawn*sudo rm -f /usr/lib/pkgconfig/awn.pcsudo rm -rf /usr/share/awn-core-appletssudo rm -rf /usr/lib/python2.5/site-packages/awn/rm -rf ~/.config/awnrm -rf ~/.gconf/apps/avant-window-navigator
```

 [CODE=1] Also, don't forget to remove the Avant Window Navigator entry from the Startup Programs list on the Sessions (*System -> Preferences -> Session*) tool.