

By: ~~February 26, 2007~~, Linux Editor

Transfer Files with Bluetooth on Ubuntu

Activate Bluetooth file transfers on Ubuntu

Bluetooth is an industrial specification for wireless personal area networks (PANs). Bluetooth provides a way to connect and exchange information between devices such as mobile phones, laptops, PCs, printers, digital cameras and video game consoles over a secure, globally unlicensed short-range radio frequency. Today I'll give you a quick example of how to transfer files via Bluetooth from/to your mobile phone. For this guide, I've used the Canyon Bluetooth CN-BTU2 USB 2.0 Adapter (picture in the left) and a Motorola v360 Bluetooth capable mobile phone. **Enable Bluetooth** In Ubuntu Edgy, Bluetooth support is enabled and started by default, so if you'll buy a Bluetooth adapter and plug it into the USB port, you may see a pop-up that let's you know that a Bluetooth device was found. However, if you don't have Bluetooth support in your Ubuntu Edgy, you can enable it as follows: `sudo apt-get install gnome-bluetooth bluez-utils` `sudo /etc/init.d/bluetooth start stop restart` After this, you can control and communicate with Bluetooth devices if you enable the GNOME Bluetooth software, which you can find under Applications -> Accessories -> Bluetooth File Sharing You can search for Bluetooth devices from the command-line as follows: `hcitool inq` The result of the inquiring was... `~$ hcitool inq` Inquiring ... 00:17:00:98:39:E2 clock offset: 0x75a5 class: 0x522204 This is my Motorola v360 phone. **Transfer files via Bluetooth** From Mobile to PC If you want to send files from your mobile phone to PC, then this is a very easy task, just select the file you want to transfer and according to your mobile device options, you can select to send the file to a Bluetooth device. It will ask you then which device to send to (mine was found as *marius-desktop-0*) and send the file. Simple as that! From PC to the Mobile device Now, if you want to send files from your PC to the mobile phone, you can use a lot of applications to do that. *Example 1:* 1. Create a launcher on your desktop. 2. In the Command field, put the following line: `gnome-obex-send %s` 3. Drag and drop files to the icon you've just created. A window will appear asking you to select the device you want to transfer files to. *NOTE:* Remember to turn on your Bluetooth on the mobile phone before you start the file transfers. *Example 2:* 1. Right click on the file you wanna send to the mobile device, and go to "Send to..." 2. A window appears asking you where you want the file to be sent. From the drop down list, select Bluetooth (OBEX) and it will start searching for your phone's Bluetooth. When it's found, send the file. **The Kubuntu way** In Kubuntu, you have more options by accessing the mobile device if you type in Konqueror: `bluetooth:` You will have Bluetooth services like:- OBEX file transfer- OBEX Object Push- Dial-up networking Gateway- Hands-Free voice gateway- Image Push- Voice Gateway See examples of usage, below: