

Compiling Grisbi from Source on Mint 20.3

By kalwisti

July 2022

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1 Introduction

The version of Grisbi in the official Mint 20.3 repositories is outdated (1.2.2, released in April 2019). The current stable version of the program is 2.0.5 (released in August 2021). As far as I know, neither a PPA nor a Flatpak is available, so if you want to run the most recent version, you must compile it yourself from source.

The process is not as intimidating as it sounds; I was pleasantly surprised that I was able to compile Grisbi 2.0.5 without much difficulty on Mint 20.3 (Cinnamon DE). If you are interested in trying, this tutorial covers the procedure that I followed.



Caveats:

I should mention that by compiling your own version of Grisbi, the program will not be upgraded automatically.

It is also possible that the functionality of your compiled Grisbi package might break when its dependencies and software are upgraded during your normal update process. If this happens, you might need to recompile. Using self-compiled software means that you are responsible for maintaining it, as well as the libraries that it depends on.

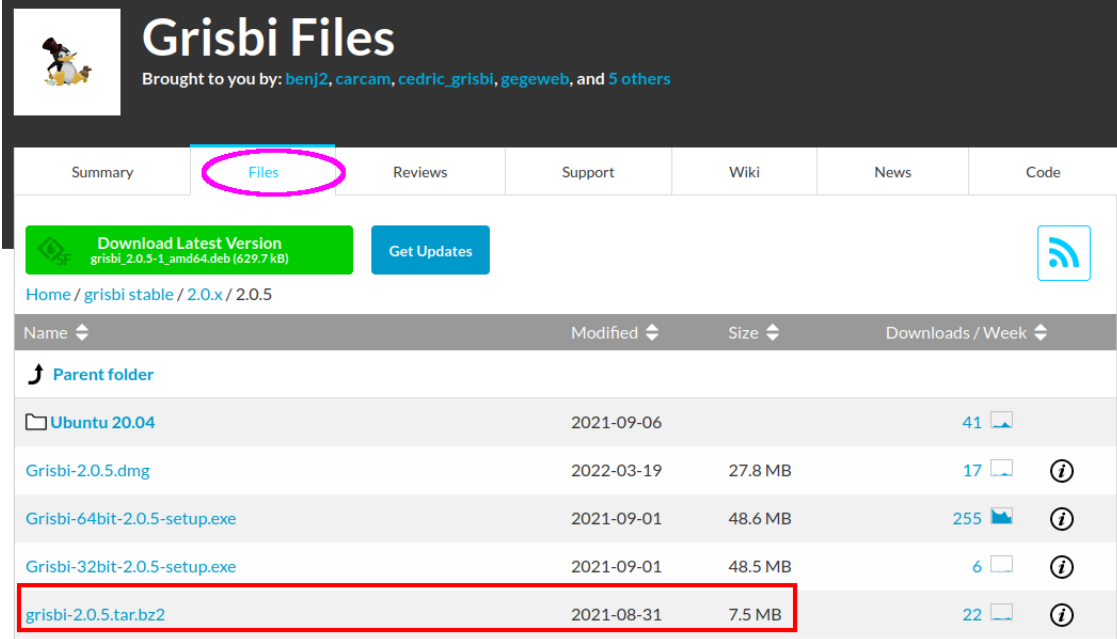
That said, compiling Grisbi from source is safe and unlikely to break your system. It will take you on a mini-adventure and provide a sense of accomplishment when you balance your checkbook with version 2.0.5 ...

2 Download the Source Files

Go to Grisbi's SourceForge website

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/grisbi/files/grisbi%20stable/2.0.x/2.0.5/>

and download the grisbi-2.0.5.tar.bz2 file (7.5 MB in size, modified on 2021-08-31).



Grisbi Files
Brought to you by: [benj2](#), [carcam](#), [cedric_grisbi](#), [gegeweb](#), and 5 others

Summary **Files** Reviews Support Wiki News Code

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grisbi_2.0.5-1_amd64.deb (629.7 kB)

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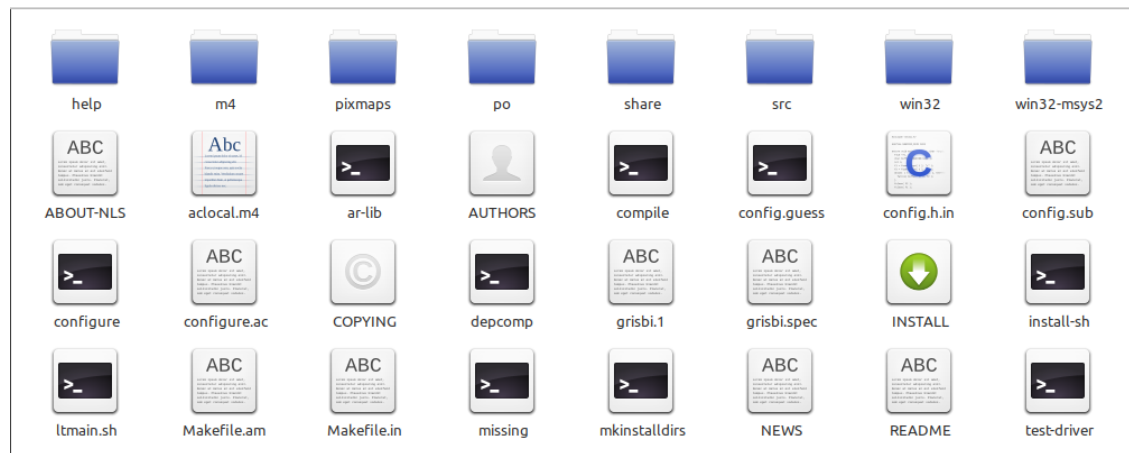
[Home / grisbi stable / 2.0.x / 2.0.5](#)

Name	Modified	Size	Downloads / Week
Parent folder			
Ubuntu 20.04	2021-09-06		41
Grisbi-2.0.5.dmg	2022-03-19	27.8 MB	17
Grisbi-64bit-2.0.5-setup.exe	2021-09-01	48.6 MB	255
Grisbi-32bit-2.0.5-setup.exe	2021-09-01	48.5 MB	6
grisbi-2.0.5.tar.bz2	2021-08-31	7.5 MB	22

3 Move File to /home Directory and Extract It

Move the tarball (i.e., the compressed Grisbi .tar file) that you just downloaded to your /home folder.

Then, use Archive Manager — or a similar utility — to extract the compressed files. When you have extracted the tarball, you should have a folder named `grisbi-2.0.5` which is 32 MB in size. That folder should contain 8 subfolders as well as 24 assorted files (illustrated below):



4 Install Required Packages and Dependencies

Use the Synaptic Package Manager to install the following packages, if they are not already present on your system:

Package Name	Version No.
build-essential	12.8
checkinstall	1.6.2+git20170426...
libglib2.0-0	2.64.6-1
libglib2.0-dev	2.64.6-1
libglib2.0-dev-bin	2.64.6-1
libgtk-3-0	3.24.20-0
libgtk-3-dev	3.24.20-0
libgtk-3-bin	3.24.20-0
libgsf-1-114	1.14.46-1
libgsf-1-dev	1.14.46-1
libgsf-bin	1.14.46-1
libgoffice-0.10-10	0.10.46-1
libofx7	1:0.9.15-3
libssl1.1	1.1.1f-1
libxml2	2.9.10+dfsg-5
intltool	0.51.0-5

**Note:**

The list above is not exhaustive, as some of these packages will pull in dependencies of their own.

5 Compile the Source Code

Now you are ready to compile Grisbi's source code.

Open a Terminal and navigate to the extracted Grisbi folder in your /home directory:

```
$ cd grisbi-2.0.5
```

Type:

```
$ sudo ./configure
```

(Remember to include the initial period and slash (“./”) before the configure command.)

This step will perform checks / tasks that will allow your system to compile the software successfully. If the configure script detects a missing package, it will notify you of what to do at the end of the script. You will need to install any missing packages that the configure script has detected.

When that process finishes, issue the command:

```
$ sudo make
```

The make command will actually begin compiling Grisbi. This will take some time to complete, depending on your available system resources. (In my case, the compilation finished in ca. 6 minutes [on a Dell Latitude E4300 laptop with an Intel Core2 Duo P9400 CPU (2.4 GHz), with 8 GB of RAM]).¹

The final step is to install your now-compiled Grisbi package with the command:

```
$ sudo checkinstall
```

Linux Mint Forums user xenopeek explains the advantage of using “sudo checkinstall” instead of the more common “sudo make install” command:

“[It] will make the software and its files known to your package managers (e.g., Software Manager and apt) so that you can easily remove the software or replace it with a newer version.”²

As checkinstall runs, follow its on-screen instructions. I discovered — too late — that I could have filled out some of the requested information fields more completely than I did. (I left the majority of the fields blank; however, it did not prevent the installation from completing nor has it adversely affected Grisbi’s performance).

Sample output is pasted below:

```
The package documentation directory ./doc-pak does not exist.  
Should I create a default set of package docs? [y]:
```

```
Preparing package documentation...OK
```

¹As a comparison, I compiled Grisbi 2.0.5 from source on another distro (Salix OS), on an old netbook (Intel Atom N455 CPU with 2 GB RAM). That process took approximately 25 minutes.

²<https://forums.linuxmint.com/viewtopic.php?t=230142>. 20 Sept. 2016.

Please write a description for the package.
End your description with an empty line or EOF.
>>

```
*****
**** Debian package creation selected ****
*****
```

This package will be built according to these values:

```
0 - Maintainer: [ root@david-Latitude-E4300 ]
1 - Summary: [ Grisbi ]
2 - Name: [ grisbi ]
3 - Version: [ 2.0.5 ]
4 - Release: [ 1 ]
5 - License: [ GPL ]
6 - Group: [ checkinstall ]
7 - Architecture: [ amd64 ]
8 - Source location: [ grisbi-2.0.5 ]
9 - Alternate source location: [ ]
10 - Requires: [ ]
11 - Recommends: [ ]
12 - Suggests: [ ]
13 - Provides: [ grisbi ]
14 - Conflicts: [ ]
15 - Replaces: [ ]
```

Enter a number to change any of them or press ENTER to continue:

Based on an entry in Warren Post's blog,³ these fields could have been filled out as follows:

Description for the package [Personal finances manager](#)

Alternate source location [grisbi.org](#)

Group [Office](#)

³Warren Post, "Creating Packages from Source with checkinstall," *A Maze of Twisty Little Passages* (blog), Jan. 9, 2010, <https://warrenpost.wordpress.com/2010/01/09/checkinstall/>.

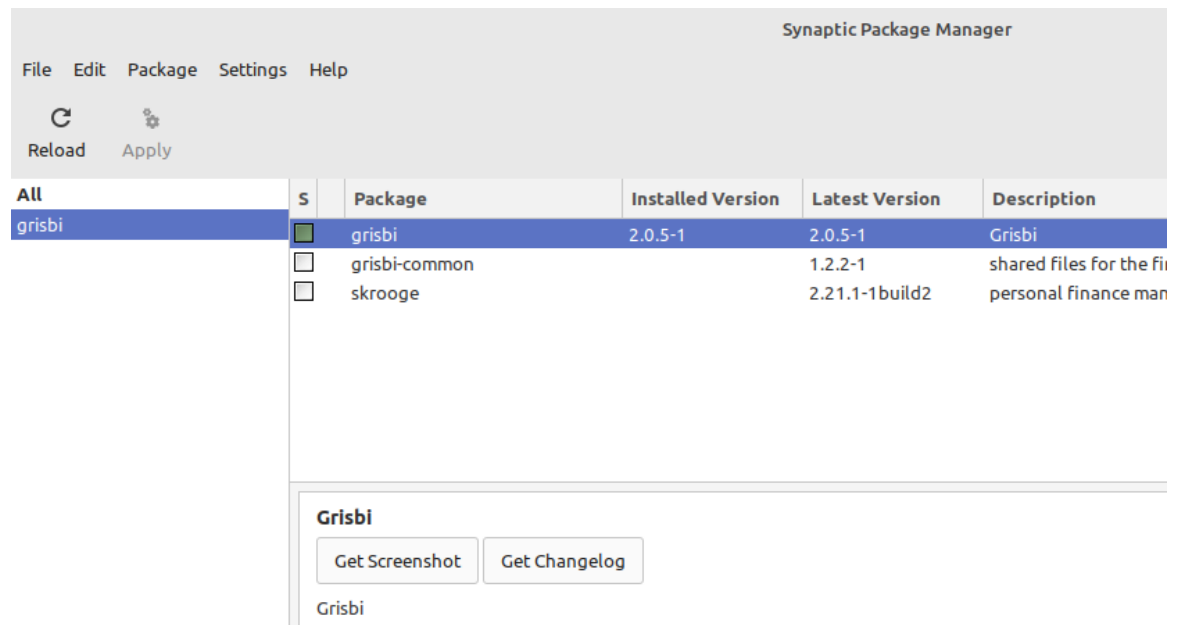
After you press the Enter key, a wall of text will scroll rapidly by, which should finish with the message: “Installation successful.”

When the checkinstall process completes, the Terminal displayed this final message:

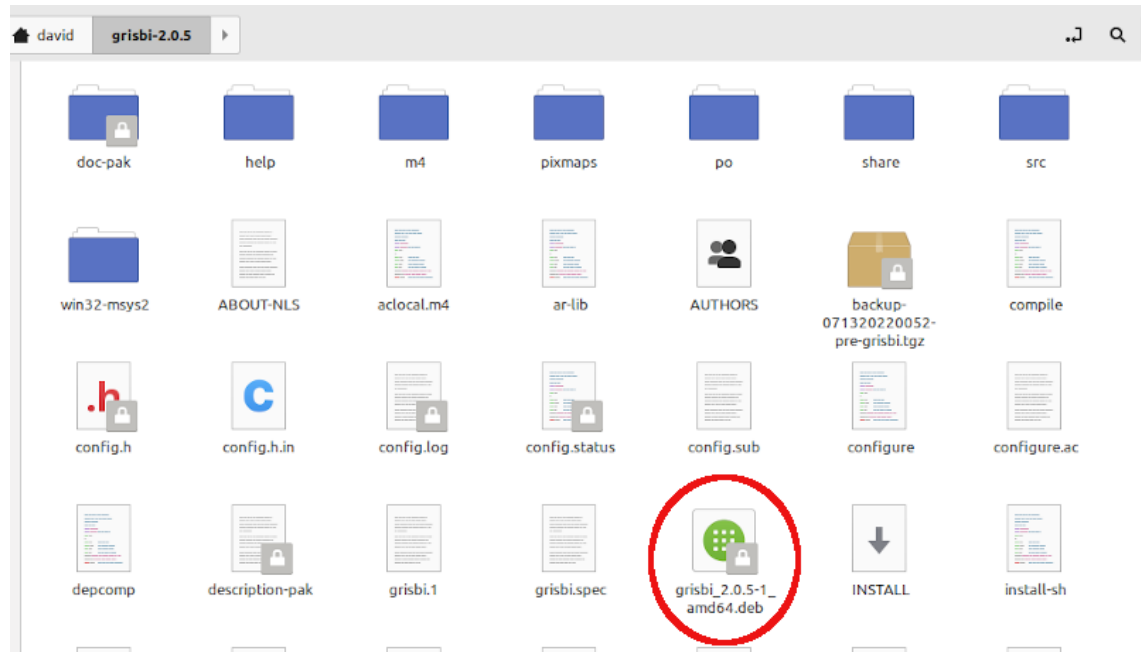
```
Done. The new package has been installed and saved to
/home/david/grisbi-2.0.5/grisbi_2.0.5-1_amd64.deb
```

You can remove it from your system anytime using:
`dpkg -r grisbi`

As xenopeek mentioned, Synaptic is aware of the new Grisbi package and displays that it had been installed:



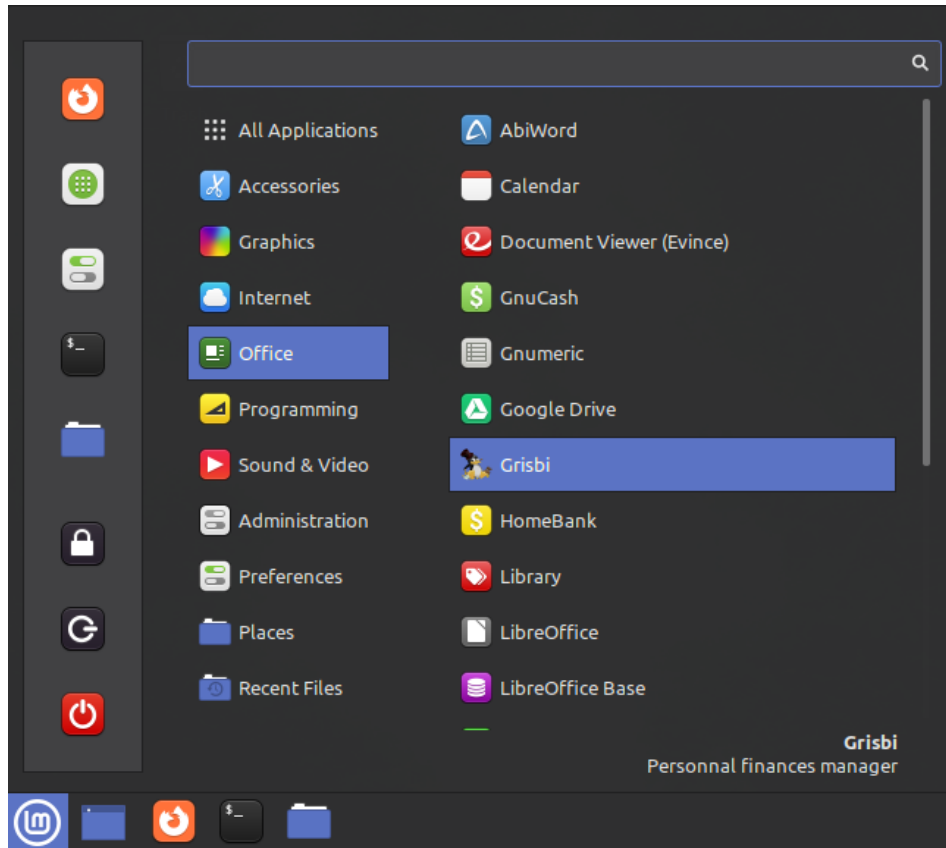
In addition, a 64-bit .deb package is now present in my grisbi-2.0.5 source folder:



6 Launch Grisbi

Grisbi's entry does not automatically appear in the Mint menu (under the Office section). Initially, I had to launch Grisbi from the Terminal.

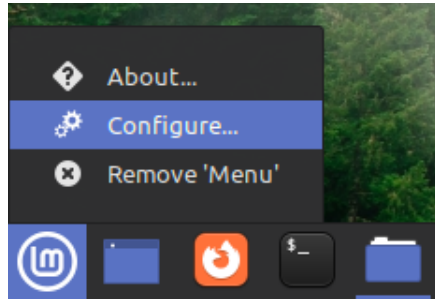
However, if you log out from your current desktop session, then log in back in, Grisbi should be listed in the Mint menu. By default it uses Grisbi's "in-house" icon — Tux in a top hat, smoking a cigar — which is a nice touch.



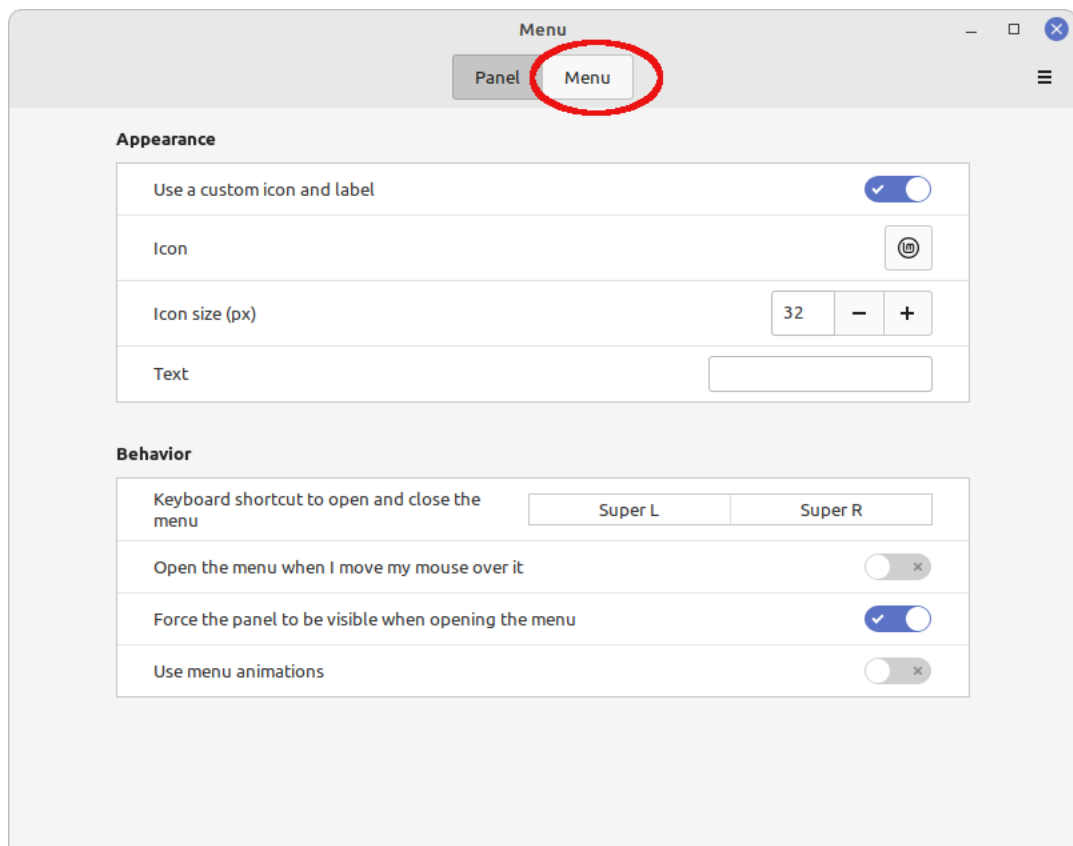
7 Edit the Mint Menu to Fix Typo

Unfortunately, I noticed that there is a minor typo in Grisbi's package description in the Mint menu: "[Personnal](#) [sic] finances manager." If that bothers you, it is easy-peasy to fix using the Menu Editor.

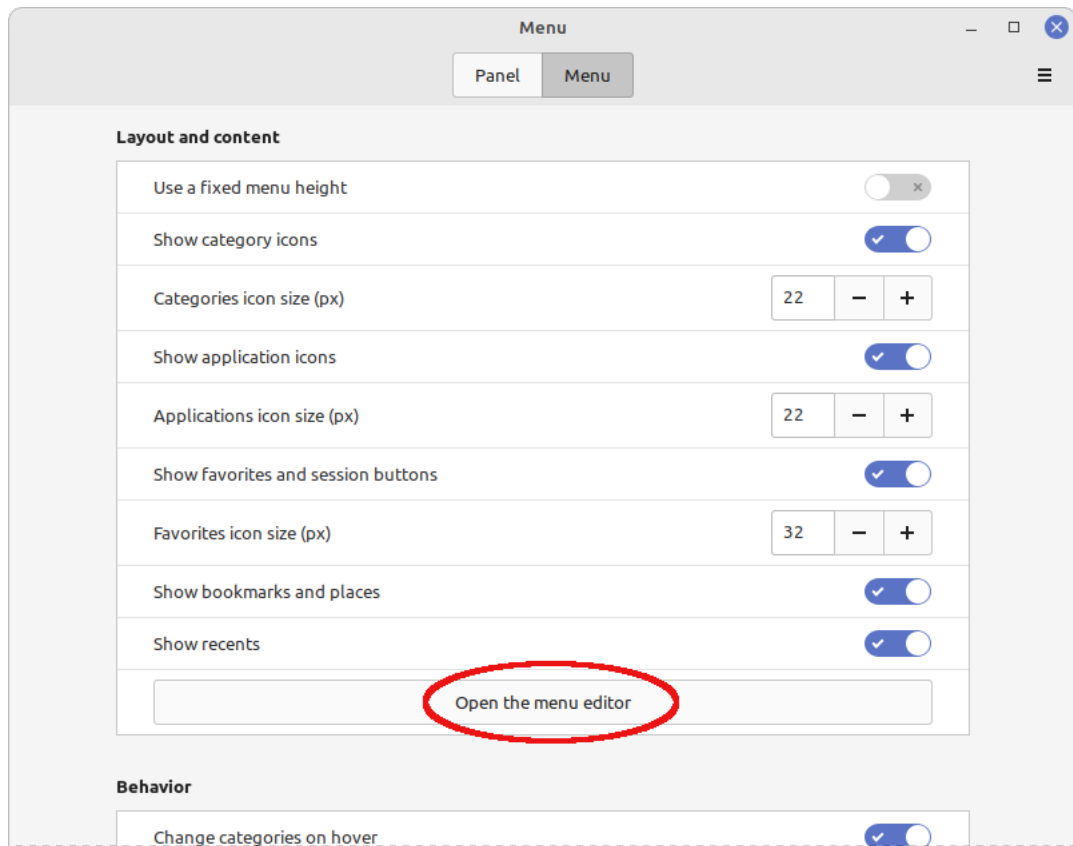
- Right-click on the Menu icon and select Configure:



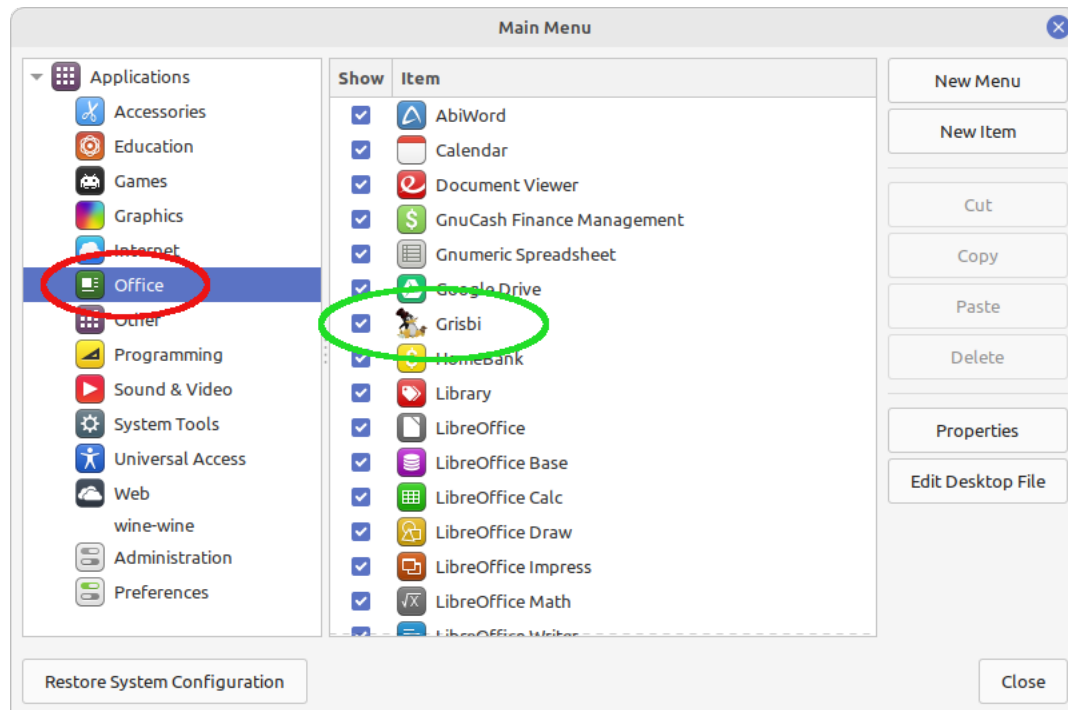
- In the new Menu dialog that appears, click on the Menu tab to bring it forward:



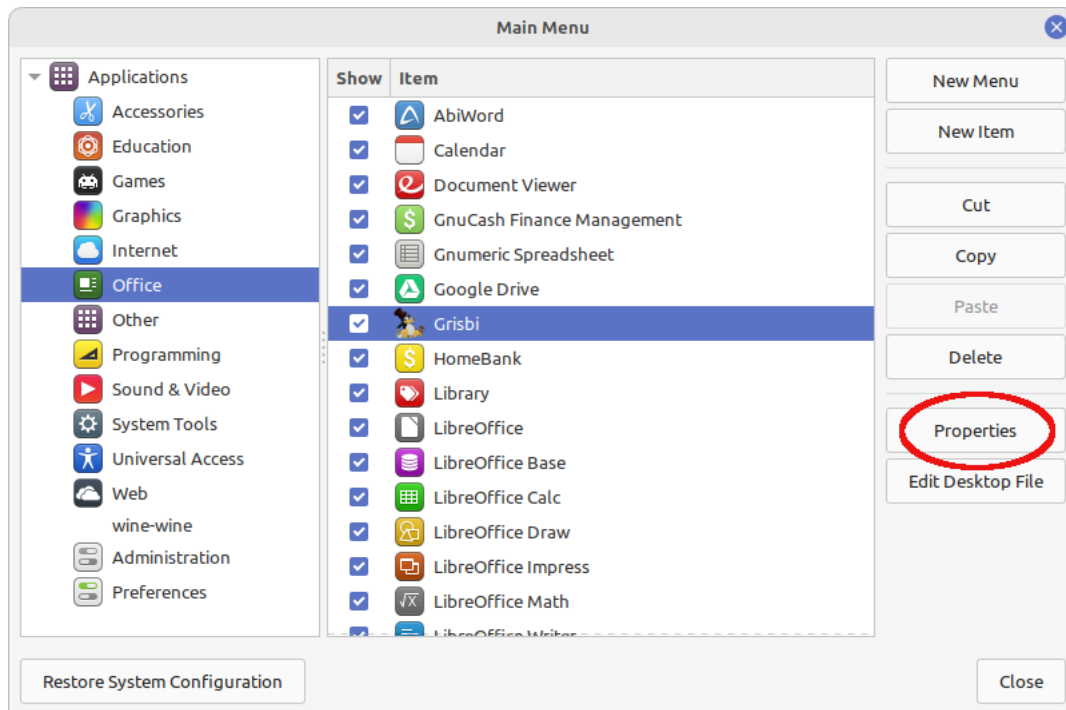
- Next, click on the Open the menu editor button:



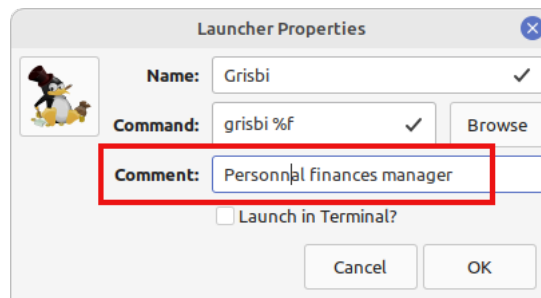
- An Editor window will appear. Click on the Office section and look for Grisbi:



- Click on Grisbi's menu entry to select it. Next, click on the Properties button:

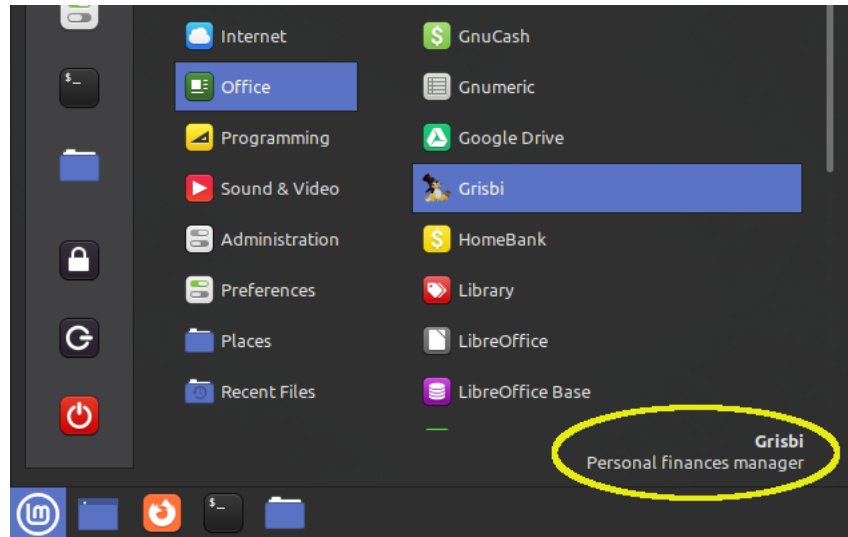


- In the Launcher Properties dialog, click on the Comment box. Correct the misspelling by deleting the extra “n” in “Personnal”:



- When you finish, click the OK button in the Launcher Properties dialog.
- Click the Close button of the Main Menu dialog.
- As the final step, close the Menu editor dialog.

- After making this edit, Grisbi's package description should now be correct:



Good luck compiling and Have fun with Grisbi!

