

AI-02091 AppFlowy Setup Ubuntu

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What is AppFlowy and what's the story of the application and founder? Is it really free or there's a catch? How AppFlowy get their revenue? Provide a Step by Step on the setup and installation for Ubuntu. (Use mysql db)

AppFlowy is a free, open-source, and privacy-oriented AI collaborative workspace and Notion alternative. It is designed to give users full control over their data, offering a native experience on multiple platforms like desktop and mobile with offline capabilities. It's a centralized place for tasks, notes, docs, and projects, allowing for data visualization in various formats like Kanban boards and calendars.

The App and Its Founder

AppFlowy was founded in **2021** by **Xinyuan Zhang** and **Annie Wang** as an open-source alternative to proprietary collaboration tools like Notion. The founders' goal was to address the lack of a "one-size-fits-all" solution in the workplace and give users 100% control over their data. The company is based in San Francisco and Singapore and is backed by notable investors, including Bob Young, co-founder of Red Hat, and Matt Mullenweg, founder of Automattic.

Business Model and Revenue

Yes, AppFlowy is genuinely **free** to use, particularly its community edition, which is local and self-hosted. The core philosophy is centered around open-source principles and data privacy. This means you can download and use the desktop application for free, with no limitations on storage or users, as your data is stored locally.

AppFlowy's revenue model is based on **providing additional services and features** on top of its open-source core. While the local application is free, they plan to generate revenue through:

- **AppFlowy Cloud:** A hosted, subscription-based service for teams that provides cloud storage and collaboration features without the need for self-hosting.
- **AppFlowy AI:** Integrated AI features, likely offered as a subscription or a paid add-on, to enhance productivity with functionalities like content generation and editing.
- **Enterprise Solutions:** Offering paid services for enterprises, such as custom integrations, priority support, and additional security features.

Step-by-Step Setup and Installation on Ubuntu with MySQL

Here's a step-by-step guide to installing AppFlowy on Ubuntu using MySQL as the database. You'll need to install both MySQL Server and AppFlowy separately, as the self-hosted version of AppFlowy uses a database to store its data.

Step 1: Install MySQL Server

First, you need to install the MySQL Server on your Ubuntu machine. Open a terminal and run the following command to update your package list and install MySQL.

Bash

```
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install mysql-server
```

During the installation, you may be prompted to set a root password. Create a strong password and remember it. Once the installation is complete, the MySQL service will start automatically. You can check its status with:

Bash

```
sudo systemctl status mysql
```

Step 2: Configure MySQL and Create Database

Next, you need to run the secure installation script to secure your MySQL instance and then create a database and user for AppFlowy.

1. Secure MySQL Installation: Bash

Run the security script. This will prompt you to set a password validation policy, remove anonymous users, disallow remote root login, and remove the test database. It's highly recommended to say 'y' (yes) to all prompts.

```
sudo mysql_secure_installation
```

2. Log in to MySQL and Create a Database: BashSQL

Log in to the MySQL command-line interface as the root user.

```
sudo mysql -u root -p
```

Enter the root password you set earlier. Then, create a new database and a user for AppFlowy, granting them the necessary privileges. Replace `appflowy_db`, `appflowy_user`, and `your_password` with your desired values.

```
CREATE DATABASE appflowy_db CHARACTER SET utf8mb4 COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci;  
CREATE USER 'appflowy_user'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'your_password';  
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON appflowy_db.* TO 'appflowy_user'@'localhost';  
FLUSH PRIVILEGES;  
EXIT;
```

This creates a database called `appflowy_db` and a user `appflowy_user` that can access it from the local machine (`localhost`).

Step 3: Install AppFlowy

The easiest way to install AppFlowy on Ubuntu is using **Snap**, which handles dependencies and updates automatically.

1. Install Snapd: Bash

Snap is pre-installed on modern Ubuntu versions (16.04 and later). If it's not on your system, you can install it.

```
sudo apt install snapd
```

2. Install AppFlowy via Snap: Bash

Run the following command to install the AppFlowy snap package.

```
sudo snap install appflowy
```

This command downloads and installs AppFlowy and all its dependencies.

3. Configure AppFlowy:

After installation, you'll need to configure AppFlowy to connect to your MySQL database. This is typically done through a configuration file. The specific location and format of this file may vary, so refer to the official AppFlowy documentation for the most accurate details for the version you installed. You will likely need to specify the database type (mysql), host (localhost), database name (appflowy_db), user (appflowy_user), and password (your_password).

Once configured, you can start the AppFlowy server. The process for this depends on whether you installed from a package, from source, or using Docker. The Snap installation will usually create a desktop entry, allowing you to launch AppFlowy directly from your application menu.