

NDI Monitor — User Manual

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NDI Monitor is a small, free monitor for one NDI source at a time: pick a source, watch the picture and hear the sound.

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1. What NDI Monitor does

NDI Monitor shows **one live NDI source** (a camera, phone app, vision mixer or computer sending NDI on your network) in a window, with its audio played through your computer's speakers or headphones.

- A **source picker** that follows the network: sources appear and disappear as they come and go.
- **Video at full resolution**, scaled to fit the window with black bars where needed.
- **Audio out** through the default sound device, with a volume slider and a mute button.
- An **Alpha** button that shows the source's transparency (key) channel as a black-and-white picture.
- A **status bar** with resolution, frame rate and audio format.

NDI Monitor is **free**. There is no trial, no license key and no account. The NDI 6 runtime is included in the download; you do not need to install anything from ndi.video.

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2. System requirements

Item	Requirement
Operating system	Ubuntu 24.04 LTS or newer , 64-bit (x86_64). Other current desktop Linux distributions with glibc 2.35 or newer will usually work but are not tested.
Desktop	A graphical desktop session (X11 or Wayland).
Sound	PipeWire (Ubuntu's default) or PulseAudio. Without a sound server the picture still works but there is no audio.
Network	The computer and the NDI sources on the same local network (same wired network or WiFi; not a guest WiFi).
Disk	About 300 MB once unpacked.

Windows and macOS: not available yet.

Everything the program needs is inside the download: Python, Qt 6, the NDI 6 runtime and the X11 helper libraries. On a normal Ubuntu desktop nothing else has to be installed. On a stripped-down or server install (no desktop), you may first need the basic graphics libraries:

```
sudo apt install libgl1 libegl1 libfontconfig1 libdbus-1-3 libpulse0
```

3. Installing from the download

Download **NDIMonitor-v1.0.1-linux-x64.tar.gz** from **lumengrid.shop** (NDI Monitor page). The page also shows its SHA-256 checksum.

1. Open a terminal in the folder where you saved it (usually `~/Downloads`).
2. Optional: check the download. The printed checksum must match the one on the shop page.

```
cd ~/Downloads
sha256sum NDImonitor-v1.0.1-linux-x64.tar.gz
```

3. Unpack it. This creates a folder called `ndimonitor`:

```
tar -xzf NDImonitor-v1.0.1-linux-x64.tar.gz
```

4. Start the program:

```
./ndimonitor/ndimonitor
```

There is no installer. The program runs straight from the unpacked folder, and you can move the whole `ndimonitor` folder anywhere you like (for example to `~/Apps/ndimonitor`). Keep the files in the folder together: the `ndimonitor` program needs the `_internal` folder next to it.

Optional: add it to your applications menu. If you moved the folder to `~/Apps/ndimonitor`, create a launcher with:

```
mkdir -p ~/.local/share/applications
cat > ~/.local/share/applications/ndimonitor.desktop <<END
[Desktop Entry]
Type=Application
Name=NDI Monitor
Exec=$HOME/Apps/ndimonitor/ndimonitor
Terminal=false
Categories=AudioVideo;
END
```

NDI Monitor then appears in the applications menu. Change the `Exec=` path if you put the folder somewhere else.

The folder also contains `THIRD_PARTY.md` and `libndi_licenses.txt` with the licenses of the bundled components.

4. First launch

The window opens with **No source selected** in the middle and the NDI runtime version in the status bar (for example NDI runtime 6.3.2 - waiting for sources).

Within a few seconds the sources on your network fill the source picker at the top left. Choose one and the picture and sound start.

Nothing is saved between sessions: every launch starts with no source selected (unless you use `--source, $10`). The program writes no settings files and does not go online, apart from normal NDI traffic on your local network.

To quit, close the window.

5. The source picker



The drop-down at the top left lists every NDI source the computer can see, sorted by name. NDI names look like `COMPUTER (Source name)`, for example `STUDIO-PC (Camera 1)`.

- **Choose a source** to start watching it. Choosing another source switches over at once.
- **- select source -** at the top of the list does nothing; it is just the empty choice.
- The list **follows the network**. New sources appear and sources that stop disappear without you doing anything.
- If the source you are watching restarts on a new network address, NDI Monitor reconnects to it by itself.

If the list stays empty, see §11.

6. Video

The picture is shown at the source's full resolution, scaled to fit the window while keeping its shape; the rest of the window is black. Make the window bigger or maximise it for a larger picture.

When there is no picture, a message is shown in the middle of the window:

Message	Meaning
No source selected	Nothing chosen yet in the source picker.
Waiting for signal...	A source is chosen, but no picture has arrived yet, or no picture has arrived for 2 seconds (the source stopped or the network dropped). The source name is shown under it. Picture returns by itself when the source is back.

NDI Monitor always shows the newest frame. If the computer is busy, it skips frames rather than falling behind, so the picture never runs late.

7. Audio, volume and mute

The source's audio plays through your computer's **default sound output** (the one chosen in Ubuntu's Settings → Sound). To use other speakers or headphones, change the output there.

- **Volume slider** (top right): drag to set the level. It starts at 80%.
- **Mute** button: click to silence the sound; it then reads **Muted**. Click again to unmute. The volume setting is kept.

NDI Monitor adapts to whatever the source sends (sample rate and number of channels) and keeps the audio delay short (about 0.15 seconds).

8. The Alpha view



Some sources, for example graphics and title generators, send a **transparency (alpha / key) channel** along with the picture.

- The **Alpha** button is only clickable while the current source sends an alpha channel. Otherwise it is greyed out.
 - Click **Alpha** to show the alpha channel as a black-and-white picture: **white** is solid, **black** is fully transparent, grey is partly transparent. Click it again to return to the normal picture.
 - A source that sends an alpha channel which is solid everywhere shows plain white.
 - When you switch to another source, the Alpha view turns off.
-

9. The status bar

The bar along the bottom of the window shows, separated by dots:

Item	Example	Meaning
Resolution and frame rate	1920x1080 @ 50.00 fps	Size and speed of the incoming picture.
alpha	alpha	The source sends an alpha channel (§8).
Audio format	audio 48000 Hz 2 ch	Sample rate and number of audio channels.

Before a source is chosen it shows the NDI runtime version. It also shows short messages such as Connecting to ..., No audio output device found or Failed to open audio output (see §11).

10. Self-test and command-line options

Start NDI Monitor from a terminal to use these options:

Option	Effect
--source NAME	Start with the first source whose name contains NAME (not case sensitive), e.g. --source "Camera 1".
--volume 0-100	Start volume (default 80).
--version	Print the version (NDI Monitor 1.0.1) and exit.
--list-sources [SEC]	Print the sources found for SEC seconds (default 5), without opening a window.
--selftest SEC	Run for SEC seconds, print a short report and exit.
--shot FILE.png	With --selftest: save a picture of the window.

List sources — a quick check that discovery works:

```
./ndimonitor/ndimonitor --list-sources 5
```

Self-test — checks that picture and sound really arrive from a source:

```
./ndimonitor/ndimonitor --source "Camera 1" --selftest 8 --shot ~/ndimonitor-test.png
```

After the given time the window closes and a report is printed. "ok": true means frames were received and shown and audio reached the sound device. The report also lists the frame count, resolution, frame rate, audio format, whether alpha was present, and the sound device used. The exit code is 0 when the test passed and 1 when it failed, so it can be used in scripts.

The self-test needs a source that sends both picture and sound, and a working sound device.

11. Troubleshooting

The source list stays empty.

- Check that the source is really sending and is on the **same network** (not a guest WiFi, not a different VLAN).
- NDI finds sources with mDNS. Check the firewall: if `ufw` is active, allow mDNS (UDP 5353) and NDI (TCP/UDP 5960 and up), or test briefly with `sudo ufw disable`.
- Run `./ndimonitor/ndimonitor --list-sources 10` in a terminal to see what the computer can find.
- On networks without mDNS (some corporate or multi-subnet networks), sources can be found through an NDI Discovery Server or extra IP addresses set in the NDI configuration file `~/ndi/ndi-config.v1.json`, the standard NDI method.

A source is listed, but the picture says "Waiting for signal..."

- The source may have stopped sending, or the network is dropping the traffic. Try another source to compare.
- Very high-bandwidth sources over WiFi may not get through. Use a wired connection.
- NDI|HX (compressed) sources have not been tested on Linux.

No sound.

- Check that the volume slider is up and the button says **Mute**, not **Muted**.
- Check that the source sends audio: the status bar shows `audio ... Hz ... ch` when it does.
- Check the output device in Ubuntu's Settings → Sound.
- No audio output device found or Failed to open audio output in the status bar means no sound server was found. Ubuntu desktops have PipeWire running; on minimal installs, install `pipewire-pulse` or `pulseaudio`.

The program does not start.

- Start it from a terminal to see the error message: `./ndimonitor/ndimonitor`
- `cannot open shared object file: libGL.so.1 (or libEGL.so.1)`: the system has no graphics libraries. Install them with the command in §2.
- `Could not load the Qt platform plugin "xcb"`: run it from a desktop session (not over plain SSH). On older or minimal systems also run `sudo apt install libxcb-cursor0`.
- `Permission denied`: the file lost its execute flag, e.g. after copying from a USB stick. Run `chmod +x ndimonitor/ndimonitor`.
- Make sure the `_internal` folder is still next to the `ndimonitor` program.

Lines like `Couldn't load pipewire-0.3 library` in the terminal are informational. Sound still works through the PulseAudio interface that PipeWire provides.

Getting help. Use the Support page on lumengrid.shop. Include your Ubuntu version (`lsb_release -d`) and the output of the command that fails.

12. Uninstalling

NDI Monitor has no installer, so to remove it:

1. Delete the `ndimonitor` folder (and the downloaded `.tar.gz` file).
2. If you made a menu launcher (§3), delete it too:

```
rm ~/.local/share/applications/ndimonitor.desktop
```

NDI Monitor writes no settings of its own. The folder `~/.ndi` may exist if you or another NDI program created an NDI configuration; it is shared with other NDI software, so only remove it if nothing else uses NDI.

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