

Re: aptitude --mind-your-own-business option?

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2006-12/msg00153.html>

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- *From:* Ken Irving <fnkci@xxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 2 Dec 2006 03:31:29 -0900
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On Sat, Dec 02, 2006 at 01:00:14PM +0100, Florian Kulzer wrote:

On Sat, Dec 02, 2006 at 01:39:04 -0900, Ken Irving wrote:

I'll probably just go back to using apt-get, and probably everything will be fine until the next time I decide to try aptitude. Is there a compelling reason to bother?

I like the "forbid-version" functionality (I run Sid and it is so much more convenient than having to remember to remove apt pins or dpkg holds), the interactive interface, the powerful search patterns, the log, the convenient way to look at changelogs before downloading, and the fact that I can fine-tune how recommendations are treated for automatic (un)installing. I also have observed aptitude acting much smarter in conflict resolution, for example if package "foo" gets split into "foo" and "foo-data" in an upgrade. With apt-get this often resulted in a "chicken-and-egg" problem since the new "foo-data" had overlapping files with the old "foo" package and "foo" could not be upgraded directly because the new "foo" depended on "foo-data". In such situations I often had to break the tie manually, for example by temporarily uninstalling "foo", with "--force" if necessary. Aptitude solves this type of problem without user intervention by going some clever two-step route.

(Disclaimer: I have not used apt-get in a long time; it might have learned some new tricks since I switched to aptitude.)

Nice list, but I try not to do anything fancy like pinning or forcing or holding, and apt-get has always seemed to work well enough. Logging is good, but I think that was just added to apt-get. The chicken and egg problem during major upgrades may/seems to be a reason, but apt-get has handled those well enough in my experience, maybe with a manual two-step.

I have the impression that I can use aptitude search if it's better, but still use apt-get to install and upgrade without conflict.

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Ken Irving, fnkci@xxxxxxx

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