

Re: compiling

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.linux/2004-04/0471.html>

From: Moonlit (*news*)

Date: 04/22/04

Date: Thu, 22 Apr 2004 21:31:05 +0200

Hi,

"jimofadel" <me@isp.net> wrote in message
news:4083704d_2@corp.newsgroups.com...

- > As a newbie, in about 5 tries I have yet to be able to successfully
- > compile an application from source files because I always get error
- > messages saying that there are dependencies on files that are not found
- > on my machine. I then do a google search for those files, and am
- > referred to download sites, but when I download the indicated
- > applications or files, I find that there are now other files that are
- > missing, and some of them I cannot find. I would like to have someone
- > make suggestions for a tutorial or other resource on downloading source
- > code and compiling applications.
- > I have used RPM files with success in most cases, but some
- > applications of interest do not have RPM packages.
- > Thanks.
- > jk

Yes, unfortunately that is something that makes linux different in comparison with for instance MS-Windows. It is due to the fact that everyone creates a little part of the OS. I am since a week running the latest kernel, latest XServer, Gnome desktop and the Gimp. My first goal was only to install the latest gimp, but that asked for other packages and those for other etc.etc, after loading package after package and doing a ./configure make too many times (well actually for all the gnome packages I decided to write a script, but there also seems to be garnome or something which I found out too late).

Actually I sort of find it a miracle that everything seems to run fine and even completely stable (this because I sometimes had to edit headers for instance 'where is that bloody /usr/include/stdarg.h header have run of too' while compiling the latest kernel with gcc 3.3).

I can use all my favorite programs Gimp, Blender, Dosbox (with sound yesss!!) Wine, and mozilla.

I have used linux as router/firewall/dialin machine for a long time but never seriously as a 'desktop user'. But despite the difficulties I now boot into linux as often as I do in MS-Windows not because I want to use linux

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but because it does things unix can't (run gimp stable with a wacom board, run old games in dosbox without the installation installing old libraries in my windows dir) and it is handy to have gimp and blender on the same OS.

In short just use an out of the box system (with an out of the box experience), recommended!, saves you a headache or just keep installing and compiling, Unfortunately some packages give errors so knowledge about libraries, ldconfig, and configure as well as some C mostly (maybe ++)
knowledge might be required to continue.

Regards, Ron AF Greve

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PS: Some things I did

Just look at error messages and do the most simple thing to solve them (sometimes it works sometimes not).

stdarg.h Do you have an old install of gcc then use a 'find . -name stdarg.h' and copy that file to /usr/include

This one baffled me, after copying stdarg.h to /usr/include the compiler still can't find it?? So I replaced the the include's in the kernel to '#include </usr/include/stdarg.h' that made the kernel compile fine.

PKG_CONFIG stuff: Found this but pkg-config reported that and that kind of stuff. Be a pig and use ./configure --prefix=/usr on your gnome files.

Still problems compiling the gnome packages first download the right version (or the latest as I did) of the libraries it complains about. Then when it still complains move all older libraries and links to /attic (create that directory first, so you can move the files back if something goes wrong).

Run ldconfig to create new links etc after installing a library.

At some point a package reported a macro should be inserted. Look at the header file it reports and insert the stuff it reports (basically do as it says). I believe this was in some of the font package (fontconfig xft or something).

And note with all this there is a good chance that your system won't boot anymore. If you have got grub or lilo WITH a timeout you can try
kernel=<Your kernel> init=/bin/sh
to go to runlevel 1 then remount everything rewrite (if forgot the exact parameters so look them up BEFORE you ruin your system :-)

In the end you might win (or commit suicide ;-)

Hope this is useful for someone out there.

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