

Re: um i realy need help with linux.....

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.questions/2004-09/0019.html>

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bad ass boy wrote:

- > *i am running mandrake 9.0*
- > *and when i download programs of the internet for it*
- > *they come compressed i uncompress them and from there*
- > *i dont know were to go*
- > *how do i run the program i downloaded*
- > *it says i need 2 compile them or something*
- > *wat program or command do i use to do this*
- > *thanx*
- > *luke*

generally, when you download software to run on a linux system, what you get is a compressed file containing the source code for the application. it will be something like this

foo_bar.tgz

you uncompress it like this

```
tar -xvzf foo_bar.tgz
```

you'll get a directory containing the source code and some instructions
look for a file called "INSTALL" or maybe "README"
read the directions, but it will usually go like this
type

```
./configure
```

this will configure the source code for your system
then type

```
make
```

this will compile the source and create the executable
often you can then run the executable at this point, but if it's something
you want to keep on you system you'll want to type

```
make install
```

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this will move the application to it's permanent location on you machine and
you'll have to be root to do it.
have fun

Dave