

## Installing OPAM

This tutorial is a complement to the [Quick Install](#) tutorial and provides you alternative methods to install OPAM beyond the simpler but restrictive bootstrapping with a pre-compiled binary.

### Installing OPAM using a pre-compiled binary

This is the simplest and recommended method if you're running *Linux 64bits*. This method is described in the [Quick Install](#) tutorial.

### Installing OPAM with your distribution

You can use the OPAM package of your distribution if available. Here is a list of supported distributions:

- Archlinux: [opam](#), [opam-git](#)
- Mac OS X: [opam](#) via [homebrew](#)

### Installing OPAM from source

#### Prerequisites:

- ocaml
- curl or wget
- git (optional, to use the git backend)
- rsync (optional, to use the rsync backend)

#### Obtaining OPAM

Download OPAM 0.7 at <https://github.com/OCamlPro/opam/tarball/0.7.5>

If you want to try the development (unstable) version of OPAM, clone the git repository: `git clone git://github.com/OCamlPro/opam.git`. Please keep in mind that this version may not work as expected.

## Compiling OPAM

To compile opam (binaries will be installed in `/usr/local/bin`), simply run:

```
./configure  
make
```

To have OPAM installed in a specific location, please do

```
./configure --prefix=/the/opam/path  
make
```

This will fetch the necessary archives if they are not already downloaded and then build OPAM. If you just want to get the necessary dependencies without compiling the project, run `make clone`.

If you don't have *curl* installed on your system, you can run `make FETCH=wget clone` before `make`.

## Installing OPAM

To install opam simply run:

```
sudo make install
```

OPAM will be installed under `$prefix`, that is under `/usr/local` if you did not specify a prefix in the configure phase, or whatever location you specified.

## Initializing OPAM

Before using OPAM, you need to initialize its state. Start by doing:

```
opam init  
eval `opam config -env`
```

This will:

- Create OPAM configuration files in `~/.opam`
- Add the default remote repository at URL `http://opam.ocamlpro.com` using opam's HTTP repository backend.

- Update your local environment to be able to use OPAM packages and compilers.

It is recommended that you add `eval 'opam config -env'` in the configuration file of your shell (most likely `~/.bashrc` or `~/.profile`).

To learn more about these two commands, try `opam --help init` and `opam --help config`.