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 boostrapping 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 0.8 at `https://github.com/OCamlPro/opam/archive/0.8.1.tar.gz`

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`.

On *BSD systems, you need to use `gmake` instead of `make`. Moreover, the default path for installing the manual pages needs to be changed:

```
./configure --mandir /usr/local/man
gmake
```

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 recommanded 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`.