

[HOME](#)[APPLE NEWS](#)[JAILBREAK NEWS](#)[ANDROID NEWS](#)[ACCESSORIES](#)[WALLPAPERS](#)[STORE](#)[DEALS](#)[HOW TO JAILBREAK](#)[JAILBREAK SOFTWARE TOOLS](#)[HOW TO UNLOCK](#)[HOW TO DOWNGRADE](#)[CYDIA TWEAKS](#)[HOW TO ROOT](#)[DOWNLOADS](#)

The Ultimate Tutorial For Creating A Cydia Repository/Source For iOS! [Covering Everything A-Z]

DECEMBER 4, 2010 BY [JADEN EASTON-ELLETT](#) — [24 COMMENTS](#)

This tutorial will explain the process of creating a [Cydia repository](#) from start to finish. We will cover everything from the initial preparation all the way to the hosting and publishing of your Cydia repository. This tutorial will get moderately technical and is not recommended for users who are new to computers or new to the whole jailbreaking scene. I will provide support for this tutorial through the comments section, but you can also contact me directly at: jaden@ijailbreak.com



What is a Cydia Repository?

Well if you are following this tutorial I would like to hope that you have some knowledge of what a Cydia repository is, but if you do not then here is a quick summary. A Cydia repository for short is just a Debian APT repository, and this meaning that anything you can install (ie through Cydia) is considered to be a package. These so called packages exist in the form of .deb files, which have a rather interesting internal format. At a high level, a .deb contains the files that are going to be installed on your ipodtouch/iphone, which is a part of the package and also "control" information which comprises of metadata about the package (its name, size, and other details). The construction of such a file is done by using a tool called dpkg-deb. Users of Debian (or Fink on a Macintosh, which is also based on APT) will already have this package installed, but users of almost any other platform are able to install it easily.

Table of Contents

1. pre-requirements
2. Installing a Virtual Machine
3. Creating Files for your Repository – A Theme, An Application or a Ringtone
4. Prepping Ubuntu to create a Cydia Repository
5. Creating the Cydia Repository
6. Creating a unique Depiction Page (Coming Soon)

1) Web Server/Hosting Space – A Cydia repository is a Debian APT repository that is hosted on server, so users can then browse through the contents of your repository and download the packages that are hosted on your repository to their iPod Touch/iPhone. In order for you to create your own Cydia repository you will need to have some kind of a server or hosting space available to you.

2) A Computer with Linux/Ubuntu 8.10 plus – If you are running either windows or Mac there are many ways to run Ubuntu without disturbing your current operating system. In this tutorial I will show you how to set up a virtual machine running Ubuntu that will run on both Windows and Mac OSX operating systems. There is also the option of dual booting your computer to run Ubuntu however I will not be going into detail on this subject. **Note fink on Macintosh will work, but because I don't have a mac to test it on I can not guarantee anything... You can [DOWNLOAD UBUNTU HERE](#).

3) Patience and an hour or two – Creating a Cydia repository (especially if your new to this sort of thing), can be very challenging and time consuming. Don't give up if you are getting

frustrated, if at any point during this tutorial you need help please post any questions/comments in the comments section below.

Further Reading

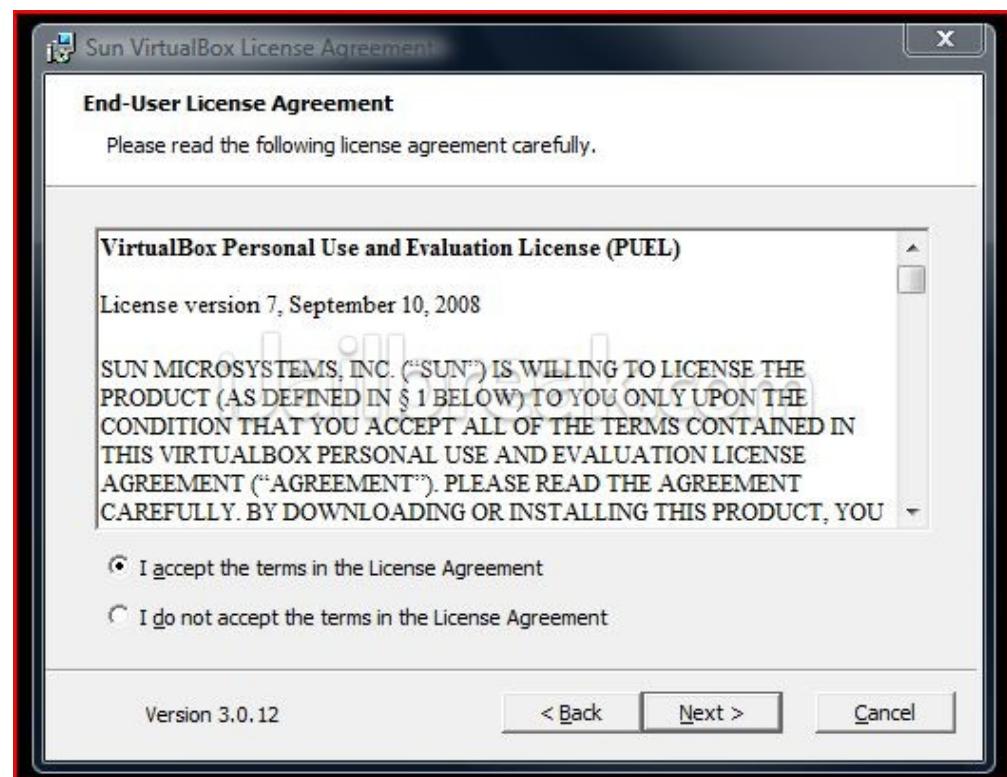
Jay Freeman aka **Saurik**, the creator of Cydia, Winterboard, Cycorder and many other well known applications, is the one who made this all possible. He wrote a great introduction to creating a Cydia repository that will take on a more advanced/technical aspect. If you are looking for more information on this subject please visit the link below...

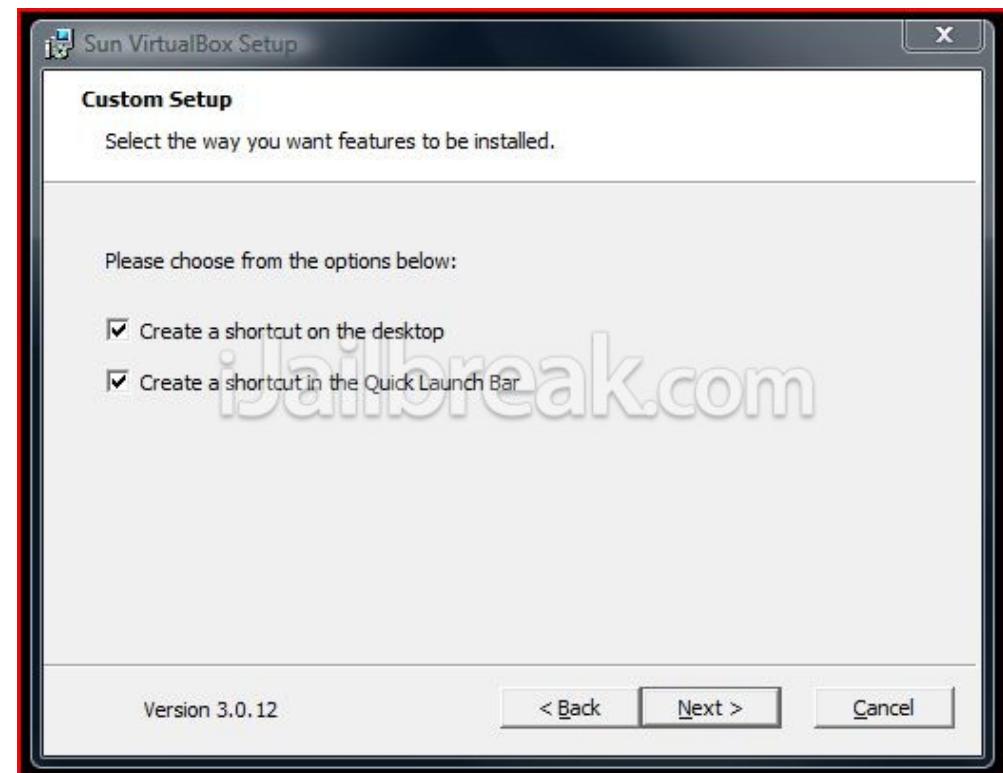
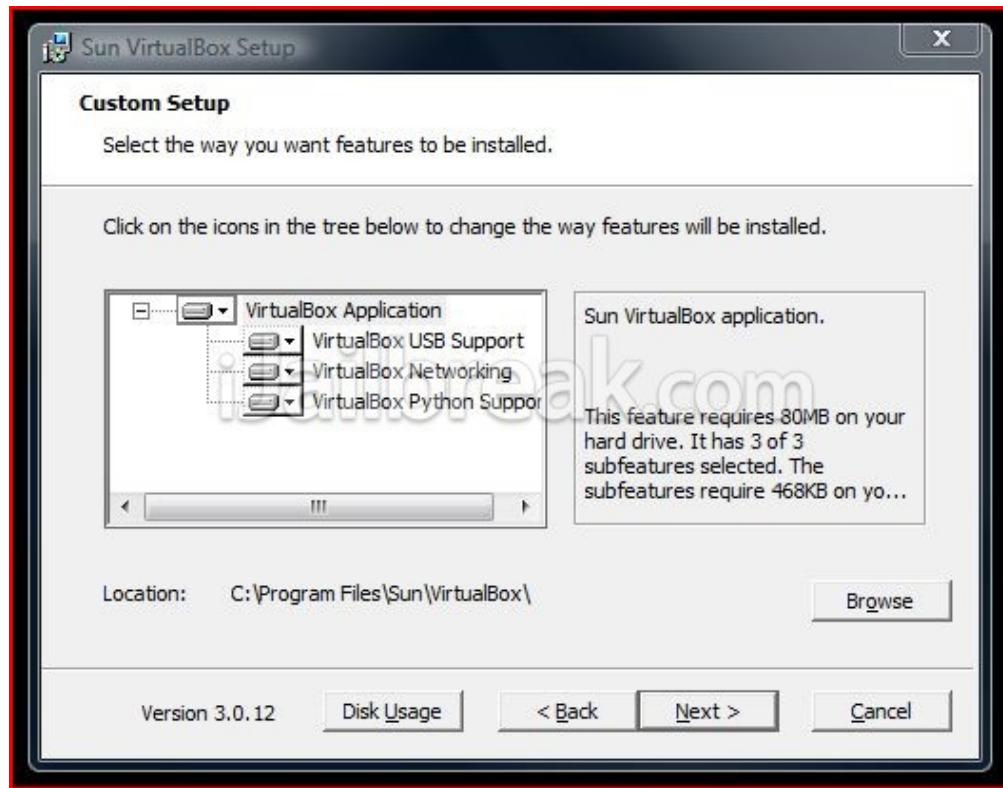
<http://www.saurik.com/id/7>

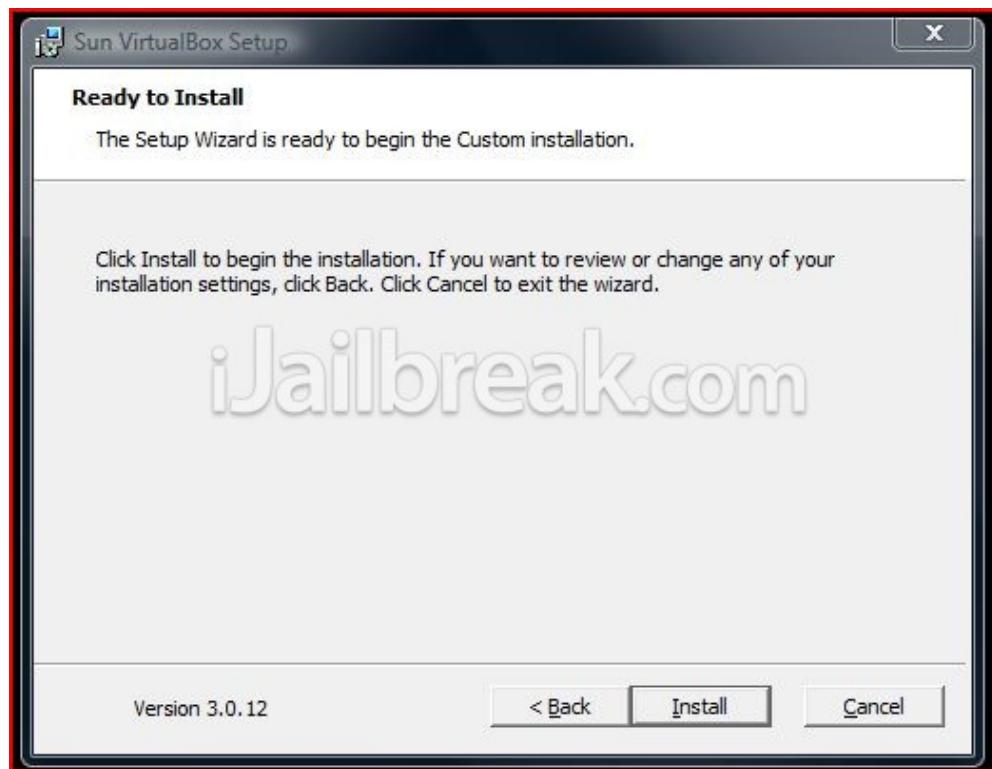
Step 1) The first thing we need to do before we can create your Cydia repository is to install and setup a virtual machine that will run Ubuntu. A virtual machine runs like an application on your current operating system but emulates the operating system of your choice (in this case Ubuntu) through a virtual harddrive. Go to [VirtualBox.com](#) and click on the download that corresponds to your operating system that you are running right now. Wait for VirtualBox to fully download before continuing to the next step...

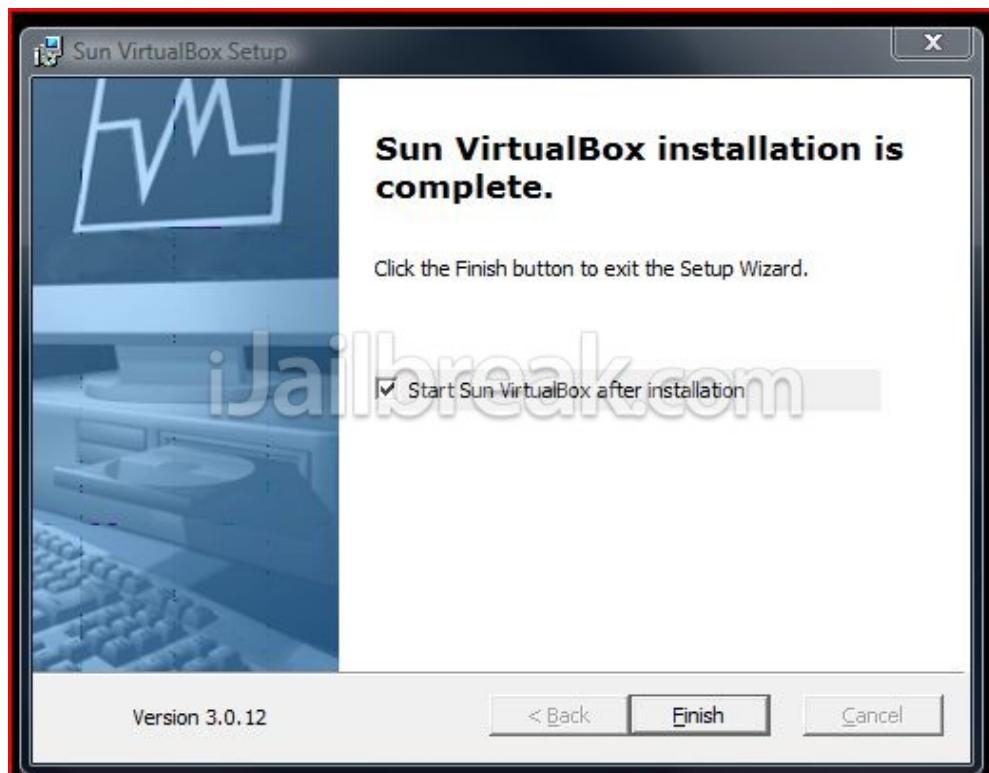
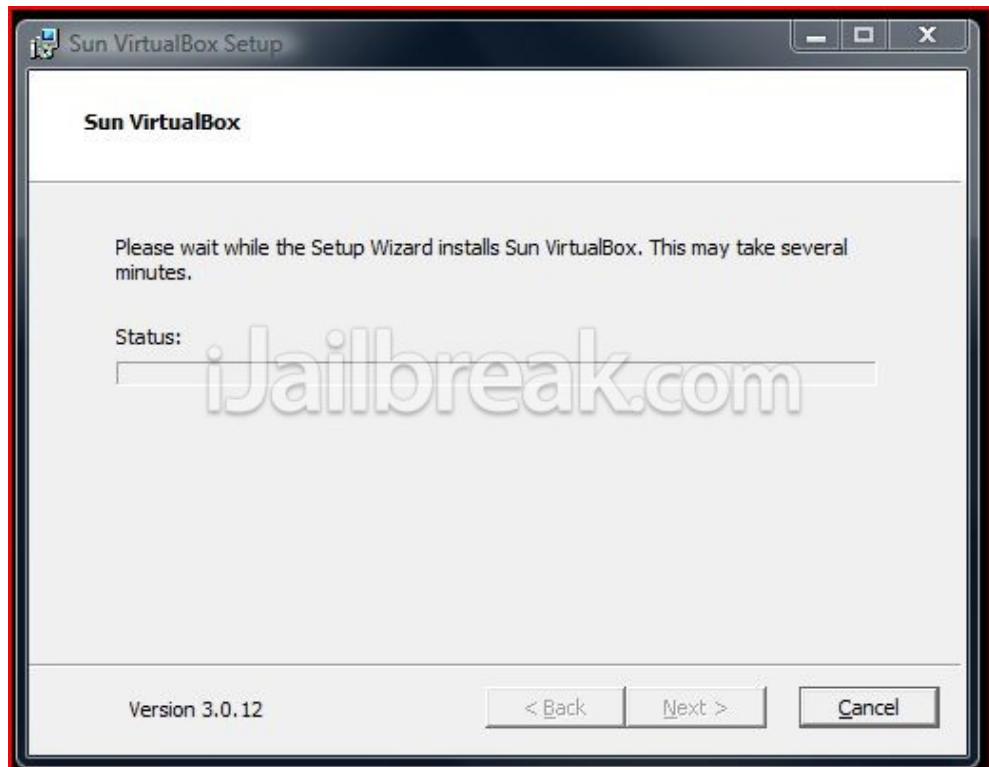
Step 2) With virtual Box now downloadew, we are going to double click on the Setup.exe to begin the installation process. Follow the Screenshots and Instructions presented to you below...

(If you know how to [install VirtualBox Click Here](#) to skip these screenshots)









Step 3) – With VirtualBox now installed we are going to need to download a copy of Ubuntu. Go to www.ubuntu.com and download the latest version of Ubuntu to your computer.

Step 4) – When Ubuntu finishes downloading go back to the VirtualBox interface and click the New Button (The Button that says New with the Blue badge icon; on the top left of the screen). Follow the Screenshots to finish configuring VirtualBox to run Ubuntu...

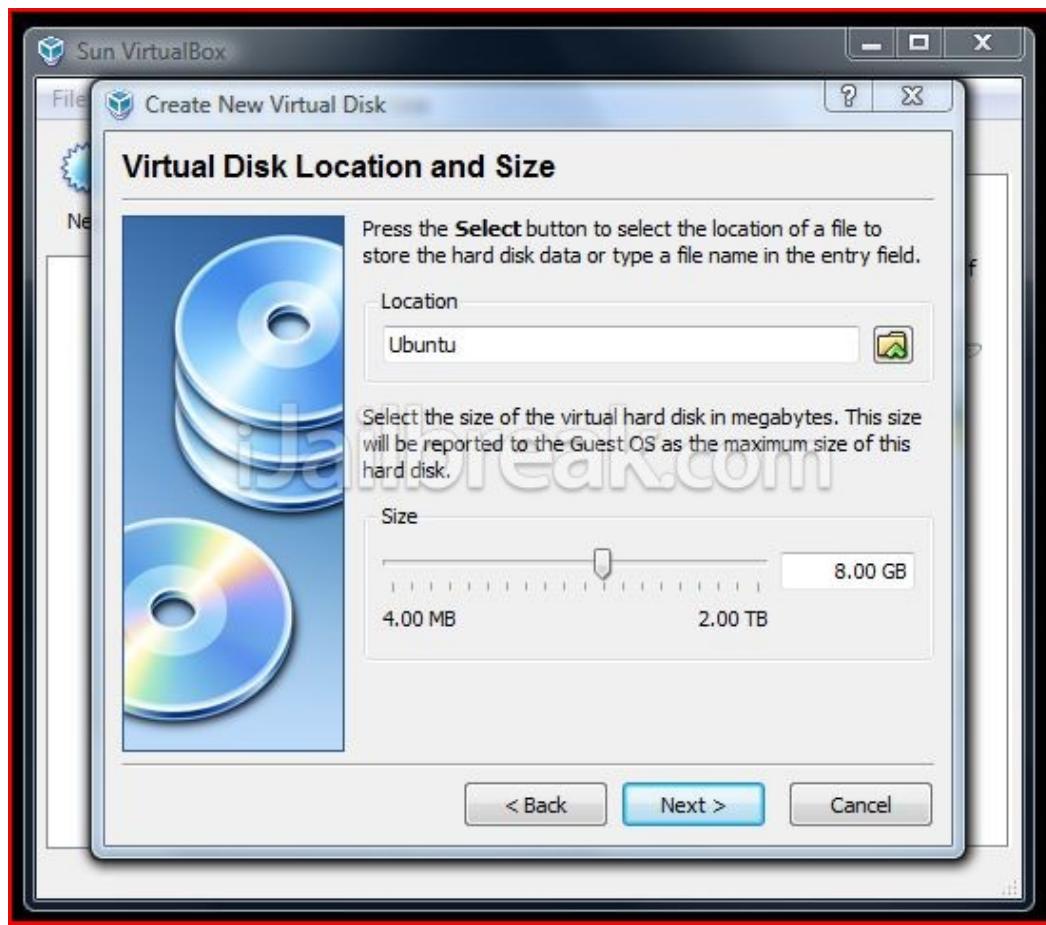












When you get to the Finish Screen press the **Finish Button** and continue to the next step below...

Step 5) – With VirtualBox now configured to run Ubuntu you can hit the run button from your VirtualBox interface now. From here its going to ask us to locate our operating system file; click the **ISO IMAGE** option and then locate your **Ubuntu.iso** file that you downloaded previously. Once you have your **Ubuntu.iso** file selected click the **ok Button** and follow the rest of the easy instructions presented to you by Ubuntu to configure the Ubuntu Operating System.

Switching Back over to the Repository...

Now that we have VirtualBox successfully installed take a few minutes to get used to Ubuntu and its features. Ubuntu works like almost all other operating systems, but like all new things it can take some time getting used to. Once you have familiarized yourself with Ubuntu we are going to begin the creation of your Cydia repository.

The first step to creating your Cydia repository is to actually have a program or a theme that you are going to host in your repository. If you already have a program or a theme to host you can skip this step, however if you do not have one then we are going to need to create one.

If you remember from earlier in this post we learn't that Cydia works like a Debian APT repository and anything that you install from Cydia comes in the form of packages. These packages have specific file structures depending on whether they are an application or a theme.

If you want to create a theme for your repository you are going to need the following file structure.



Obviously this theme wont look like anything but you get the point that this is the file structure for a theme. If you want to replace the images inside the MyTheme.theme folder go ahead, I simply used blank files and renamed them to make this file structure.

You can Download this Theme File Here or you can create it yourself...

If you want to create an application for your repository you are going to need the following file structure.



Again obviously this application won't do anything but you get the point that this is the file structure for an application. If you want to replace the files inside the MyProgram.app folder go ahead, I simply used blank files and renamed them to make this file structure.

You can Download this Application File Here or you can create it yourself...

If you want to create a ringtone for your repository you are going to need the following file structure.



Again obviously unless you replace the blank files with actual files, this ringtone will not function; but you get the idea.

You can Download this Ringtone File Here or you can create it yourself...

Step 1) – Now that we have our Application, Theme or ringtone we need to actually put information into our control file. ** Note If you haven't created a control file yet go into your Application or Theme folder and inside the DEBIAN folder right click and click create new document. A blank file will appear; name it "control" exactly as shown. Then double click the file to start editing it. You are going to need the following information inside your control file...

" Package: this is the identifier of the package and this should be all lower case. It is similar to the bundleIdentifier in Apple's Info.plist file.

Name: The Name of your Application or Theme.

Version: Your Application or Theme's version number.

Architecture: This line will almost always be "iphoneos-arm" if you are writing for firmware generations 2.x/3x.

Depends: Only use this field if your Application or Theme depends on another program. An example would be a theme; it depends on Winterboard in order to function.

Description: a description of your program. (Ignore this field if you used depiction.)

Depiction: This loads a URL into an iframe instead of using the description line. You should use this to display custom links and/or screenshots.

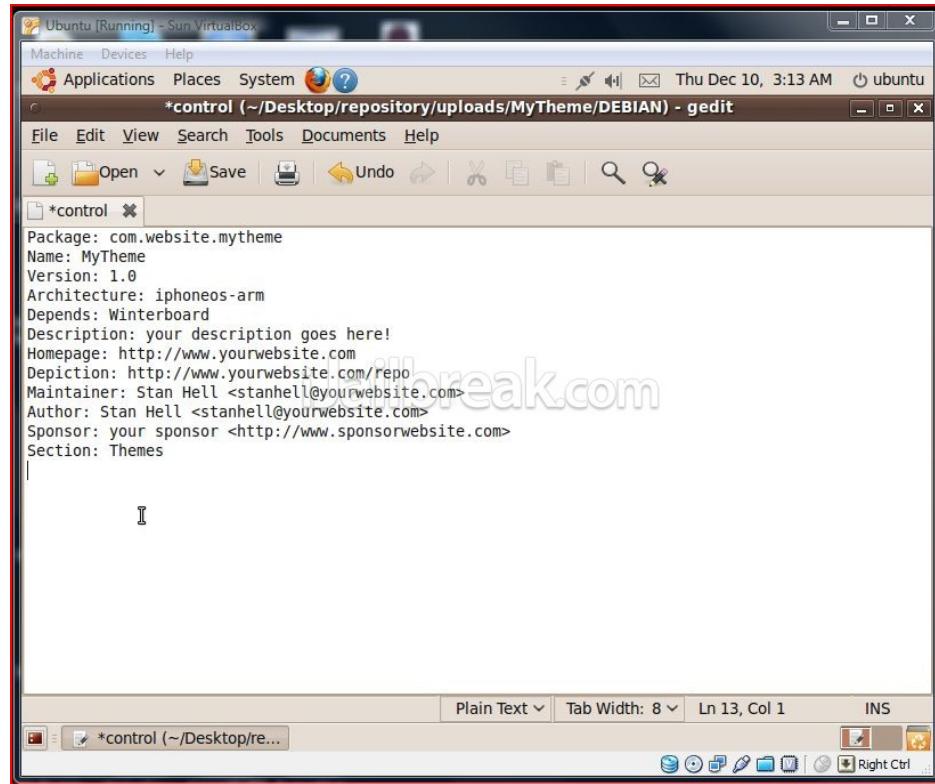
Maintainer: package builder; the person to contact for problems. (format "Name <email address>")

Author: who wrote the software. (same format as Maintainer)

Sponsor: financial provider for your package. (format "Name <website>")

Section: The category in Cydia in which your application or theme belongs to.

Once you are done editing your control file make sure it looks something like the screenshot below. ****Note Make SURE TO HIT "ENTER" AT THE END TO HAVE A BLANK LINE ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR CONTROL FILE...**



The screenshot shows a Gedit text editor window titled '*control (~/Desktop/repository/uploads/MyTheme/DEBIAN) - gedit'. The window contains the following text:

```
Package: com.website.mytheme
Name: MyTheme
Version: 1.0
Architecture: iphoneos-arm
Depends: Winterboard
Description: your description goes here!
Homepage: http://www.yourwebsite.com
Depiction: http://www.yourwebsite.com/repo
Maintainer: Stan Hell <stanhell@yourwebsite.com>
Author: Stan Hell <stanhell@yourwebsite.com>
Sponsor: your sponsor <http://www.sponsorwebsite.com>
Section: Themes
```

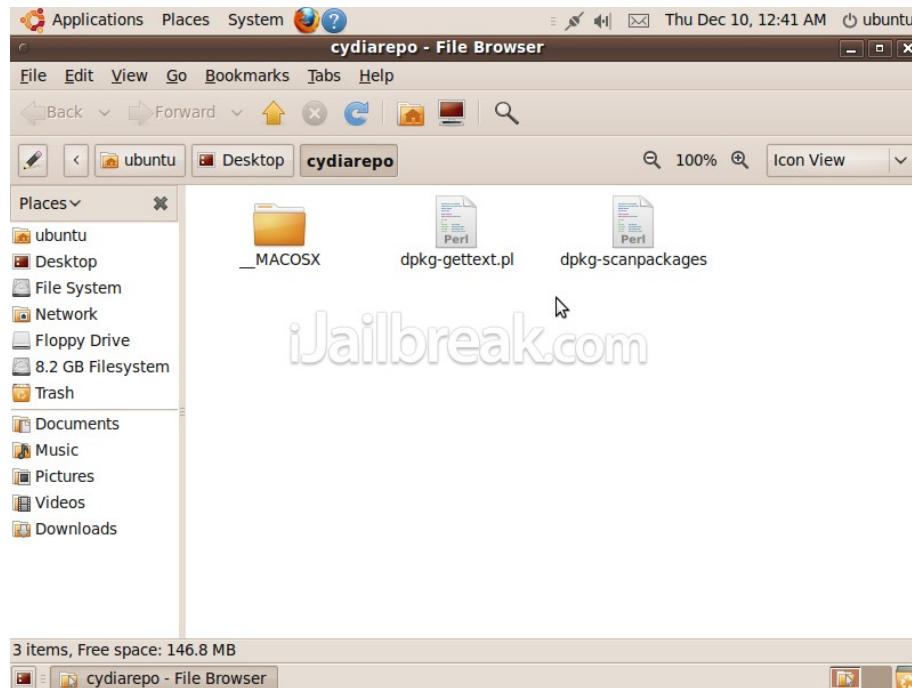
Step 2) – With your Application or Theme's control file now finished you are done with the creation of your package that you are going to host in your Cydia repository . The next thing you need to do is begin preparing to create a .deb file out of your Application or Theme. In order to create a .deb file you are going to need a couple tools that will create the .deb files in Ubuntu.

Download the Tools Packages Here.

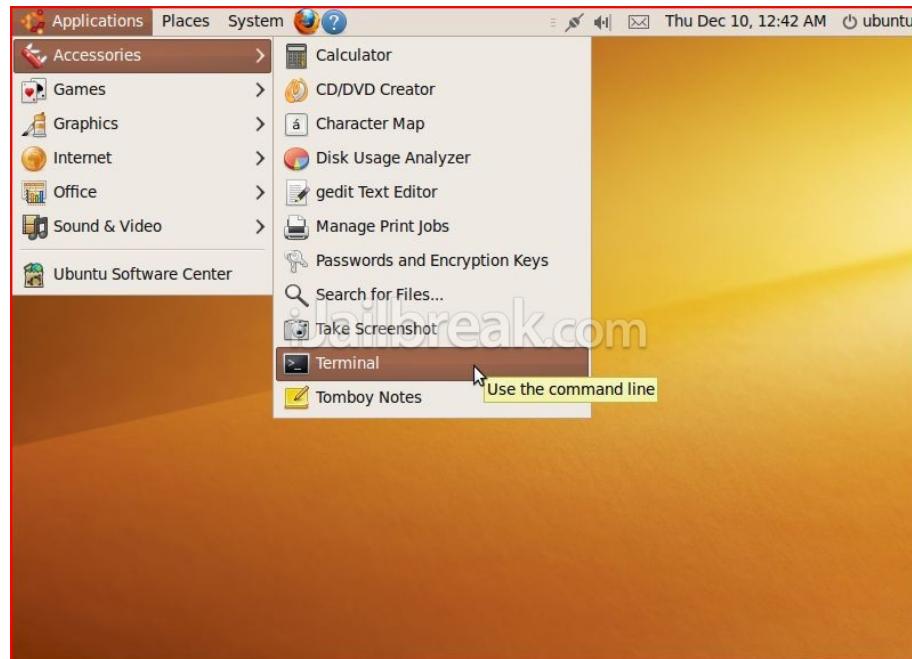
When the download is successfully completed it should be on your desktop or in the downloads folder.



Find the cydiarepo.zip file that you downloaded and extract the archived file to your desktop so you can use them. To do this right click on the cydiarepo.zip and hit the extract button, and once the files are done extracting you should be left with the files depicted below.



Once the files are extracted we are going to need to transfer them to their respected locations. We are going to do this through an application called terminal; launch terminal by going into the applications toolbar, then into accessories and then click on the terminal icon...

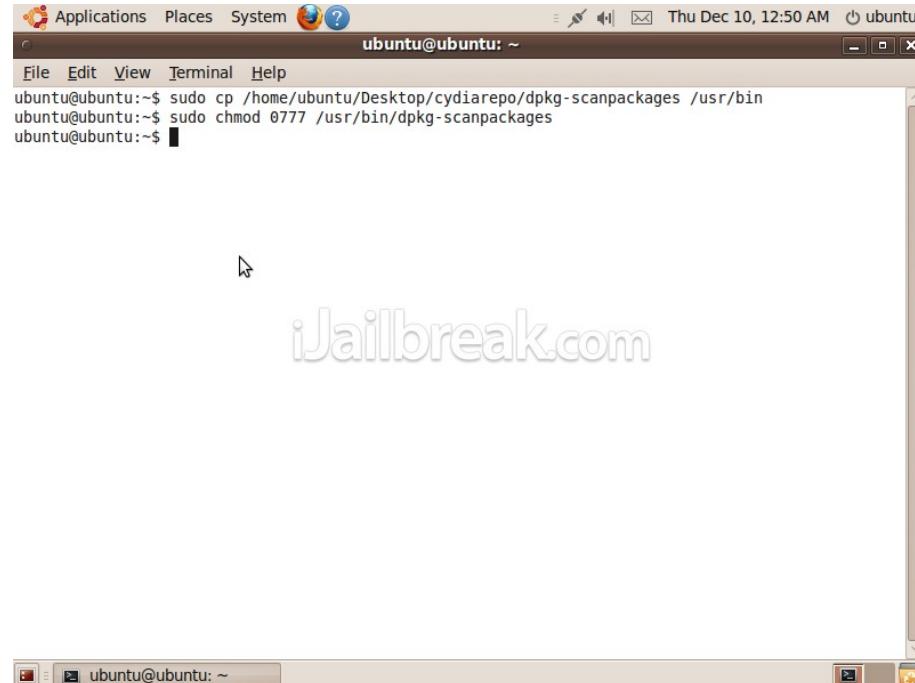


With terminal up and running we are going to need to enter in some commands. We need to move the file dpkg-scanpackages to its proper location within Ubuntu and to do this we are going to use terminal commands. If you are new to terminal this is going to be the tricky part for you! What terminal is is basically the backbone to your computer through terminal you can give your computer commands. All you are going to need to do is enter the commands that are shown to you below into terminal. The commands below are case sensitive so copy everything exactly as shown and replace *username* with your Ubuntu Username.

" sudo cp /home/username/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-scanpackages /usr/bin

(Hit Enter)

sudo chmod 0777 /usr/bin/dpkg-scanpackages



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "ubuntu@ubuntu: ~". The window shows the following commands being run:

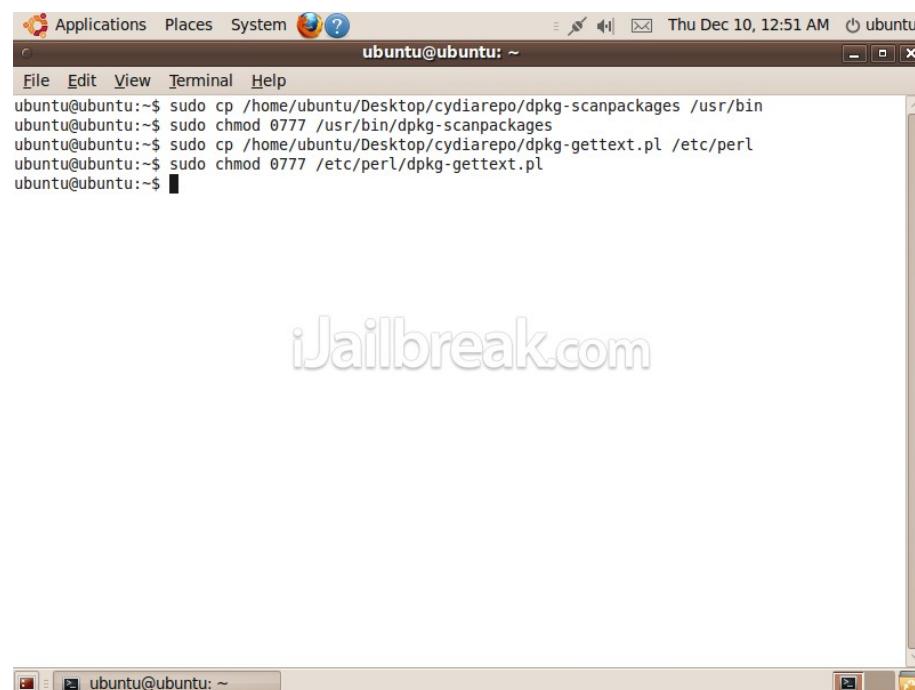
```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo cp /home/ubuntu/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-scanpackages /usr/bin  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo chmod 0777 /usr/bin/dpkg-scanpackages  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$
```

Next we need to do the same thing for the dpkg-gettext.pl file. Enter the following commands into terminal...

" sudo cp /home/username/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-gettext.pl /etc/perl

(Hit enter)

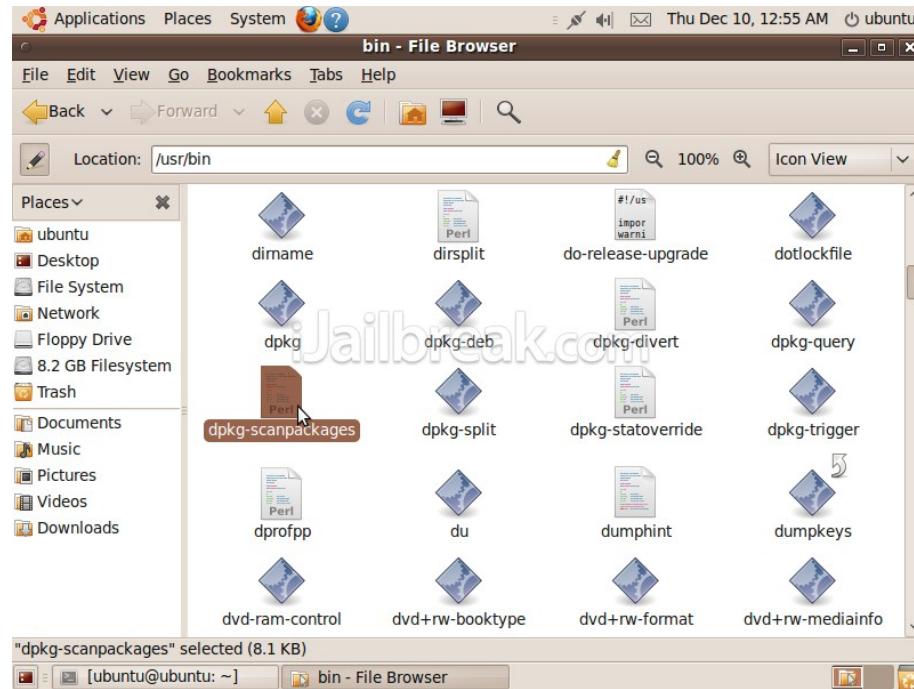
sudo chmod 0777 /etc/perl/dpkg-gettext.pl



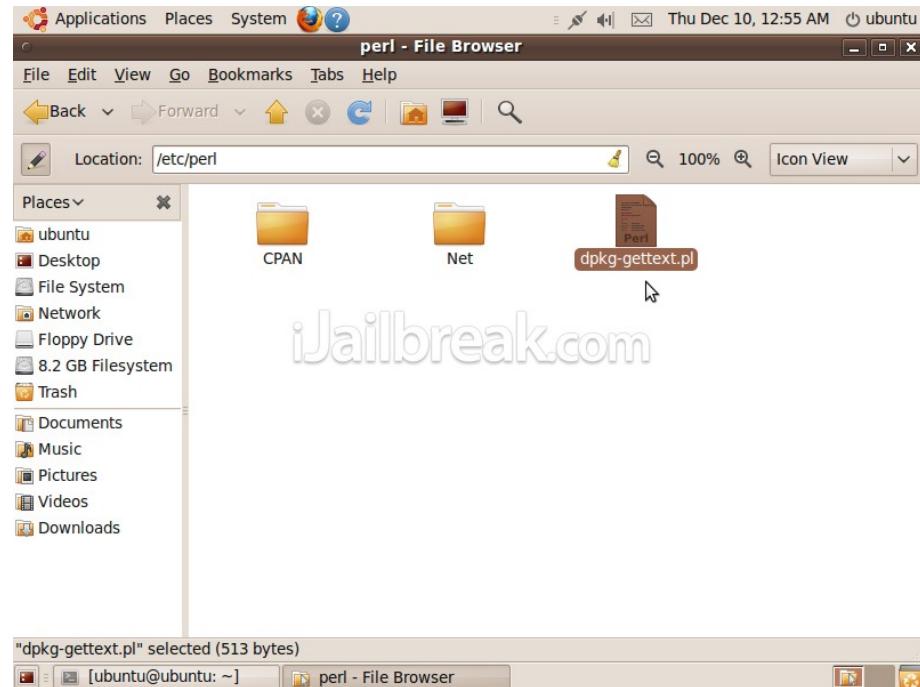
A screenshot of a terminal window titled "ubuntu@ubuntu: ~". The window shows the following commands being run:

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo cp /home/ubuntu/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-scanpackages /usr/bin  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo chmod 0777 /usr/bin/dpkg-scanpackages  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo cp /home/ubuntu/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-gettext.pl /etc/perl  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo chmod 0777 /etc/perl/dpkg-gettext.pl  
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$
```

Step 3) – With the commands now entered we are going to check to make sure the two files ended up where they were supposed to go. Open up any file on your desktop and in the top left hand corner you should see a little pen icon. Click the pen icon and type in **/usr/bin** in the text box beside it (again these are case sensitive so enter it exactly as shown). You should see the file dpkg-scanpackages if you scroll down a little ways; as shown below.



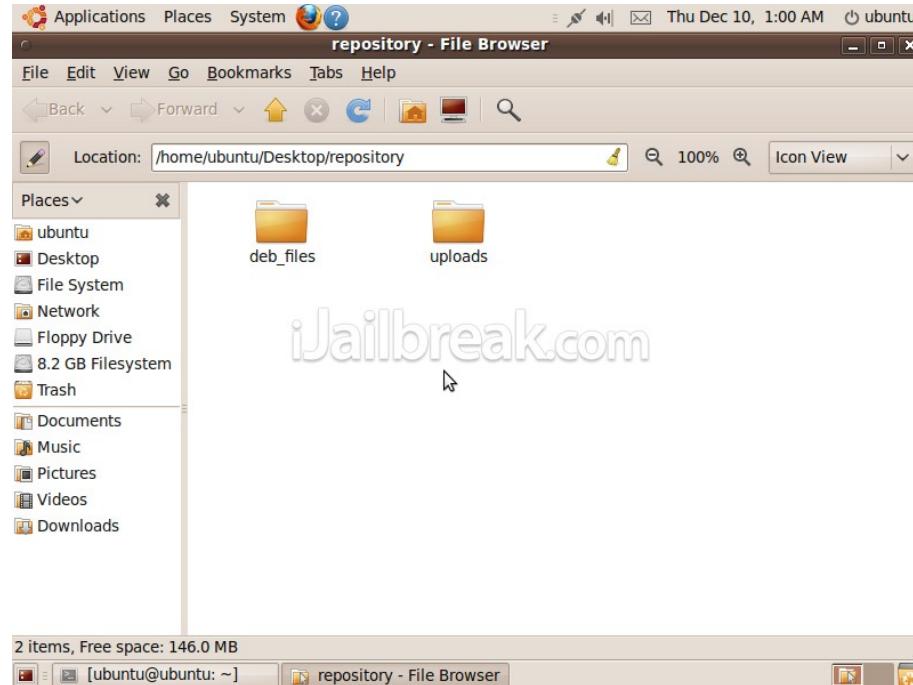
We are going to also do the same thing for the file dpkg-gettext.pl and check if it is in the right place. Type in **/etc/perl** into the text box beside the pen icon and you should see the file dpkg-gettext.pl. If you do not see the files in their respected locations then go back to terminal and make sure you enter the commands in correctly.



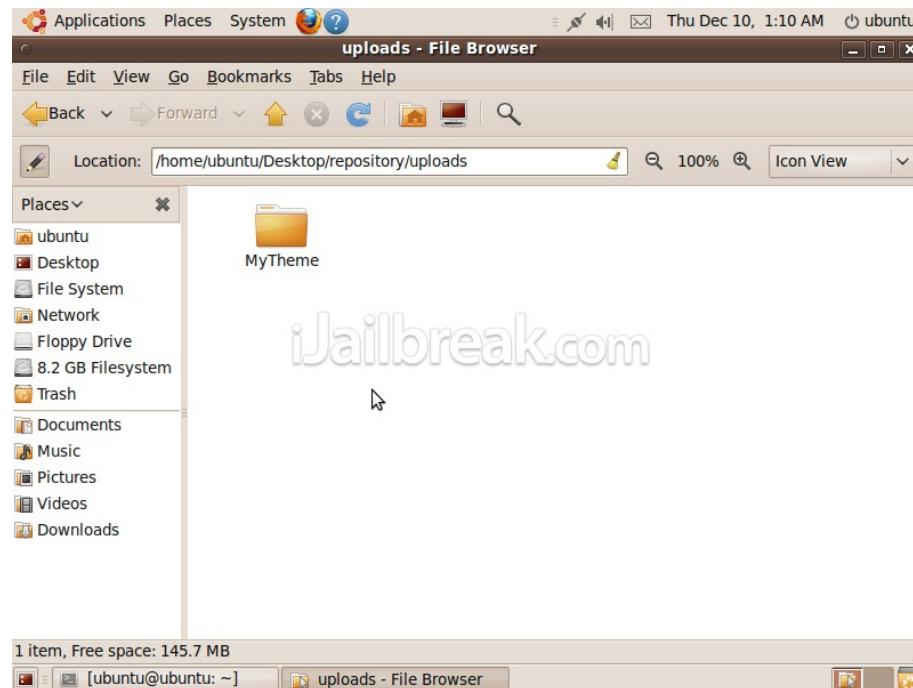
Step 1) – With the two files now in place we are going to begin creating the file structure for our Cydia Repository. Create a Folder on your desktop and name it “repository”.



Inside the “repository” folder create two other folders called “uploads” and “deb_files”.



With the folders created we are now going to place your theme or application inside the "uploads" folder.



Step 2) – Now that your Application or Theme is placed inside the "uploads" folder we are now going to go back to terminal and create our .deb file.

Launch terminal if you closed it and enter in the following commands exactly as shown. ****Note**
You must type the package name exactly as it appears on the folder that your Application or Theme is in.

" cd /home/username/Desktop/repository/uploads

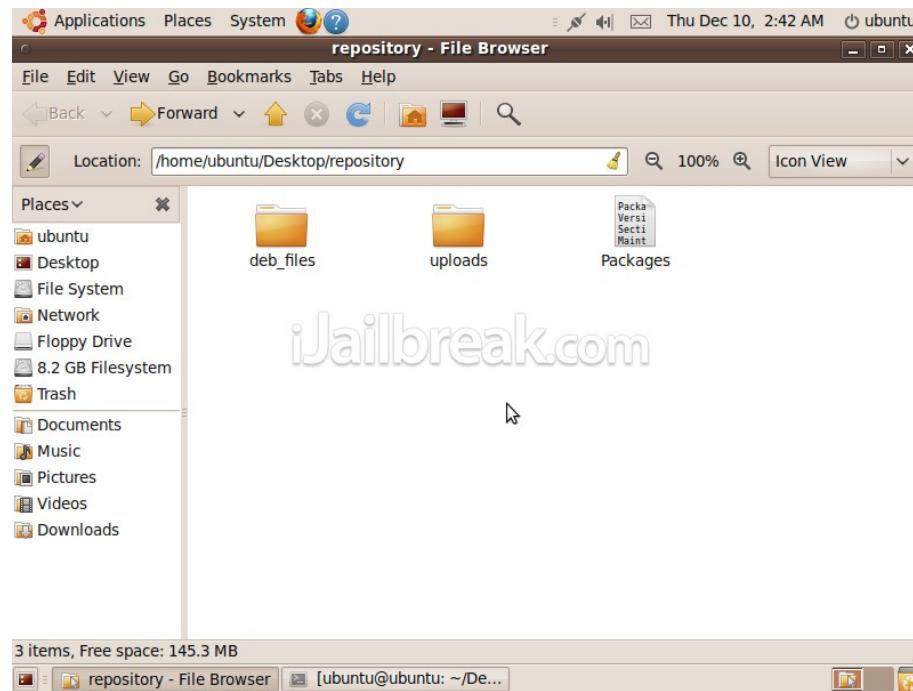
(hit enter)

dpkg -b MyTheme

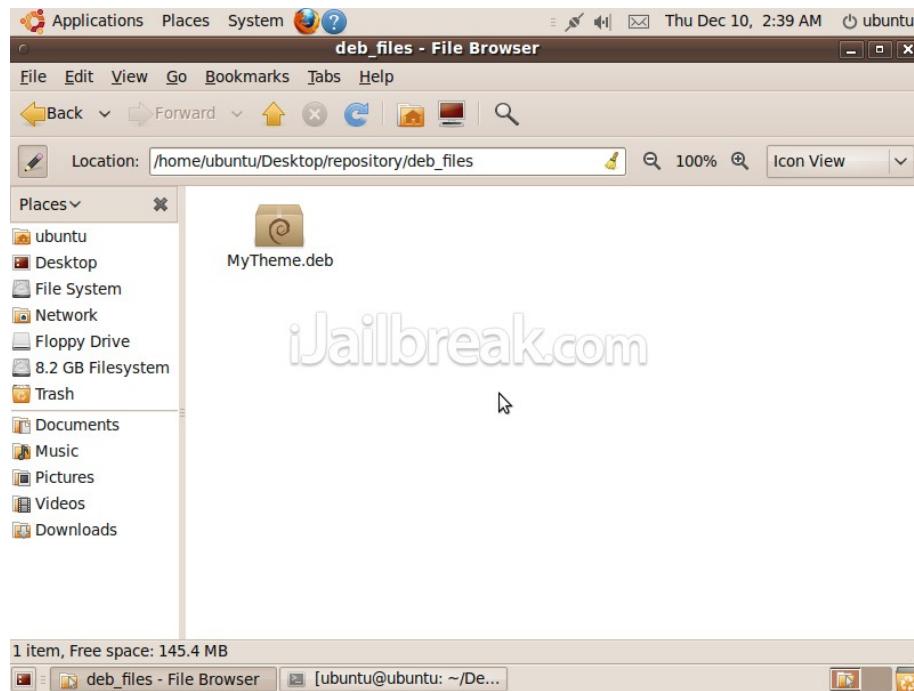
```
Applications Places System Thu Dec 10, 2:39 AM ubuntu
ubuntu@ubuntu: ~/Desktop/repository/uploads
File Edit View Terminal Help
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ cd /home/ubuntu/Desktop/repository/uploads
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository/uploads$ dpkg -b MyTheme
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Name'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Depiction'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Author'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Sponsor'
dpkg-deb: building package `com.website.mytheme' in 'MyTheme.deb'.
dpkg-deb: warning: ignoring 4 warnings about the control file(s)

ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository/uploads$
```

If everything worked correctly we should now see a .deb version of your Application or Theme inside the "uploads" folder. **Note Ignore any warning messages as they are just custom fields that Cydia uses that aren't being recognized by Ubuntu.



The next thing we need to do is move our .deb file from the "uploads" folder to the "deb_files" folder.

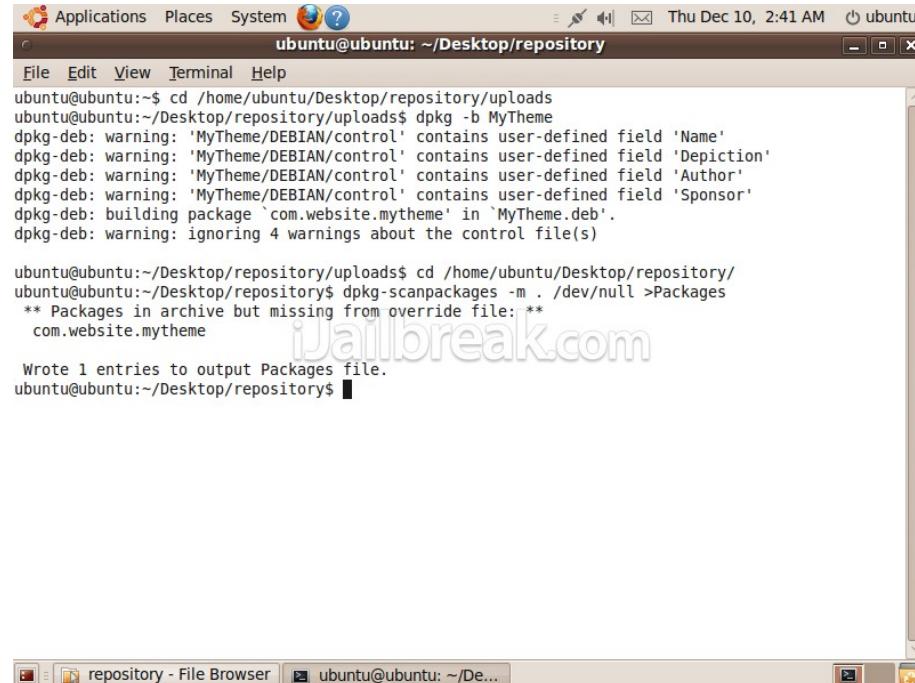


Step 3) – Now that your .deb file is in its proper place we need to create our **Packages** file. This file will contain all the data for the files that are in your repository so that when people add your Cydia Repository via Cydia it will know what packages are in your repository and how many there are etc. Enter the following commands into terminal...

" cd /home/username/Desktop/repository/

(Hit Enter)

dpkg-scanpackages -m ./dev/null > Packages



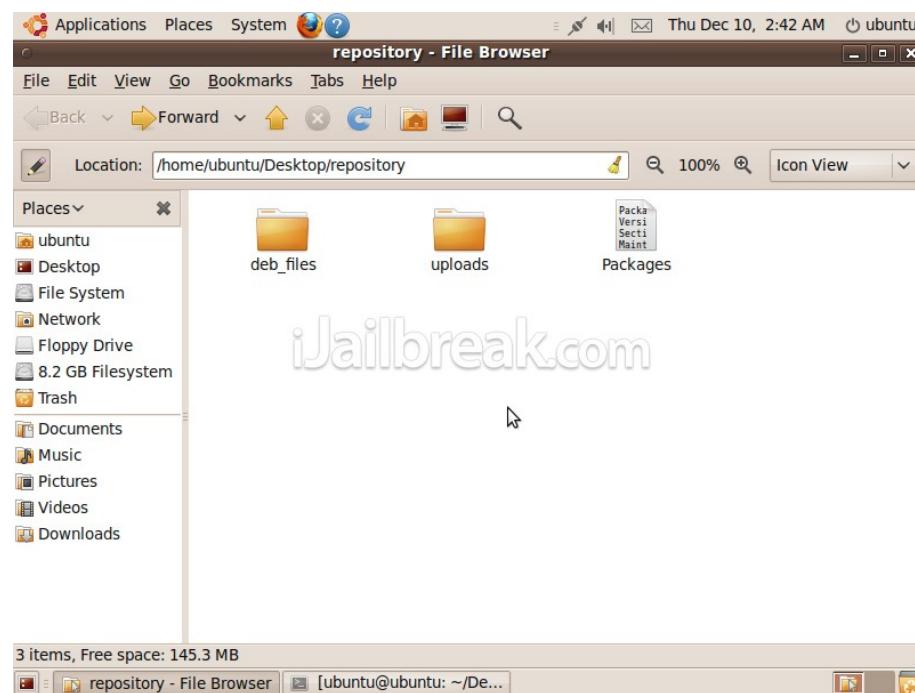
```

Applications Places System Firefox Thu Dec 10, 2:41 AM ubuntu@ubuntu: ~/Desktop/repository
File Edit View Terminal Help
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ cd /home/ubuntu/Desktop/repository/uploads
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository/uploads$ dpkg -b MyTheme
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Name'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Depiction'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Author'
dpkg-deb: warning: 'MyTheme/DEBIAN/control' contains user-defined field 'Sponsor'
dpkg-deb: building package `com.website.mytheme' in 'MyTheme.deb'.
dpkg-deb: ignoring 4 warnings about the control file(s)

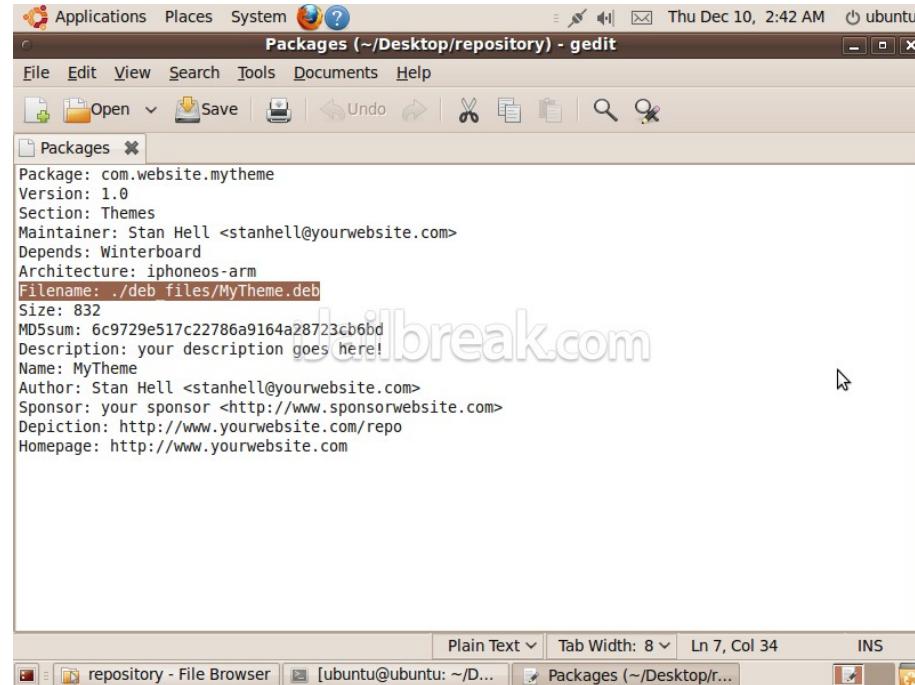
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository/uploads$ cd /home/ubuntu/Desktop/repository/
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository$ dpkg-scanpackages -m . /dev/null >Packages
** Packages in archive but missing from override file: **
  com.website.mytheme

Wrote 1 entries to output Packages file.
ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/repository$ 
```

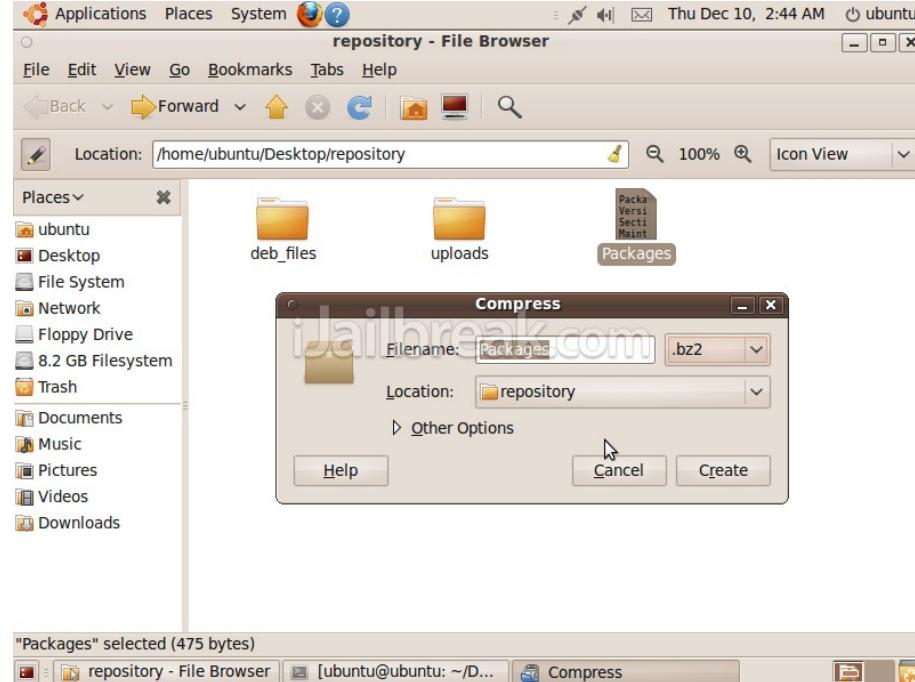
You should now see the **Packages** file in your “repository” folder.



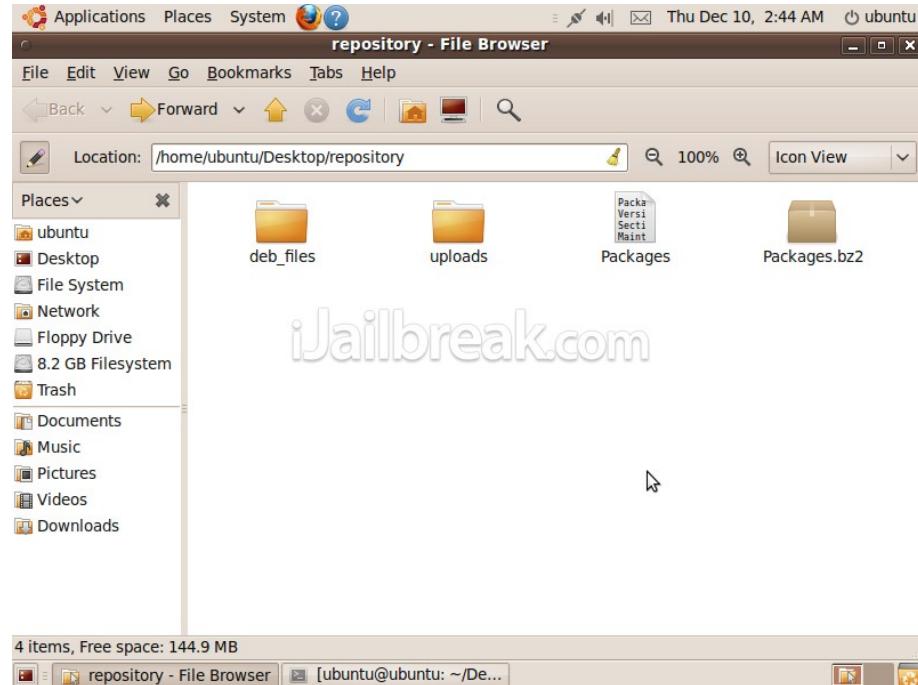
We need to make sure the Packages file correctly linked to the location of your .deb file. To do this simply double click the Packages file and make sure you have the correct file path to your .deb file which should be ***./deb/MyProgram.deb*** as highlighted below. If you do not see the correct file path then simply correct this error now and then save the file.



Step 7) – The Next thing we need to do is archive the **Packages** file that we just created and turn it into a **.bz2** file. To do this right click on the **Packages** file and hit the **Compress Button**. We want to change the extension to **.bz2** and once this option is selected hit the **Compress Button** now.



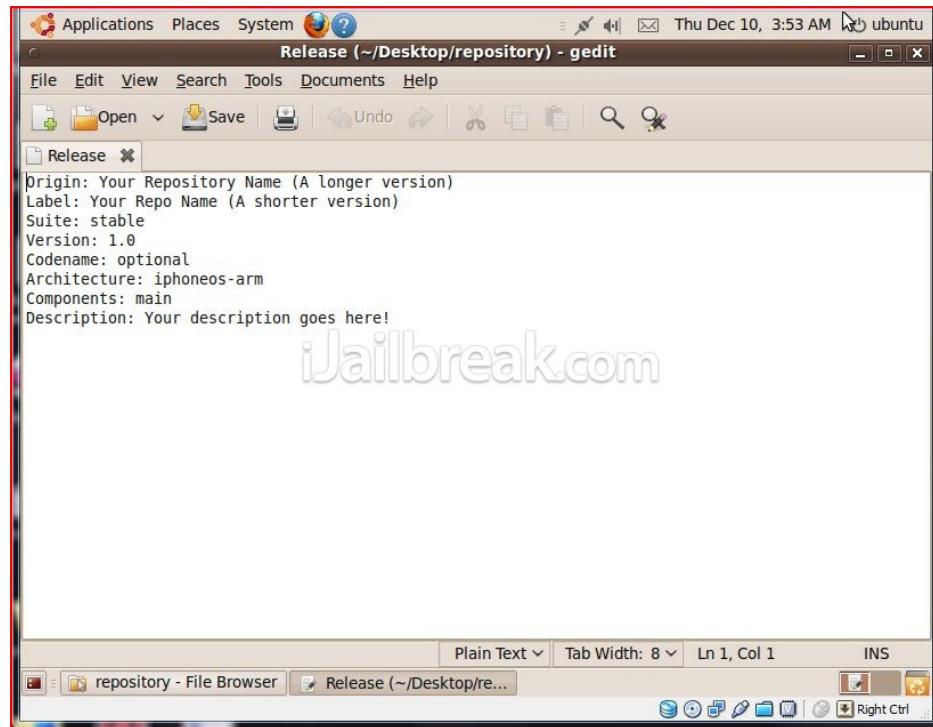
We should now have the following files in our "repository" folder shown below.



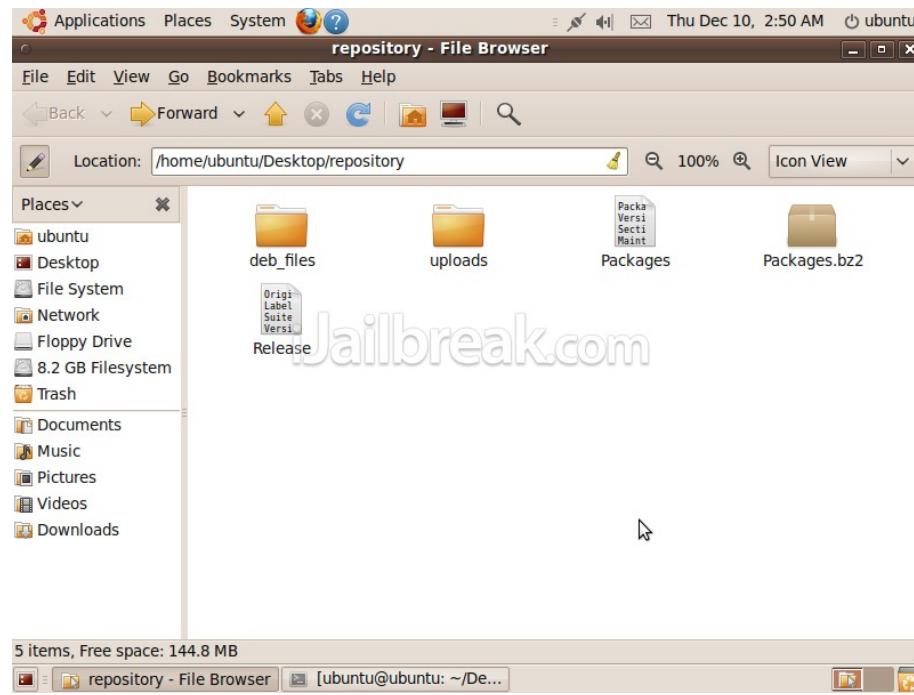
Step 4) – The last file that we need to create that is required is the ***Release*** file; this file contains the metadata of your repository. Right click and create a new file inside your “repository” folder and name the file ***Release***. Double click the file and enter in the following information:

- “ *Origin*: a slightly longer version of your repository name.
- Label*: a shorter version of repository name.
- Suite*: this line should always be left as “stable”.
- Version*: your repositories version number.
- Codename*: you can put whatever you want here.
- Architectures*: this should always be left as “iphoneos-arm”.
- Components*: this should always be left as “main”.
- Description*: a short description of the repository goes here.

With the information now entered it should look something like the screenshot below...



You should now have 3 files "Packages", "Packages.bz2" and "Release" and 2 folders "uploads" and "deb_files" in your "repository" folder.



Now that we have all the files needed for our repository we are going to upload the "repository" folder to our host using an ftp program of your choice. Once your "repository" folder is uploaded to your host then you can add it through Cydia. To do this simply go into the **Manage Tab > Sources > Edit > Add** and then type in the **URL** of your Repository and wait for cydia to add your source. Congratulations if you get success and everything works you have now created a Cydia Repository. If you want to add more Applications or Themes to your

Repository simply repeat the steps add more packages. If you did not get success post your questions/comments in the comments section below, and I will personally help you out.

Don't forget to add "iJailbreak's Repository!" – [click here](#).

P.S. If you are interested in developing custom depiction page, [this is a great framework](#) to get you started.

Comments



Jadeneastonellett says

DECEMBER 6, 2010 AT 9:23 PM

Awesome, it is one long tutorial haha :P



nyoung64 says

FEBRUARY 18, 2011 AT 1:15 AM

Is this the server version of ubuntu or the desktop version



Jadeneastonellett says

FEBRUARY 18, 2011 AT 2:13 AM

This is Ubuntu Desktop version.

**Anonymous says**

JUNE 5, 2011 AT 6:19 PM

Hmmm curius why i get gpg errors...

**iGThomas says**

JUNE 14, 2011 AT 10:44 AM

Thanks man :D Finally someone who is making pics

**Proj says**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2011 AT 4:32 PM

Hello I really appreciate your help and thanks to you I now have a repo! I have a problem I had to format ubuntu and I set up according to the guide only when I run dpkg-scanpackages I get stops the process with written "Unprocessed text from" but before I format it has always worked!!Please can you help me??

**Mortelpoison says**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 AT 4:25 AM

hi

thxs but when i try to lauch my app it s doesn't work.

Madhav Phuyel says

OCTOBER 19, 2011 AT 7:04 PM



can u please, make video of this tutorial please, so, a1l get help from you



Z8137 says

NOVEMBER 23, 2011 AT 4:00 PM

I did the whole proccess on an Ubuntu machine copied the files over to this one to upload and it says on cydia that my repo doesn't exist.... I uploaded it and everything



Zachary Wallenta says

DECEMBER 24, 2011 AT 5:26 PM

Works great!!! Just waiting for the Depiction Tutorial



Kinda Eray says

FEBRUARY 1, 2012 AT 1:28 AM

I made a ringtone and uploaded it and installed it but it doesnt show up in sounds...on ios 5.0.1...any suggestions on how to fix?



Hamza Tariq says

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 AT 6:32 PM

I have done with all the steps, and successfully able to release my first ever tweak to add couple of new logos to Zeppelin tweak, but now i am gonna ask you a thing if you are in

good mood. What to do if we have more than one tweak in repo? how to handle this?

**Zoddex says**

FEBRUARY 19, 2012 AT 4:30 PM

Awesome, just created my own, thanks a lot!!!

**javi says**

MARCH 3, 2012 AT 4:22 PM

I notice also some people uses Packages.gz also, it is this mandatory? Cydia works without it ok?

**Kooo4034 says**

MARCH 4, 2012 AT 7:49 AM

oh good tutorial but I have a problem
when I type sudo cp /home/(mycomputername)/Desktop/cydiarepo/dpkg-
scanpackages /usr/bin in terminal
it keep say that file or directory doesn't exist.
And i put cydiarepo folder in Desotop! Dammed...

**monopol011 says**

APRIL 3, 2012 AT 7:47 PM

how i can put icons in my repo

**chesnutcase says**

APRIL 22, 2012 AT 11:12 AM

if I want to release an update for my app, how do i do that? just upload the new app to my web server?

**Zack Wallenta says**

JUNE 9, 2012 AT 8:52 AM

I'll make a tutorial on my website shortly for you if you would like

**Zack Wallenta says**

JUNE 9, 2012 AT 8:53 AM

When you make a new .deb for your app be sure to change your version in the control file to 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, .etc once it's compiled into a .deb the repo will read it as an update

**Zack Wallenta says**

JUNE 9, 2012 AT 8:54 AM

Just make all of your .deb files and put them in the deb_files folder and run the Packages command

**Altsu says**

JUNE 9, 2012 AT 2:07 PM

Hi, I'm getting this error while trying to make the deb file on terminal. I should have done everything right, I added that blank line after section on control file and so on, but still I get this error.

dpkg-deb: error: parsing file 'MyRingtone/DEBIAN/control' near line 12 package 'com.website.myringtone:iphoneos-arm':

blank line in value of field 'Section'

**Cloud says**

FEBRUARY 17, 2013 AT 8:43 AM

I have made a IPA Store but I can't log any App for download! Help Please!!!

**Humschi says**

OCTOBER 17, 2014 AT 5:03 PM

Would like to use my raspberry as Cydia source. Where do I have to copy the "repository" folder? When I copy it into the webfolder (var/www/...) the source dont get found.

**xavi says**

NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AT 3:50 AM

Thanks for tutorial but I got a question were is say <http://your> website what do I put there? Any idea plz help

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

POST COMMENT

Search this website ...



Jailbreak.com

Like Page 143K likes

Be the first of your friends to like this



iJailbreak

Follow

Follow @ijailbreak



READ OUR MOST RECENT ARTICLES

**New MacBook Pro Release Still Scheduled For October [UPDATED]****Playtopia - iTunes MiniPlayer For iOS [Cydia Tweak]****Get iOS 10 Features Onto iOS 9 [Cydia Tweaks]****iPhone 7 And 7 Plus Still Limited In The UK****iOS 10 Jailbreak May Already Exist [Rumour]**

FOLLOW OUR HOW TO GUIDES

How To: Jailbreak iPhone 4,



[iPhone 3GS On iOS 5.1.1 Using RedSnow 0.9.10b8b \[Mac OS X\]](#)



[How To: Place Applications Inside The Newsstand App And More Without Jailbreaking](#)



[Windows 8 RTM Does Not Support Touch Pad Gestures Out Of The Box, Requires Windows 7 Drivers \[Instructions\]](#)



[How To: Fix "Different SIM Detected" On iPhone 4, 3GS, 3G \[Hacktivation Patch v1.1\]](#)



[How To Jailbreak iOS 9 / 9.0.1 / 9.0.2 Untethered Using Pangu 9 For Windows](#)

[About](#) | [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [RSS Feed](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [TOS](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

© Copyright 2010 - 2015 iJailbreak. All Rights Reserved.