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# Managing System dependencies

Description: This explains how to use rosdep (/rosdep) to install system dependencies.

**Tutorial Level: INTERMEDIATE** 

Next Tutorial: Roslaunch tips for large projects (/ROS/Tutorials

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\$ cat package.xml

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## 1. System Dependencies

ROS packages sometimes require external libraries and tools that must be provided by the operating system. These required libraries and tools are commonly referred to as *system dependencies*. In some cases these *system dependencies* are not installed by default. ROS provides a simple tool, rosdep, that is used to download and install *system dependencies*.

ROS packages must declare that they need these *system dependencies* in the package manifest. Let's look at the manifest for the turtlesim package:

\$ roscd turtlesim
Then,

As you can see turtlesim (/turtlesim) needs those libraries and packages.

### 1.1 rosdep

rosdep is a tool you can use to install system dependencies required by ROS packages.

Usage:

```
rosdep install [package]
```

Download and install the system dependencies for turtlesim:

```
$ rosdep install turtlesim
```

If you've been following along with the tutorials, it's likely that this is the first time you've used rosdep. When you run this command, you'll get an error message:

```
ERROR: your rosdep installation has not been initialized yet. Please ru n:

sudo rosdep init
rosdep update
```

Just run those two commands and then try to install turtlesim's dependencies again.

If you installed using binaries you will see:

```
All required rosdeps installed successfully
```

Otherwise you will see the output of installing the dependencies of turtlesim:

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
set -o errexit
set -o verbose
if [ ! -f /opt/ros/lib/libboost_date_time-gcc42-mt*-1_37.a ] ; then
 mkdir -p ~/ros/ros-deps
 cd ~/ros/ros-deps
 wget --tries=10 http://pr.willowgarage.com/downloads/boost_1_37_0.tar.g
 tar xzf boost_1_37_0.tar.gz
 cd boost_1_37_0
 ./configure --prefix=/opt/ros
 make
 sudo make install
fi
if [ ! -f /opt/ros/lib/liblog4cxx.so.10 ]; then
 mkdir -p ~/ros/ros-deps
 cd ~/ros/ros-deps
 wget --tries=10 http://pr.willowgarage.com/downloads/apache-log4cxx-0.1
0.0-wg patched.tar.gz
 tar xzf apache-log4cxx-0.10.0-wg_patched.tar.gz
 cd apache-log4cxx-0.10.0
  ./configure --prefix=/opt/ros
 make
  sudo make install
fi
```

rosdep runs the bash script above and exits when complete.

### 1.2 rosdistro/rosdep

While orosdep (http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Tutorials/rosdep#rosdep) is the client tool, the reference is provided by rosdep rules, stored online in ros/rosdistro/rosdep on github (https://github.com/ros/rosdistro/tree/master/rosdep).

When doing

```
$ rosdep update
```

rosdep actually retrieves the rules from the rosdistro github repository.

As of version 0.14.0 rosdep update will only fetch ROS package names for non-EOL ROS distributions. If you are still using an EOL ROS distribution (/Distributions) (which you probably shouldn't) you can pass the argument --include-eol-distros to also fetch the ROS package names of those.

These rules are used when a dependency is listed that doesn't match the name of a ROS package built on the buildfarm. Then rosdep checks if there exists a rule to resolve it for the proper platform and package manager you are using.

When creating a new package, you might need to declare new system dependencies to the rules (https://github.com/ros/rosdistro/tree/master/rosdep) if they are not there yet. Just edit the file, add the dependency needed (following a strict alphabetical order and a similar structure as the other dependencies already registered) and send a pull request.

After that pull request has been merged, you need to run:

```
$ rosdep update
```

and now that dependency will be resolved by rosdep.

You can test it with:

```
$ rosdep resolve my_dependency_name
```

The output should be something like:

```
#apt
my-dependency-name
```

where the first line is the package manager chosen for installing this dependency, and the second line is the actual name for that dependency on your current platform.

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