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## Howto apply a patch file to my Linux / UNIX source code

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**Q.** I know that I can patch binary package using `up2date` or `yum` command in Linux but what I'm wondering is if there's a way to apply a patch file to downloaded source code under Linux / UNIX like operating system source tree?

**A.** Linux and UNIX source software often comes with security and other patches. You can download them from Internet or project home page. There is a command called `patch` that apply a diff file or patch to an original source tree.

[1]

`patch` takes a patch file `patchfile` containing a difference listing produced by the `diff` program and applies those differences to one or more original files, producing patched versions. Normally the patched versions are put in place of the originals.

The following usage is most commonly used:

```
$ patch -p1 < {/path/to/patch/file}
```

To apply a patch, one could run the following command in a shell:

```
$ patch < /path/to/file
```

Patches can be undone, or reversed, with the '-R' option:

```
$ patch -R < /path/to/file
```

Above 3 are basic usage read the man page of `patch` command for more information and usage:

```
% man patch
```

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