

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

List all FreeBSD / OpenBSD outdated package 2

How do I update outdated packages? 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [FreeBSD](#)

FreeBSD List All Outdated Package

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Q. How do I know what packages are available to be updated on my FreeBSD Server system? How do I list all outdated packages under FreeBSD / OpenBSD operating system?

A. Use the `pkg_version` command which is used to produce a report of software packages installed using the `pkg_add` command (ports).

Each package name is printed, along with a one-character status flag. Following is the list of all valid status flags:

1. **=** The installed version of the package is current.
2. **<** The installed version of the package is older than the current version.
3. **>** The installed version of the package is newer than the current version. This situation can arise with an out-of-date index file, or when testing new ports.
4. **?** The installed package does not appear in the index. This could be due to an out of date index or a package taken from a PR that has not yet been committed.
5. ***** There are multiple versions of a particular software package listed in the index file.
6. **!** The installed package exists in the index but for some reason, `pkg_version` was unable to compare the version number of the installed package with the corresponding entry in the index.

List all FreeBSD / OpenBSD outdated package

```
# pkg_version -vIL=
```

Output:

```
bash-3.2.25          <  needs updating (index has 3.2.33)
bind94-9.4.1.1       <  needs updating (index has 9.4.2_1)
lynx-2.8.5_2         <  needs updating (index has 2.8.6.5_2,1)
ruby-1.8.6.111,1    <  needs updating (index has 1.8.6.111_1,1)
vim-lite-7.1.145     <  needs updating (index has 7.1.175)
```

How do I update outdated packages?

See How to: [FreeBSD update software and apply security patch](#) ^[2].

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