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Howto: Upgrade Linux Kernel

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How do I upgrade my Linux kernel? I would like to upgrade kernel without compiling from source code i.e. binary upgrade. How do I perform the actual upgrade of the kernel in Linux?

You need to compile kernel only if:

=> You need custom made kernel for specific task such as embedded kernel.

=> Apply third party security patches.

=> You need to apply specific patch to Linux



[1]

Upgrade of the kernel in Red Hat enterprise Linux version <= 4.x

If your system is registered with Red Hat Network (RHN), then you can [use the up2date](#) ^[2] command as follows:

```
# up2date -f kernel
```

For SMP kernel (multi core or multiple CPU) use command:

```
# up2date -f kernel-smp
```

Upgrade of the kernel in Fedora Linux / CentOS / RHEL 5

Use yum command to upgrade kernel:

```
# yum update kernel
```

If you have downloaded RPM file use [rpm command](#) ^[3]:

```
# rpm -ivh kernel*
```

Upgrade of the kernel in Debian or Ubuntu Linux

Use [apt-get command](#) ^[4]. First find your kernel version:

```
$ uname -r
```

Next find available kernel images:

```
$ apt-cache search linux-image
```

Now install kernel by explicitly specifying version number:

```
# apt-get install linux-image-x.x.x-xx
```

OR

```
$ sudo apt-get install linux-image-x.x.x-xx
```

Upgrade of the kernel in Gentoo Linux

=> Please refer official [Gentoo Linux Kernel](#) ^[5] Upgrade Guide

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/>

[2] use the up2date: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/howto-use-up2date-command/>

[3] rpm command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto/question/linux/linux-rpm-cheat-sheet.php>

[4] apt-get command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto/question/linux/apt-get-cheat-sheet.php>

[5] Gentoo Linux Kernel: <http://www.gentoo.org/doc/en/kernel-upgrade.xml>

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