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## Red Hat Enterprise Linux / CentOS Linux Enable EPEL (Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux) Repository

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <[vivek@nixcraft.com](mailto:vivek@nixcraft.com)>

**Q.** How do I enable EPEL (Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux) repo and install the packages under RHEL / CentOS Linux?



[1]

**A.** EPEL (Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux) is a volunteer-based community effort from the Fedora project to create a repository of high-quality add-on packages that complement the Fedora-based Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and its compatible spinoffs, such as CentOS and Scientific Linux.

EPEL provide lots of packages for CentOS / RHEL, It is not part of RedHat or CentOS but is designed to work with these major distributions. Please note that EPEL only provides free and open source software unencumbered by patents or any legal issues. In short you will not find mp3, dvd and music / media player under EPEL. However, you will find many programs related to networking, monitoring, sys admin, programming and so on.

Packages are supplied in RPM format and in most cases are ready to use. Beware that some packages may break something and you should not blindly install those packages.

### How do I enable EPEL?

Simply type the following command as root user:

```
# rpm -Uvh http://download.fedora.redhat.com/pub/epel/5/i386/epel-release-5-3.noarch.rpm
```

List new repo:

```
# yum repolist
```

Sample output:

```
Loading "skip-broken" plugin
Loading "fastestmirror" plugin
repo id                repo name                status
addons                  CentOS-5 - Addons         enabled
base                    CentOS-5 - Base           enabled
epel                     Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux 5 - enabled
extras                  CentOS-5 - Extras         enabled
updates                 CentOS-5 - Updates        enabled
```

Once installed use yum command to list, view and install the packages:

```
# yum search package-name
# yum install package-name
```

See how to use [yum command](#) <sup>[2]</sup> for installing and searching packages using various repos.

### Further readings:

- [EPEL Project](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/redhat-and-friends/>

[2] yum command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-centos-fedora-linux-yum-command-howto/>

[3] EPEL Project: <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/EPEL>

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