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How do I install and search FreeBSD ports or a package?

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Q. I've just moved from a Linux server to a new FreeBSD server. I'm confused with FreeBSD ports system. Can you tell me - how do I find a package file (port) and install the same?

A. Under Linux you use [up2date](#)^[2] / [yum](#)^[3] or apt-get command to install a package. Under FreeBSD you can use pkg_add command or ports system.

The FreeBSD Ports Collection is a package management system that provides an easy and consistent way of installing software packages on the FreeBSD. Usually ports is located at [/usr/ports](#) directory.

Task: Find out FreeBSD port name or package name

There are 3 different methods available to search a port name. Use any one of the following method only.

#1 : Using whereis command

If you know the exact name of the port, but just need to find out which category it is in, you can use the whereis(1) command. Simply type whereis file, where file is the program you want to install.

```
# whereis php5
```

Output:

```
php5: /usr/ports/lang/php5
```

```
# whereis lighttpd
```

Output:

```
lighttpd: /usr/ports/www/lighttpd
```

#2: Using make command

Change directory to /usr/ports

```
# cd /usr/ports
```

To search type the command as follows:

```
# make search name="package-name"
```

For example search a package called lighttpd or php

```
# make search name="php"
```

OR

```
# make search name="lighttpd"
```

Output:

```
Port:  lighttpd-1.4.13_2
Path:  /usr/ports/www/lighttpd
Info:  A secure, fast, compliant, and very flexible Web Server
```

```
Maint:  mnag@FreeBSD.org
B-deps: autoconf-2.59_2  libtool-1.5.22_4  m4-1.4.8_1  pcre-7.0_1  perl-5.8.8
R-deps: pcre-7.0_1
WWW:    http://www.lighttpd.net/
```

#3: Using locate command

You can also use locate command:

```
# locate php
# locate php | grep php5
```

Task: Install FreeBSD port

Above output displays port Path - `/usr/ports/www/lighttpd`. Just change directory to `/usr/ports/www/lighttpd`

```
# cd /usr/ports/www/lighttpd
```

Now install a port:

```
# make; make install
```

Clean the source code tree:

```
# make clean
```

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