Table Of Contents

Home > Faq > CentOS

Linux Error: curses.h: No such file or directory Problem Solution

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I see following error when I run make command to install specific software:

curses.h: No such file or directory Problem Solution

How do I fix this error under Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) or CentOS / Fedora Linux?

A.. You need to install the curses library which include routines for a terminal-independent method of updating character screens with reasonable optimization. The ncurses (new curses) library is a freely distributable replacement for the discontinued 4.4 BSD classic curses library.

[1]

Fix this error under RHEL / Fedora / CentOS Linux

Type the following command at a shell prompt as root user:

```
# yum install ncurses-devel ncurses
```

Sample output:

```
Loading "downloadonly" plugin
Loading "rhnplugin" plugin
Loading "security" plugin
rhel-x86_64-server-vt-5   100% |=========================| 1.2 kB    00:00
rhel-x86_64-server-5      100% |=========================| 1.2 kB    00:00
Setting up Install Process
Parsing package install arguments
Package ncurses - 5.5-24.20060715.x86_64 is already installed.
Package ncurses - 5.5-24.20060715.i386 is already installed.
Resolving Dependencies
--> Running transaction check
---> Package ncurses-devel.x86_64 0:5.5-24.20060715 set to be updated
---> Package ncurses-devel.i386 0:5.5-24.20060715 set to be updated
--> Finished Dependency Resolution

Dependencies Resolved

=========================================================================
 Package                Arch        Version           Repository        Size
=========================================================================
Installing:
 ncurses-devel          x86_64      5.5-24.20060715   rhel-x86_64-server-5  1.7 M
 ncurses-devel          i386        5.5-24.20060715   rhel-x86_64-server-5  1.6 M

Transaction Summary
=========================================================================
Install       2 Package(s)
Update        0 Package(s)
Remove        0 Package(s)

Total download size: 3.3 M
Is this ok [y/N]: y
Downloading Packages:
(1/2): ncurses-devel-5.5- 100% |=========================| 1.6 MB    00:01
(2/2): ncurses-devel-5.5- 100% |=========================| 1.7 MB    00:01
Running rpm_check_debug
Running Transaction Test
Finished Transaction Test
```

```
Transaction Test Succeeded
Running Transaction
  Installing: ncurses-devel                ######################## [1/2]
  Installing: ncurses-devel                ######################## [2/2]

Installed: ncurses-devel.x86_64 0:5.5-24.20060715 ncurses-devel.i386 0:5.5-24.20060715
Complete!
```

Fix this error under Debian / Ubuntu Linux

Open terminal and type the following command to install ncurses:

```
$ sudo apt-get install libncurses5-dev libncursesw5-dev
```

Now you should able to compile any program under Linux.

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our daily email newsletter or weekly newsletter to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via RSS/XML feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/**

URL to article: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-error-cursesh-no-such-file-directory/**

URLs in this post:

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