

Multiple Python interpreters on Linux

M. Skocic

August 19, 2025

Required packages

Debian-based distributions

```
$ sudo apt-get install build-essential checkinstall  
libreadline-dev libncursesw5-dev libssl-dev libsqlite3-dev  
tk-dev libgdbm-dev libc6-dev libbz2-dev libffi-dev zlib1g-dev  
liblzma-dev libgdbm-compat-dev libnsl-dev
```

Other distributions

Please refer to your distribution documentation for finding the equivalent packages.

Compilation

Example with Python 3.13

```
$ wget https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.13.0/python-3.13.0.tgz
$ tar -xvf python-3.13.0.tgz
$ cd python-3.13.0
$ sudo ./configure --enable-optimizations
$ make
$ sudo make altinstall
```

Update alternatives

```
$ sudo update-alternatives --install  
/usr/bin/python3 python /usr/bin/python3.13 1  
--slave /usr/bin/pip3 pip /usr/bin/pip3.13  
$ update-alternatives --config python
```