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Update Python 3 on Debian

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Debian

Python

System Admin

[Using a Different System?](#)

Introduction

This article explains how to install the latest version of Python3 from source code on Debian 10.

Prerequisites

Deploy a [Vultr Debian 10](#) VPS instance.

Login as **root**.

[Update the Debian server.](#)

1. Check the Installed Version

Check the installed Python3 version.

```
# python3 -V
```

You will see something like this.

```
Python 3.7.3
```

If your version is older than your application requires, proceed with this guide.

2. Update Python3

1. Install the required dependencies to compile the Python source code.

```
# apt-get install wget build-essential libssl-dev
```

2. Visit [Python's Source Code Download page](#) to find the latest gzipped source release. Replace the URLs and filenames in this guide with the latest version.

3. Download the latest Python3 source code.

```
# wget https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.9.6/Python-3.9.6.tgz
```

4. Extract the downloaded python source code archive.

```
# tar xzf Python-3.9.6.tgz
```

5. Compile the python source code.

```
# cd Python-3.9.6 && ./configure --enable-shared
```

6. Install Python.

```
# make altinstall
```

7. Check the name of your new Python executable.

```
# ls /usr/local/bin/python*
```

8. Set the new Python executable as default. Replace the two instances of `/python3.9` in the following command with the name of your new Python executable.

```
# update-alternatives --install /usr/bin/|
```

2. Update Pip

1. Update pip. Use the name of your new Python executable in the following command.

```
# /usr/local/bin/python3.9 -m pip install
```

2. Check the name of your new pip executable.

```
# ls /usr/local/bin/pip*
```

3. Set the new pip as the default. Use the name of your new pip executable in the following command.

```
# update-alternatives --install /usr/bin/|
```

4. Check the current version of Python and pip.

```
# python -V && pip -V
```

You will see something like this:

```
Python 3.9.6
```

```
pip 21.2.3 from /usr/local/lib/python3.9/
```

Conclusion

Keeping your Python up-to-date is an important part of the development process. It provides bug fixes compared to older versions, and more importantly, it introduces new features and optimizations.

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