Installing Software and Writing Modules

Introduction

In the intro portion of the workshop you will learn:

- About downloading code
- About compiling code
- How to build a package from source code
  - configure
  - build
  - install
- What are `yum`, `rpm`, `get-apt`, & `sudo`
- How to write modules

Downloading Code

Source vs Executable

- In most cases you are better off downloading the source and building the code (aka the executable) yourself.
- Downloading an executable is easier but likely will not to work.

Downloading Executables

Some developers provide pre-built executables of their software. There are instances when available executables will run flawlessly on Hydra, but make sure that:

1. you can trust the origin,
2. you get a version compatible with Hydra,
    - *i.e.*, CentOS 7.x for Intel/AMD CPUs (`x86_64`)

Remember

- Hydra configuration is specific:
    - pre-built code may need *stuff* (dependencies) not on Hydra.

Notes on Downloading Executables

Risks

- Since users on Hydra do not have elevated privileges (root access) you are very unlikely to damage the cluster, but malicious software can still damage your files.
- In rare cases it may install a *Trojan horse* that could exploit a known vulnerability.
  - Be vigilant and responsible.
  - In case of doubt, never hesitate to contact us.

Compiling code

Steps

Creating executable from source code is typically done as follows:

1. compile the source file(s) to produce object file(s),
2. link the object file(s) and libraries into an executable.

In Practice

- Often aided by a `makefile`,
- *Configuring* is creating such `makefile` or equivalent.

This will be illustrated in the hands on section.

Building from Source

1. Configure

- Most packages come with a configuration script, a list of prerequisites (dependencies/libraries) and instructions,
- Some packages allow you to build the code without some features in case you cannot satisfy some of the prerequisites,
- You most likely need to load the right module(s) to use the appropriate tools (compilers).
- The configuration step will test if the code can be built:
  - check dependencies, versions, etc.
  - if this fails, the code cannot be built as is.

1.b Makefile only

- Other (simpler) packages come with a `makefile` that needs to be edited,
  - check the instructions.

Building from Source (cont'd)

2. Build

- make sure you have loaded the right modules,
- run `make` to compile and link (aka build) the code.

2.b Test

- some packages come with the optional step of testing the built before installing it, using something like `make test`.

3. Install

- copy the executable(s) to the right place(s),
  - usually defined by the configuration,
- best practice is to separate build from install locations.

Setting up Your Environment to Run Your Code

Likely Needed

You likely will need to adjust your *environment* to run some code:

1. the location of the code: `path` or `PATH`,
2. the location of the libraries: `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`,
3. you may also need to set some environment variables, etc.

Easier Way: modules

This is where using a module makes things easy:

- compact, and
- works with any shell.

The `yum`, `rpm`, `get-apt` and `sudo` Soup

Definitions

- `yum`: is a package-management utility for CentOS
- `rpm`: pre-built software package
  - *both* are for sys-admin,
  - help handle dependencies,
  - *yet* ...
- `get-apt`: Debian's version of `yum`, *does not work* on CentOS.

Also

- `sudo`: allows to run a command as 'root': **you can't!**

BTW

- Instructions that mention `yum`, `rpm`, `apt-get` or `sudo`
  - **will not work** on Hydra,
  - **yet** in most cases there is another way.

How about Hydra

Using yum

- While you **cannot** install packages with yum,
- you can check if we've installed a prerequisite package

In practice

- if the instructions say

```
sudo yum -y install <package>
```

- you can run

```
yum info <package>
```

Using yum info

Example

```
yum info libXt-devel
... stuff and may be slow the first time ...
Installed Packages
Name        : libXt-devel
Arch        : x86_64
Version     : 1.1.5
...
Description : X.Org X11 libXt development package
...
```

You want the `Arch: x86_64` to be listed as "Installed" not just "Available".

How to avoid sudo

`sudo make install`

- if the instructions says

```
sudo make install
```

- instead, set the installation directory to be under your control,
- in most cases at the configuration step

```
./configure -prefix=/home/username/big-package/3.5
```

- and use

```
make install
```

Final Notes

Remember

- there is a way to use `yum` as a non privileged user
  - not recommended, unless you're an **expert**!
- you can always ask about a missing prerequisite,
- most of those can be build from source since Linux is an open source OS.

Module and Module Files

The Command `module`

- convenient mechanism to configure your *environment*,
- reads a file, the *module file*, that holds instructions,
- a shell independent way to configure your environment:
  - *same* module file whether `sh/bash` or `csh/tcsh`.

Examples

- We provide module files, users can write their own.
  - look at all the module files we wrote,
  - they can be found in `/share/apps/modulefiles/`

Module File Syntax and Concepts

Special Instructions

- Instructions to configure your environment:

```
prepend-path PATH /location/of/the/code
setenv       BASE /scratch/demo
set-alias    crunch "crunch --with-that-option \*"
```

Syntax

- Module files can be complex, using `tcl` language
  - you **do not** need to know `tcl` to write module files.

Simple or Complex

- A simple module file can just list the modules that must be loaded to run some analysis.
- Can write complex module files and leverage `tcl`.

Example of `module` Commands

Basic

	Info	Config	Details
`module`	`avail`	`load`	`list`
`module`	`whatis`	`unload`	`help <name>`
`module`	`whatis <name>`	`swap`	`show <name>`

More help

```
man module
```

A Simple Module File

Example

```
#%Module1.0
#
# load two modules and set the HEASOFT env variable
module load gcc/10.1.10
module load python/3.8
setenv HEASOFT /home/username/heasoft/6.3.1
```

Example of More Elaborate and Complex Module Files

Will be illustrated in the hands on section.

Module Files Organization

Recommended Approach

- use a central location under you home directory `~/modulefiles`,
- use a tree structure
- use version numbers if/when applicable,
- let `module` know where to find the module files.

Customization/Examples

Tree structure

```
~/modulefiles/crunch/
~/modulefiles/crunch/1.0
~/modulefiles/crunch/1.2
~/modulefiles/crunch/2.1
~/modulefiles/crunch/.version
~/modulefiles/viewit
```

Define a Default Version

An optional file `.version` can be used to set the default version:

```
#%Module1.0
set ModulesVersion "1.2"
```

Hence

```
module load crunch
module swap crunch/2.1
```

Customization (cont'd)

Let `module` Know Where to Find the Module Files

```
module use --append ~/modulefiles
```

Either

1. in your initialization file `~/.bashrc` or `~/.cshrc`
2. or better yet in a `~/.modulerc` file

```
#%Module1.0
# adding my own module files
module use --append /home/username/modulefiles
```

Hands-on Section

Hands-On

In the hands-on portion of the workshop you will

- Build and install software using best-practices,
  - trivial case,
  - simple/didactic example,
  - somewhat complex examples.
- Write simple and more elaborate module files.
- Run the software you installed in jobs.

But first, log in to Hydra

- If you need a reminder about how to log into Hydra and how to change your password, check the *Intro to Hydra* tutorial.
  - If the link does not work:

`https://github.com/SmithsonianWorkshops`
`> Hydra-introduction`
`> hydra_intro.md`

Switch to github

In practice

- best to switch to github

Create a location where to run things

- For SAO (CfA) ppl

```
% cd /pool/sao/$USER
% mkdir -p advanced-workshop/sw+m
```

- For others (biologists+)

```
% cd /pool/genomics/$USER
% mkdir -p advanced-workshop/sw+m
```

- `$USER` will be replaced by your user name,
- feel free to put this elsewhere.

Convention

- I use % as prompt
  - your prompt might be different, like $

Exercise 1

Install a simple prebuilt executable: `rclone`

1. Create a directory

```
% mkdir ex01
% cd ex01
```

2. Get `rclone`
   - Google “download rclone linux” –> https://rclone.org/install/

```
% wget https://downloads.rclone.org/rclone-current-linux-am
--2023-03-14 14:20:17--  https://downloads.rclone.org/rclon
Resolving downloads.rclone.org (downloads.rclone.org)... 95
Connecting to downloads.rclone.org (downloads.rclone.org)|9
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 17790831 (17M) [application/zip]
Saving to: 'rclone-current-linux-amd64.zip'
100%[=======================================>] 17,
2023-03-14 14:20:21 (5.54 MB/s) - 'rclone-current-linux-amd
% unzip rclone-current-linux-amd64.zip
```

Exercise 2

Compiling a trivial program

- lets build from source a very very simple code

1. create a directory and copy the source file

```
% mkdir ex02
% cd ex02
% cp -pi /pool/sao/hpc/aw/ex02/hello.c ./
```

2. look at it

```
% cat hello.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
/* simple hello world demo code in C */
int main () {
  printf ("hello world!\nEasy peasy ;-P\n");
  exit(0);
}
```

3. compile it: source to object

```
% gcc -c hello.c
```

Excercise 3

- similar but let's use a `makefile` and a different compiler with `module`

1. create a directory and copy the source file

```
% cd ..
% mkdir ex03
% cd ex03
% cp -pi /pool/sao/hpc/aw/ex03/hello.c ./
% cp -pi /pool/sao/hpc/aw/ex03/makefile ./
```

2. look at the files

```
% more hello.c makefile
```

3. load the Intel compiler, build and run it

```
% module load intel
```

Build a Bio code

Build an Astro code

Write a module file for `rclone`

Write Elaborate module files

Look at Complex module files