Linux Kernel

Compile Linux Kernel on CentOS7

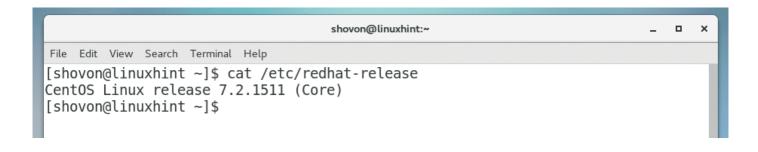
4 years agoby Shahriar Shovon

Compile the Latest Linux Kernel from Source on CentOS 7

In this article I will show you how to download the latest Linux kernel source from the official website of Linux kernel, compile Linux kernel from source and use the compiled kernel on CentOS 7. Let's get started.

Checking Currently Used Kernel:

You can see from the following screenshot that I am using CentOS 7.



MY LATEST VIDEOS

00:0503:10

And the current kernel version is 3.10

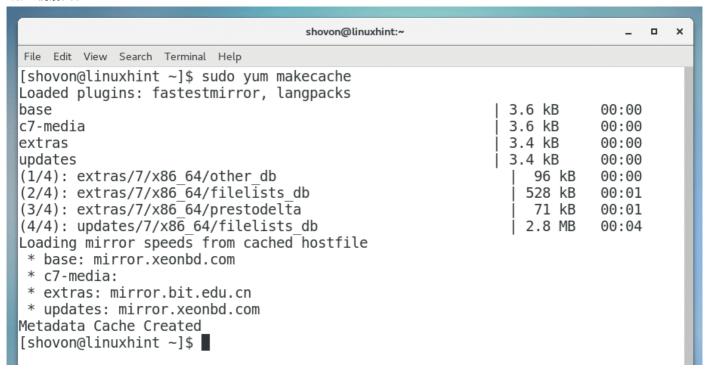


Installing the prerequisites:

To compile the latest Linux kernel from source on CentOS 7, you must have a build tool and some other packages installed on your CentOS 7 operating system.

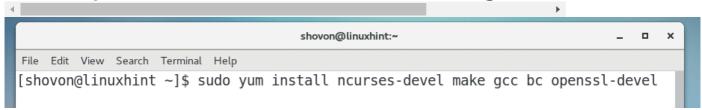
Before you install anything, run the following command to update package cache:

\$ sudo yum makecache



Now you can install the compilers and libraries required for compiling the kernel with the following command:

\$ sudo yum install ncurses-devel make gcc bc



Press 'y' and then press <Enter> to continue.

		shovon@linuxhint:~		_ 0	×	
File Edit View Search Terminal	Help					
e2fsprogs	x86 64	1.42.9-10.el7	base	698	k	
e2fsprogs-libs	x86 ⁻ 64	1.42.9-10.el7	base	166	k	
glibc	i68 6	2.17-196.el7_4.2	updates	4.2	М	
glibc	x86_64	2.17-196.el7_4.2	updates	3.6	М	
glibc-common	x86_64	2.17-196.el7_4.2	updates	11		
libcom_err	x86_64	1.42.9 - 10.el7	base	40		
libgcc	i68 6	4.8.5-16.el7_4.1	updates	106		
libgcc	x86_64	4.8.5-16.el7_4.1	updates	98		
libgomp	x86_64	4.8.5-16.el7_4.1	updates	154		
libss	x86_64	1.42.9-10.el7	base	45		
ncurses	x86_64	5.9-14.20130511.el7_4	updates	304		
ncurses-base	noarch	5.9-14.20130511.el7_4	updates	68		
ncurses-libs	x86_64	5.9-14.20130511.el7_4	updates	316		
openssl	x86_64	1:1.0.2k-8.el7	base	492		
openssl-libs	x86_64	1:1.0.2k-8.el7	base	1.2	М	
Transaction Summary						
Install 3 Packages (+14 Dependent packages) Upgrade 1 Package (+15 Dependent packages)						
Total size: 57 M Total download size: 45 Is this ok [y/d/N]: ■	М					

The build tools should be installed.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
  zlib-devel.x86 64 0:1.2.7-17.el7
Updated:
  make.x86 64 1:3.82-23.el7
Dependency Updated:
  e2fsprogs.x86 64 0:1.42.9-10.el7
  e2fsprogs-libs.x86 64 0:1.42.9-10.el7
  glibc.i686 0:2.17-196.el7 4.2
  glibc.x86 64 0:2.17-196.el7 4.2
  glibc-common.x86 64 0:2.17-196.el7 4.2
  libcom err.x86 64 0:1.42.9-10.el7
  libgcc.i686 0:4.8.5-16.el7 4.1
  libgcc.x86 64 0:4.8.5-16.el7 4.1
 libgomp.x86_64 0:4.8.5-16.el7 4.1
  libss.x86 64 0:1.42.9-10.el7
  ncurses.x86 64 0:5.9-14.20130511.el7 4
  ncurses-base.noarch 0:5.9-14.20130511.el7 4
  ncurses-libs.x86 64 0:5.9-14.20130511.el7 4
  openssl.x86 64 1:1.0.2k-8.el7
  openssl-libs.x86 64 1:1.0.2k-8.el7
Complete!
[shovon@linuxhint ~]$
```

Now you have to install elfutils package. Run the following command to install it:

\$ sudo yum install elfutils-libe

```
shovon@linuxhint:~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint ~]$ sudo yum install elfutils-libelf-devel
```

Press 'y' and press <Enter> to continue.

	shovo	on@linuxhint:~		-	0	
File Edit View Search Terminal Help						
Resolving Dependencies> Running transaction check> Package elfutils-libelf-devel.x86_64 0:0.168-8.el7 will be installed> Finished Dependency Resolution						
Dependencies Resolved						
Package	Arch	Version	Repository	==== S	==== Size	
Installing: elfutils-libelf-devel	x86_64	0.168-8.el7	base	3	==== 37 k	
Transaction Summary						
Install 1 Package				====		
Total download size: 37 k Installed size: 31 k Is this ok [y/d/N]: y						

'elfutils' should be installed.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Install 1 Package
Total download size: 37 k
Installed size: 31 k
Is this ok [y/d/N]: y
Downloading packages:
                                                                          37 kB 00:00:00
elfutils-libelf-devel-0.168-8.el7.x86 64.rpm
Running transaction check
Running transaction test
Transaction test succeeded
Running transaction
  Installing : elfutils-libelf-devel-0.168-8.el7.x86_64
                                                                                            1/1
  Verifying : elfutils-libelf-devel-0.168-8.el7.x86_64
                                                                                            1/1
Installed:
  elfutils-libelf-devel.x86 64 0:0.168-8.el7
Complete!
[shovon@linuxhint ~]$
```

Now you have to install rpm-build with the following command:

\$ sudo yum install rpm-build

```
shovon@linuxhint:~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint ~]$ sudo yum install rpm-build
```

Press 'y' and then press <Enter> to continue.

Help Resolution				
Resolution				
Arch	Version	Repositor	-	:== ze
x86 64	4.11.3-25.el7	base	146	k
cies:				
x86_64	0.11-3.el7	base	99	k
x86_64	2.7.1-8.el7	base	110	k
noarch	3.02-2.el7	base	17	k
noarch	1-8.el7	base	4.6	k
noarch	9.1.0-76.el7.centos	base	79	k
Dependent pa	ckages)		=====	
1 k				
	x86_64 cies: x86_64 x86_64 noarch noarch noarch	x86_64	x86_64	X86_64

^{&#}x27;rpm-build' package should be installed.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~
                                                                             File Edit View Search Terminal Help
  Installing : perl-Thread-Queue-3.02-2.el7.noarch
                                                                              2/6
  Installing: dwz-0.11-3.el7.x86 64
                                                                              3/6
  Installing : perl-srpm-macros-1-8.el7.noarch
                                                                              4/6
  Installing : redhat-rpm-config-9.1.0-76.el7.centos.noarch
                                                                              5/6
  Installing: rpm-build-4.11.3-25.el7.x86 64
                                                                              6/6
 Verifying : perl-srpm-macros-1-8.el7.noarch
                                                                              1/6
 Verifying : redhat-rpm-config-9.1.0-76.el7.centos.noarch
                                                                              2/6
 Verifying : rpm-build-4.11.3-25.el7.x86 64
                                                                              3/6
 Verifying : dwz-0.11-3.el7.x86 64
                                                                              4/6
 Verifying : perl-Thread-Queue-3.02-2.el7.noarch
                                                                              5/6
 Verifying : patch-2.7.1-8.el7.x86 64
                                                                              6/6
Installed:
  rpm-build.x86 64 0:4.11.3-25.el7
Dependency Installed:
  dwz.x86 64 0:0.11-3.el7
  patch.x86 64 0:2.7.1-8.el7
  perl-Thread-Queue.noarch 0:3.02-2.el7
  perl-srpm-macros.noarch 0:1-8.el7
  redhat-rpm-config.noarch 0:9.1.0-76.el7.centos
Complete!
[shovon@linuxhint ~]$
```

Downloading the Linux Kernel Source:

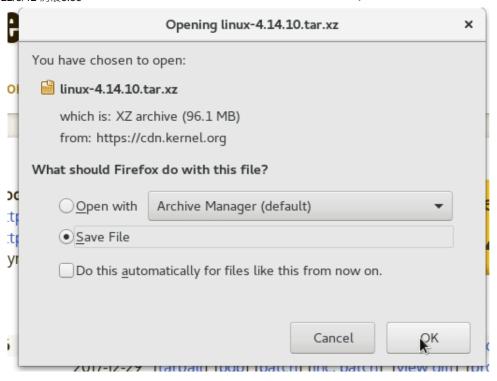
Go to the official website of Linux Kernel at https://www.kernel.org and you should be the following page.



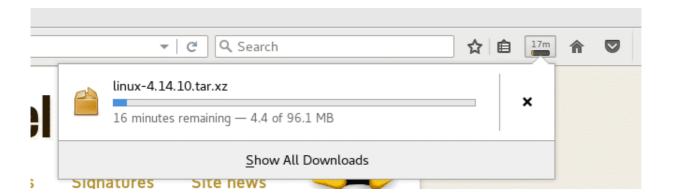
Click on the "Latest Stable Kernel" button as marked on the screenshot below.



Your browser should prompt you to save the file. Just click on "Save File" and click on "OK".



Your download should begin.

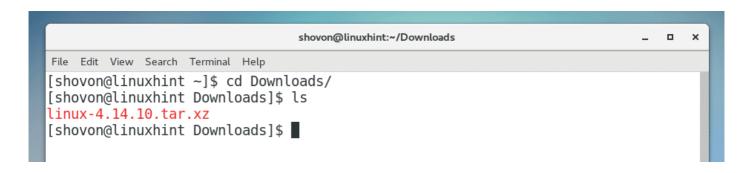


Compiling the Kernel:

Once the download is complete, navigate to the directory where you downloaded the file. In my case it is the Downloads directory in my user's HOME directory.

\$ cd ~/Downloads

From the output of 'ls' you can see that the downloaded file is 'linux-4.14.10.tar.xz'. Which is a compressed tar file.

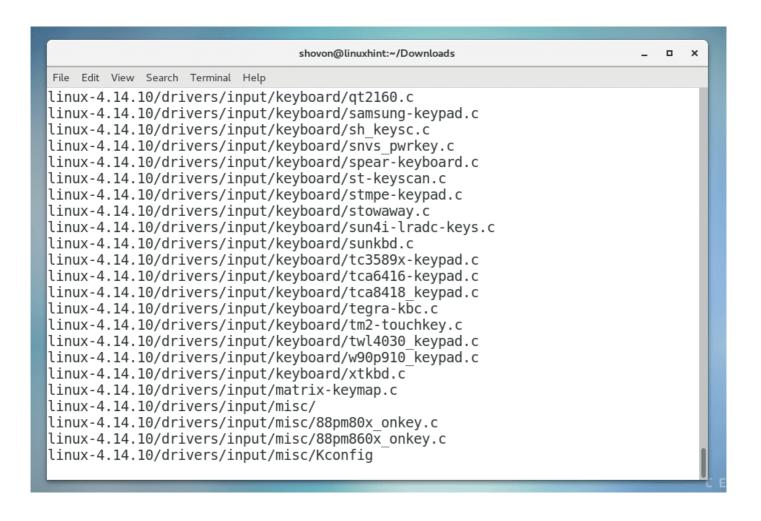


Now extract the compressed tar file with the following command:

\$ tar xvf linux-4.14.10.tar.xz



tar is extracting the compressed file.



Once the file is extracted, you should see the following window.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-its.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-kvm-device.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio-v2.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio-v3.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio.h
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-v2.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-v3.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic.h
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/async pf.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/async pf.h
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/coalesced mmio.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/coalesced mmio.h
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/eventfd.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/irqchip.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/kvm main.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/vfio.c
linux-4.14.10/virt/kvm/vfio.h
linux-4.14.10/virt/lib/
linux-4.14.10/virt/lib/Kconfig
linux-4.14.10/virt/lib/Makefile
linux-4.14.10/virt/lib/irqbypass.c
[shovon@linuxhint Downloads]$
```

After extraction, you should see a new directory as marked red in the screenshot below. Navigate to the directory with the following command.

\$ cd linux-4.14.10

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10
                                                                                  ×
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[shovon@linuxhint Downloads]$ ls
linux-4.14.10 linux-4.14.10.tar.xz
[shovon@linuxhint Downloads]$ cd linux-4.14.10
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ ls
         CREDITS
                          firmware
                                                                      security
arch
                                    ipc
                                                            net
                                                                                 virt
                                    Kbuild
                                              MAINTAINERS
block
                                                            README
                                                                      sound
         crypto
                          fs
certs
         Documentation include
                                    Kconfig
                                              Makefile
                                                            samples
                                                                      tools
COPYING
         drivers
                                    kernel
                                                            scripts
                          init
                                                                      usr
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

If you run the following command, you should see a list of config files used by the kernels that are installed on your system. You can run 'uname -r' command to find the one that you need. The filename should match with the output of the 'uname -r' command.

```
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ ls /boot/config*
/boot/config-3.10.0-327.el7.x86_64 /boot/config-3.10.0-693.el7.x86_64
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ ■
```

Then copy the config file to the linux-4.14.10 directory with the following command:

\$ sudo cp -v /boot/config-3.10.0-693.el7.x86_

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ sudo cp -v /boot/config-3.10.0-693.el7.x86_64 .config
'/boot/config-3.10.0-693.el7.x86_64' -> '.config'

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

Now run the following command:

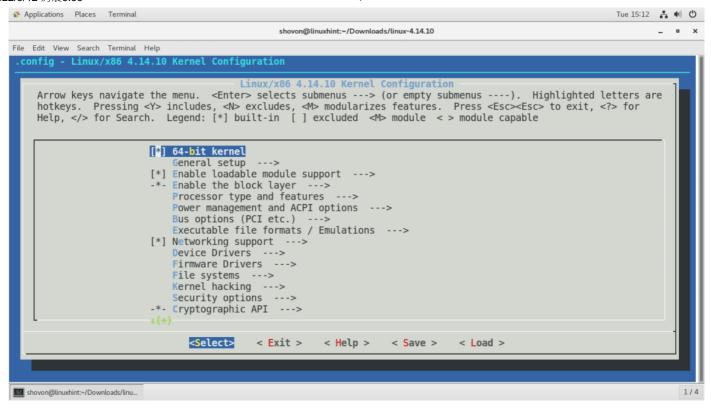
\$ make menuconfig

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10

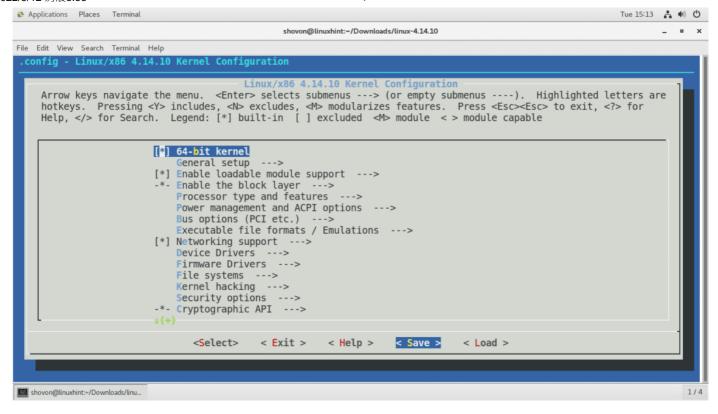
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ make menuconfig
```

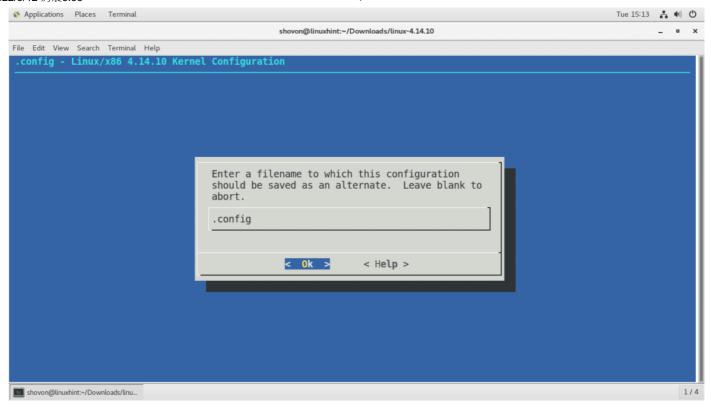
You should see the following window. This is where you enable or disable certain kernel features. If you don't know what to do here, then just leave the defaults.



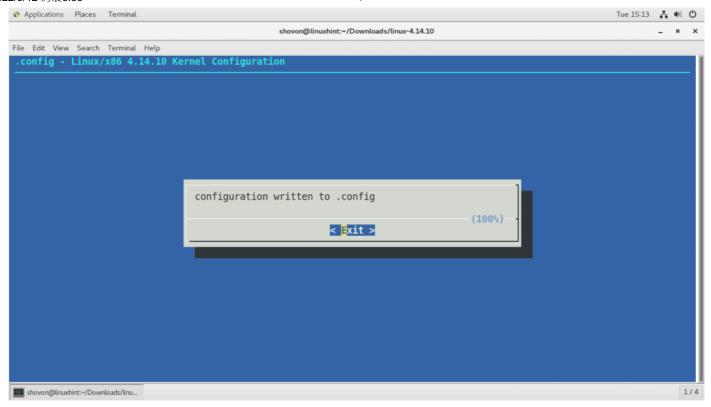
Once you're done, press <Left Arrow> button several times and go to "< Save >" as shown in the screenshot below. Then press <Enter>.



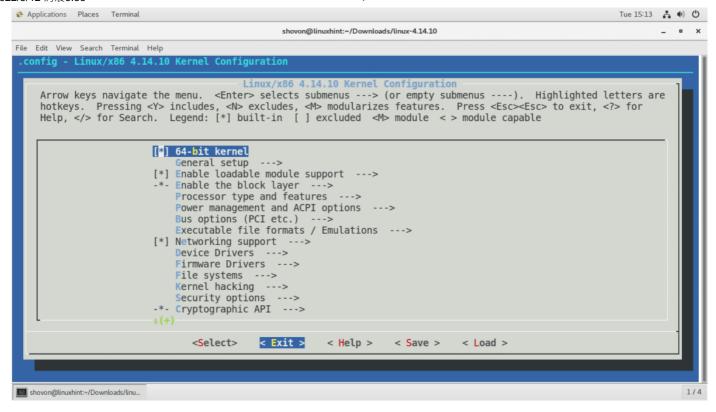
Then press <Enter> again.



Press <Enter> again.



Now navigate to "< Exit >" and press <Enter>



The .config file is updated for the new kernel.

```
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ make menuconfig
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/mconf.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/checklist.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/util.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/inputbox.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/textbox.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/yesno.o
   HOSTCC scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/menubox.o
   HOSTLD scripts/kconfig/mconf
scripts/kconfig/mconf
scripts/kconfig/mconf Kconfig
.config:655:warning: symbol value 'm' invalid for CPU_FREQ_STAT

*** End of the configuration.

*** Execute 'make' to start the build or try 'make help'.

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

Before you start compiling the new kernels, make sure you have more than 20GB of free space on the filesystem where you're compiling the kernel.

You can check how much space you have available with the following command:

\$ df -h

у ат тт				
				shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4
File Edit View Search Terminal	Help			
[shovon@linuxhint linux-	4.14.1	0]\$ d1	f-h	
Filesystem	Size	Used	Avail	<u>Use% Mou</u> nted on
/dev/mapper/centos-root	37G	5.2G	32G	15% /
devtmpfs	897M	0	897M	0% /dev
tmpfs	912M	0	912M	0% /dev/shm
tmpfs	912M	9.1M	903M	1% /run
tmpfs	912M	0	912M	0% /sys/fs/cgroup
/dev/sr0	8.1G	8.1G	0	100% /media/CentOS
/dev/sda1	497M	190M	308M	39% /boot
tmpfs	183M	4.0K	183M	1% /run/user/42
tmpfs	183M	24K	183M	1% /run/user/1000
[shovon@linuxhint linux-	4.14.1	0]\$		

Now run the following command to start the compilation process:

\$ make rpm-pkg

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ make rpm-pkg

CHK include/config/kernel.release

UPD include/config/kernel.release

make clean

/bin/sh ./scripts/package/mkspec >./kernel.spec

TAR kernel-4.14.10.tar.gz
```

The kernel should be compiling just fine. It should take a long time.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ make rpm-pkg
         include/config/kernel.release
make clean
/bin/sh ./scripts/package/mkspec >./kernel.spec
         kernel-4.14.10.tar.gz
rpmbuild --target x86 64 -ta kernel-4.14.10.tar.gz
Building target platforms: x86 64
Building for target x86_64
Executing(%prep): /bin/sh -e /var/tmp/rpm-tmp.jMN33Y
+ umask 022
+ cd /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILD
+ cd /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILD
+ rm -rf kernel-4.14.10
+ /usr/bin/gzip -dc /home/shovon/Downloads/linux-4.14.10/kernel-4.14.10.tar.qz
+ /usr/bin/tar -xf -
+ STATUS=0
+ '[' 0 -ne 0 ']
+ cd kernel-4.14.10
+ /usr/bin/chmod -Rf a+rX,u+w,g-w,o-w .
+ exit 0
Executing(%build): /bin/sh -e /var/tmp/rpm-tmp.Ry7S1Z
+ umask 022
+ cd /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILD
+ cd kernel-4.14.10
+ make clean
```

On completion, you should see the following window. Some rpm package file was created on the user's home directory as you can see from the screenshot.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Requires(interp): /bin/sh /bin/sh /bin/sh
Requires(rpmlib): rpmlib(CompressedFileNames) <= 3.0.4-1 rpmlib(FileDigests) <= 4.6.0-1 rpmlib(PayloadFilesHavePrefix) <=
Requires(post): /bin/sh
Requires(preun): /bin/sh
Requires(postun): /bin/sh
Processing files: kernel-headers-4.14.10-1.x86 64
Provides: kernel-headers = 4.14.10 kernel-headers = 4.14.10-1 kernel-headers(x86-64) = 4.14.10-1
Requires(rpmlib): rpmlib(CompressedFileNames) <= 3.0.4-1 rpmlib(FileDigests) <= 4.6.0-1 rpmlib(PayloadFilesHavePrefix) <=
Obsoletes: kernel-headers
Processing files: kernel-devel-4.14.10-1.x86_64
Provides: kernel-devel = 4.14.10-1 kernel-devel(x86-64) = 4.14.10-1
Requires(rpmlib): rpmlib(FileDigests) <= 4.6.0-1 rpmlib(PayloadFilesHavePrefix) <= 4.0-1 rpmlib(CompressedFileNames) <= 3.
Checking for unpackaged file(s): /usr/lib/rpm/check-files /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILDROOT/kernel-4.14.10-1.x86 64
warning: Could not canonicalize hostname: linuxhint
Wrote: /home/shovon/rpmbuild/SRPMS/kernel-4.14.10-1.src.rpm
Wrote: /home/shovon/rpmbuild/RPMS/x86_64/kernel-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm
Wrote: /home/shovon/rpmbuild/RPMS/x86_64/kernel-headers-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm
       /home/shovon/rpmbuild/RPMS/x86_64/kernel-devel-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm
Executing(%clean): /bin/sh -e /var/tmp/rpm-tmp.UTl60c
+ umask 022
+ cd /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILD
+ cd kernel-4.14.10
+ rm -rf /home/shovon/rpmbuild/BUILDROOT/kernel-4.14.10-1.x86_64
+ exit 0
rm kernel-4.14.10.tar.gz kernel.spec
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

The generated rpm package files.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~/Downloads/linux-4.14.10 _ _ _ x

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ ls ~/rpmbuild/RPMS/x86_64/
kernel-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm kernel-devel-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm kernel-headers-4.14.10-1.x86_64.rpm
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

Now you can run the following command to install the rpm packages:

```
$ sudo rpm -iUv ~/rpmbuild/RPMS/;

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ sudo rpm -iUv ~/rpmbuild/RPMS/x86_64/*.rpm
Preparing packages...
kernel-headers-4.14.10-1.x86_64
kernel-devel-4.14.10-1.x86_64
kernel-4.14.10-1.x86_64
kernel-headers-3.10.0-693.11.1.el7.x86_64
kernel-3.10.0-693.el7.x86_64
[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$
```

Once the installation is complete, run the following command to restart your computer.

\$ reboot

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint linux-4.14.10]$ reboot
```

Once your computer starts, you can run the following command to check the version of the kernel that you're currently using.

\$ uname -r

You should see that it's the version that you just installed. For me, it is '4.14.10'.

```
shovon@linuxhint:~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[shovon@linuxhint ~]$ uname -r

4.14.10

[shovon@linuxhint ~]$
```

So that's how you compile the latest kernel from source and use it on CentOS 7. Thanks for reading this article.