How do I install ncurses header files?

Asked 11 years, 8 months ago   Modified 7 years, 7 months ago   Viewed 266k times

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I was trying to configure the kernel and I got the following error. Can somebody please tell me what I should do?

```
root@nitr-desktop:/usr/src/linux# make menuconfig
 *** Unable to find the ncurses libraries or the
 *** required header files.
 *** 'make menuconfig' requires the ncurses libraries.
 ***
 *** Install ncurses (ncurses-devel) and try again.
 ***
make[1]: *** [scripts/kconfig/dochecklxdialog] Error 1
make: *** [menuconfig] Error 2
```

`dependencies`   `ncurses`

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edited Apr 22, 2017 at 8:43
Zanna ◆
71.5k ● 59 ● 222 ● 330

asked Mar 20, 2013 at 11:34
user141332
781 ● 1 ● 5 ● 3

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7   Try installing first libncurses5: sudo apt-get install libncurses5-dev – smile Mar 20, 2013 at 11:37

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3 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⇕

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Open up your terminal and install libncurses-dev by using this command:

```
sudo apt-get install libncurses-dev
```

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edited Oct 4, 2016 at 16:47
David Foerster
36.6k ● 56 ● 95 ● 149

answered Sep 18, 2013 at 19:19
shahid
1,189 ● 1 ● 7 ● 3

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1   Not found. This should be ncurses-dev as in the answer below. – user643722 Dec 17, 2014 at 9:00

@user643722: What's the problem? `apt-cache show libncurses-dev` yields `N: Can't select versions from package 'libncurses-dev' as it is purely virtual`, which means I could install it like the answer says. – David Foerster Oct 4, 2016 at 16:46

3   `libncurses-dev` works for me. – Throw Away Account Feb 3, 2018 at 21:00

I know this is ubuntu, but it's still my top result for debian searches... debian uses libncurses5-dev – isaaclw Aug 14, 2018 at 15:21

I got a `cannot find -lncursesw` which I solved using the other answer: `apt install libncurses5-dev libncursesw5-dev`. Upvote it too. – marcelocra Feb 11, 2019 at 23:51

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22

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Above problem solved now. all I did was:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ncurses-dev
```

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edited Jun 30, 2014 at 19:34
Parto
15.5k ● 25 ● 89 ● 119

answered Jun 30, 2014 at 17:26
MayurKubavat
321 ● 2 ● 4

It says `Note, selecting 'libncurses5-dev' instead of 'ncurses-dev'`. But I specifically need `libncurses-dev` instead of `libncurses5-dev`. – Chirag Mittal Nov 24, 2019 at 9:21

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Tested on Ubuntu 17.04

You should install `libncurses5-dev` **and** `libncursesw5-dev`:

```
apt install libncurses5-dev libncursesw5-dev
```

References: https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-install-ncurses-library-headers-on-debian-ubuntu-centos-fedora/

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edited Apr 24, 2017 at 20:27

answered Apr 21, 2017 at 18:39
Mateusz Piotrowski
467 ● 2 ● 10 ● 22

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