Use a launch script to configure your Amazon Lightsail instance when it starts up

Last updated: October 16, 2017

When you create a Linux/Unix-based instance, you can add a launch script that does things like add software, update software, or configure your instance in some other way. To configure a Windows-based instance with additional data, see Configure your new Lightsail instance using Windows PowerShell.

Note
Depending on the machine image you choose, the command to get software on your instance varies. Amazon Linux uses `yum`, while Debian and Ubuntu both use `apt-get`. WordPress and other application images use `apt-get` because they run Ubuntu as their operating system. FreeBSD and openSUSE require additional user configuration to use custom tools such as `freebsd-update` or `zypper` (openSUSE).

Example: Configure an Ubuntu server to install Node.js

The following example updates the package list and then installs Node.js through the `apt-get` command.

1. On the **Create an instance** page, choose **Ubuntu** on the **OS Only** tab.

2. Scroll down and choose **Add launch script**.

3. Type the following:

```
# update package list
apt-get –y update
# install some of my favorite tools
apt-get install –y nodejs
```

Note
Commands you send to configure your server are run as root, so you don't need to include `sudo` before your commands.

1. Choose **Create instance**.

Example: Configure a WordPress server to download and install a plugin

The following example updates the package list, and then downloads and installs the BuddyPress plugin for WordPress.

1. On the **Create an instance** page, choose **WordPress**.

2. Choose **Add launch script**.

3. Type the following:

```
# update package list
apt-get -y update
# download wordpress plugin
wget "https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/buddypress.2.7.0.zip"
apt-get -y install unzip
# unzip into wordpress plugin directory
unzip buddypress.2.7.0.zip -d /var/wordpress/plugins
```

4. Choose **Create instance**.