Updating Kali Linux

Kali Linux consists of hundreds of pieces of application software and an operating system kernel. You may need to update the software if you want to get the latest features.

We suggest that you only update the software and kernel from the Kali Linux software package repository.

The first thing to do after you have successfully installed and configured Kali Linux is to update it. As Kali is based on Debian, you can use the Debian command (`apt-get`) for the updating process.

The `apt-get` command will consult the `/etc/apt/sources.list` file to get the update servers. You need to make sure that you have put the correct servers in that file.

The default `sources.list` file included in Kali Linux contains the following entries:

```
# deb cdrom:[Debian GNU/Linux 7.0 _Kali_ - Official Snapshot i386
LIVE/INSTALL Binary 20130315-11:39]/ kali contrib main non-free

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LIVE/INSTALL Binary 20130315-11:39]/ kali contrib main non-free

deb http://http.kali.org/kali kali main non-free contrib
deb-src http://http.kali.org/kali kali main non-free contrib

## Security updates
deb http://security.kali.org/kali-security kali/updates main contrib
non-free
```

You need to synchronize the package's index files from the repository specified in the `/etc/apt/sources.list` file before you can perform the update process. The following is the command for this synchronization:

```
apt-get update
```

Make sure that you always run `apt-get update` before performing a software update or installation in Kali.

After the package index has been synchronized, you can perform software updates.

There are two command options that are available to perform an upgrade:

- `apt-get upgrade` : This command will upgrade all of the packages that are currently installed on the machine to the latest version. If there is a problem in upgrading a package, that package will be left intact in the current version.

- `apt-get dist-upgrade` : This command will upgrade the entire Kali Linux distribution; for example, if you want to upgrade from Kali Linux 1.0.1 to Kali Linux 1.0.2, you can use this command. This command will upgrade all of the packages that are currently installed and will also handle any conflicts during the upgrade process; however, some specific action may be required to perform the upgrade.

After you choose the appropriate command option to update Kali Linux, the `apt-get` program will list all of the packages that will be installed, upgraded, or removed. The `apt-get` command will then wait for your confirmation.

If you have given the confirmation, the upgrade process will start. Beware, the upgrade process might take a long time to finish depending on your Internet connection speed.