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How to install Thunderbird in Ubuntu

Posted by daigoro on March 22nd, 2007

If you're new here, you may want to subscribe to my [RSS feed](#). Thanks for visiting!

Hi everybody, I am a beginner with Linux and I installed Ubuntu a few weeks ago.

From here and therein the net, I was able to install every single program I wanted (and yes, from the command line) but I seem to have a few problems now with Thunderbird.

Is there anyone who can give me a step-by-step instructions on how to install Thunderbird (I have the version 3, alpha) just like Firefox installation has been described in here?

Appreciate the help,

Emilio.



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19 Responses to “How to install Thunderbird in Ubuntu”

1. *Admin* Says:

[March 24th, 2007 at 3:41 pm](#)

@nathanderwise

try the following procedure

You need to make sure you have enabled repositories once you did this is you need to update the source list using the following command

```
sudo apt-get update
```

Install thunderbird Using the following command

```
sudo aptitude install mozilla-thunderbird
```

If you want to open the application go to Applications -> Internet -> Thunderbird Mail Client

Now you need to configure your mail client with your server settings and email

2. *unknown* Says:

[March 25th, 2007 at 3:41 pm](#)

nathanderwise, don't waste your time with Ubuntu Edgy/Dapper, wait for the Feisty 7.04 Release! on April 15...

That will be a big jump, almost perfect and more easy than ever.

3. *Nathanderwise* Says:

[March 28th, 2007 at 8:26 pm](#)

Thanks for your replies...

While I am looking forward to Feisty, I was trying to find the right way to install Thunrderbird with the package downloaded from Mozilla website.

The problem is that once done with downloading and installing, I ended up having the unzipped folder of Thunrderbird on my desktop BUT it's "locked" as I cannot delete it or move it anywhere.

That's why I am pretty sure I did some sort of mistake.

While I thank you for the help, I was looking more for a detailed list of commands to use to properly install Thunrdebird from a .tar.gz package downloaded from Mozilla nightly webpage.

4. *DoruHush* Says:

[March 29th, 2007 at 2:39 pm](#)

Hello,

I try myself to install the tar.gz from mozilla. It wants to install the program using the ubuntu architecture but simply where you put it. My advice: use the repositories you have; the program is there (Synaptic). As for the unzipped folder on your desktop, to delete it you have to be root to do that (because when you install the program you were root and during this process protected files were created in your folder). So become root, cd to that directory, delete all the protected files, then delete the folder. It is the brutal way to do the job (deleting) but I don't know another. I might be wrong. Remember: to install mozilla software use the repositories (with Synaptic to see what you install)

5. *Nathanderwise* Says:

[March 29th, 2007 at 10:17 pm](#)

Guys, guys, guys...lol

How am I supposed to learn the tricks with Linux if I keep installing/uninstalling programs with Synaptic or other automated installers...?

I thank you all for the help but I want to be able to install packages as they are available (aka beta/alpha/rc or else).

Now, if I delete this folder that's on my desktop, do I risk to delete all my mail messages/rules/settings in Thunderbird...?

Thanks.

6. *Paul* Says:

[April 19th, 2007 at 1:57 pm](#)

Now that 2.0 is out, how do I upgrade cleanly?

7. *David* Says:

[April 30th, 2007 at 6:04 pm](#)

I'm new to Linux, and have installed 7.04, and wanted to get thunderbird 2.0 installed. I downloaded the file, but can't figure out how to install thunderbird. I've tried a number of things, but nothing seems to work.

So much for Ubuntu being nearly ready for the average user! You should be able to simply download a thunderbird installer and with one or two clicks be done with it. Hopefully this kind of functionality will exist soon.

8. *Nathanderwise* Says:

[May 1st, 2007 at 6:33 am](#)

Hi Paul and David,

did quite the research and I came up with this :

<http://tuxicity.wordpress.com/2007/01/24/install-native-mozilla-thunderbird-20-beta-2-on-ubuntu/>.

Note that these instructions work for both Ubuntu and Kubuntu (6.10 and 7.04).

Also, for Paul : open your home folder (/home/your username), click on the menu (or right click in the window) and choose "show hidden files"...you will see a folder named .thunderbird (if you followed the instructions provided in the link). Click the ./thunderbird folder and you will see a folder inside with a name like this ddsgh33 default (of course yours will be named differently).

Simply copy that folder in a usb flash memory or burn it.

Once you have done that, follow the instructions in the link, install Thunderbird, setup a fake email account, close thunderbird then copy the content of the folder previously backed up inside the new weird gkhkhd default you will find in your /home/user location...(after, you want to delete the fake account, of course...lol)

Hope this helps.

9. [Frode](#) Says:

[June 5th, 2007 at 9:22 am](#)

Hello! I am also new to linux, has been a windows user from the first windows version 😊

The most simple way to install in Ubuntu is to use the system|administration|synaptic package manager.

Or

If you like to install video codecs, vlc, thunderbird and much more. You can use automatic install scripts from an application called Automatix, you find it at <http://www.getautomatix.com> and it will create a shortcut to applications|system tools|automatix

Frode

10. [Davide](#) Says:

[August 11th, 2007 at 8:42 am](#)

Why do Ubuntu files always tell us to 'make sure you have enabled

repositories' without telling us HOW TO ENABLE REPOSITORIES'? I have Fiesty 7.0 all repositories in Synaptic are enabled, and the latest version of thunderbird offered is 1.5. How does anyone get to install the latest (2.0.0.6) version of Thunderbird, or any other software for that matter, if Synaptic dictates the version we choose?

11. *NathanDerWise* Says:

[August 12th, 2007 at 1:38 am](#)

Either you use Automatrix (awesome)....either you download the tar file and install it yourself via command line...a.k.a. the terminal.

12. *Kevin Whitefoot* Says:

[August 31st, 2007 at 6:45 pm](#)

I second NathanDerWise and Frode: use Automatrix. I've just used it to install Thunderbird 2. It just works, no fuss, no stupid questions. Brilliant piece of work!

13. *Jayvee* Says:

[September 3rd, 2007 at 8:10 pm](#)

Thanks for the tip! I have added you on my bookmark =)

have a wonderful labor day!

14. *eryknv* Says:

[August 13th, 2008 at 1:01 am](#)

after downloading the program you have to extract the file out of the original icon on your desktop then i went into add/remove programs and clicked on thunderbird and installed it through there. after that, you are able to move the desktop icons to the trash.

everyones talking about all this complicated stuff. it took like 15 seconds.

hope this helps.

xoox.eryk

15. *Mauricio* Says:

[October 1st, 2008 at 3:03 am](#)

This has been of great help.

Thank you.

16. *linux* Says:

[December 27th, 2008 at 3:13 am](#)

how can i manually install thunderbird tar.gz file from the desktop after unpacking it? automatix is a 650mb iso file and i dont want to download it. i can install anything from update manager but i want to learn manual instal and how to navigate to desktop folder in terminal.

17. [Edward A. Weissbard](#) Says:
[January 6th, 2009 at 3:43 am](#)

Thanks for the guidance....worked like a charm!

18. *Linuxnoob* Says:
[April 4th, 2009 at 10:57 pm](#)

Thanks for the assistance - still works 2 years on from the original post on my new install of 8.10.

Only problem now is that a password is being required but tats something I have to call my ISP for as it seems to have been changed.

I'll bookmark this page so that I can refer others to it if they need advice.

19. *willie* Says:
[April 17th, 2009 at 4:19 am](#)

hi, this is my first time to use Ubuntu & linux. I want to install thunderbird but I can't. I can only extract the files. Can you send me the step-by-step procedure so I won't end up damaging my desktop or the programs. I really want to know more about installing software with this UBUNTU / Linux.

Thank you and best regards,

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