



Ubuntu – E: Malformed entry 54 in list file /etc/apt/sources.list (Suite): Installing R

16.04

command line

This question already has answers here:

[How do I get permissions to edit system configuration files?](#)

(8 answers)
[Malformed entry 63 in list file after upgrading to Gnome 16.04.01 \[duplicate\]](#)

(2 answers)
Closed 3 years ago.

I have tried installing R (for the first time on Ubuntu) using [this blog post](#).

First three steps ran fine:

```
sudo echo "deb http://cran.rstudio.com/bin/linux/ubuntuxenial/" | sudo tee -a /etc/apt/sources.list
gpg --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-key E084DAB9
gpg -a --export E084DAB9 | sudo apt-key add -
```

I got an 'OK'

Problem occurs in 4th step:

```
$ sudo apt-get update
E: Malformed entry 54 in list file /etc/apt/sources.list (Suite)
E: The list of sources could not be read.
```

I looked up the file, which said, at line 54:

```
deb http://cran.rstudio.com/bin/linux/ubuntuxenial/ xenial
```

The file was unable to be modified.

At first, I thought it was because I couldn't have access to public key so I tried the steps suggested by the first answer: [How do I import a public key?](#)
However

I also tested to see if it was a firewall issue by switching from my company connection to my phone hotspot and repeating the installation process, same errors occurred, so I don't think its due to having blocked port 11371.

Any ideas how I can fix the issue? I'm not sure how to correct line 54 (in terms of what to write and also how to get past the text edit restrictions).

Related Question

[Ubuntu – Failed to fetch http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/dists/lucid/main/so 404 Not Found \[IP: 91.189.91.26 80\]](#)

[Ubuntu – Apt-get fails on 16.04 or 18.04 installing mongodb](#)



Best Answer

Thanks @Pilot6 and @OrganicMarble for the suggestion. just for if anyone else is experiencing the issue: I ended up using

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list
```

which helped me override permissions restriction and modify the file.

Just changed line 54 to

```
deb http://cran.rstudio.com/bin/linux/ubuntu xenial[type]
```