/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lpython2.7

I'm trying to install MySQLdb with Python 2.7. The error I'm getting looks like this:

```
gcc -pthread -fno-strict-aliasing -g -O2 -DNDEBUG -g -fwrapv -O3 -Wall -Wstrict-proto
gcc -pthread -shared build/temp.linux-x86_64-2.7/_mysql.o -L/usr/lib64/mysql -L. -lmy
/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lpython2.7
collect2: ld returned 1 exit status
error: command 'gcc' failed with exit status 1
```

Clearly, it can't find Python 2.7. Looking in `/usr/bin` I see:

```
python*
python2@
python2.4*
python2.7@
```

What does the `@` symbol mean? Can anyone advise a remedy to the error?

python | linux | mysql-python

edited Oct 31 '12 at 14:10
David Cain
4,877 9 21 40

asked Dec 6 '11 at 12:58
Mike
594 6 18

1 you probably need the `python-dev` package (not related with the @) – JBernardo Dec 6 '11 at 13:02

Don't think you want the Python binary. Looks like you need the Python .o files since this is linking. – Ishpeck Dec 6 '11 at 13:05

Shouldn't this question be on serverfault? – Aaron Aug 6 '12 at 15:16

add comment

2 Answers

It can't find the Python library, not the executable. Run `locate libpython2.7.a` to see where your Python library is located, and add it to the library path (e.g. if it is in `/opt/python2.7/lib`, you want to call `LDFLAGS="-L/opt/python2.7/lib" make`).

The `@` symbol means the file is a symbolic link; `*` means it's executable (these are produced by `ls -F`, which you might have as an alias).

edited Dec 7 '11 at 7:16

answered Dec 6 '11 at 13:10
Petr Viktorin
13.1k 1 28 43

1 Thanks for the response Petr, that's very informative. The two locations I have after running locate are: /opt/python2.7/lib/python2.7/config/ /usr/src/python2.7/Python-2.7.2/ After running LDFLAGS="-L/[path]" on both of these locations I'm still getting the same error. There's no discernible change in /usr/bin either. – Mike Dec 6 '11 at 13:51

1 Hmm... Are you maybe running it as a command? You shouldn't, it's setting an environment variable, as in `LDFLAGS="-L/opt/python2.7/lib/python2.7/config/" ./configure` or `LDFLAGS="-L/opt/python2.7/lib/python2.7/config/" make` (I don't know how MySQLdb is built exactly) – Petr Viktorin Dec 6 '11 at 14:43

Ah, perfect! Thank you, sorry for my misunderstanding. – Mike Dec 6 '11 at 15:09

add comment

The above solution didn't quite do it for me as I was using pip to install mysql-python, but was definitely a big push in the right direction. For the benefit of anyone who lands here from Google in the same situation as me, my solution was to symlink libpython2.7.a from the python installation directory to the lib dir:

```
ln -s /opt/python2.7.1/lib/python2.7/config/libpython2.7.a /usr/local/lib/
```

pip install mysql-python worked without any issues afterwards.

answered Aug 6 '12 at 15:14

Aaron
337 3 10

This worked for me as well on CentOS 6.3. I tried adding `/opt/python2.7.1/lib/python2.7/config` to `/etc/ld.so.con.d/python2.7.conf` and running `sudo ldconfig`, but Linux isn't adding the `.a` file to its library list, i.e. ld.so.cache. Maybe this is by design. Symlinking was the solution. – Banjer Oct 31 '12 at 14:07

1 After hours of gcc errors I finally found this solution. This worked perfectly in CentOS 6.5. I used ln -s /opt/python2.7/lib/python2.7/config/libpython2.7.a /usr/local/lib/ – Max Ferguson Mar 11 '13 at 12:30

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