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How to install perl modules (including cpan)?

⊘ **SOLUTION VERIFIED** - Updated August 6 2019 at 2:36 AM - English ⏷ ()

Environment

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Issue

- How to install perl modules with CPAN in Red Hat Enterprise Linux?
- How to install perl modules on Red Hat Enterprise Linux?
- How are perl modules from CPAN supported?

Resolution

Notice regarding supportability

The following information has been provided by Red Hat, but is outside the scope of the Red Hat Production Support Scope of Coverage (https://access.redhat.com/support/offerings/production/soc) and support procedures. The information is provided as-is and any configuration settings or installed applications made from the information in this article could make your Operating System unsupported by Red Hat Support Services. The intent of this article is to provide you with information to accomplish your system needs. Use the information in this article at your own risk. As the CPAN software is not compiled, tested and distributed by Red Hat, it is considered to be third-party software according to the Production Support Scope of Coverage. Also note that Red Hat does ship and support many perl modules that might be replaced or inadvertently upgraded by the CPAN mechanisms and could have unforeseen results.

Aside from the support notice, to proceed using the CPAN repository several approaches should be taken into consideration.

Approach 1: Installing the module as part of a Red Hat provided rpm package.

The preferred way to install Perl modules is as part of packages provided by Red Hat. On a system
with yum configured for package installations a command like below can be used to search for
packages providing the *LWP::UserAgent* Perl module, i.e. the package *perl-libwww-perl*.

```
# yum whatprovides 'perl(LWP::UserAgent)'
```

The module can be installed using following command.

```
# yum install 'perl(LWP::UserAgent)'
```

Approach 2: Installing the module from cpan.

In a terminal as root issue the command ' cpan '. This will open a cpan shell and display the
following:

cpan shell -- CPAN exploration and modules installation (v1.7601)
ReadLine support available (try 'install Bundle::CPAN')

cpan>

To install, for example, the Acme::Bleach module, type the following at the cpan prompt:

```
cpan> install Acme::Bleach
```

For more information, type ' ? ' at the cpan prompt, or see ' man cpan '.

Approach 3: Installing the module into a separate path.

Building the perl module is a further option. This approach provides the best protection from
overwriting existing files and influencing the operating system. This approach

- uses an unprivileged user for building the module.
- builds the module it into a specific sub-directory.
- make the perl code that uses the specific module aware of the new location.

These steps are executed as root user:

```
# yum install openldap-devel gcc perl-Convert-ASN1.noarch
# mkdir /opt/perlmodules
# chown someuser /opt/perlmodules
```

The following steps are executed as a user, here user 'someuser' who has permissions to write to directory /opt/perlmodules:

```
# su - someuser
$ tar xzf Net-LDAPapi-3.0.3.tar.gz
$ cd Net-LDAPapi-3.0.3
$ perl Makefile.PL PREFIX=/opt/perlmodules/Net-LDAPapi-3.0.3
$ make
$ make test

$ make install
```

The following creates perl code utilizing the module:

Create a file with the following code for testing:

```
  ------------------
#!/usr/bin/perl -w

  use lib qw( /opt/perlmodules/Net-LDAPapi-3.0.3/lib64/perl5/site_perl/5.8.8 );

  use Net::LDAPapi;
  print "script was executed\\n";
  ------------------
```

To execute the script run following command:

```
$ chmod +x testcode.pl
$ ./testcode.pl
script was executed.
$
```

Further approaches

- Another alternative is the cpan2rpm perl module packager found at
  http://sourceforge.net/projects/cpan2rpm/ (http://sourceforge.net/projects/cpan2rpm/)

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Component   perl (/components/perl)   **Category**   Learn more (/category/learn-more)

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2 Comments

AM

13 May 2016 3:07 PM (https://access.redhat.com/solutions/4147#comment-1048151)

andy maynard (/user/13789041)

(/user/13789041) your description is incomplete. you need to provide more information to enable a full installation of cpan modules

NEWBIE

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15 December 2017 5:32 PM (https://access.redhat.com/solutions/4147#comment-1251021)

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43 Points

I used the cpan method to install LWP:: Protocols::https and on the next patching cycle it was "gone." Well not really the .pm file were now .pm~ It turned out that there is a yum install-able version of that library and if I don't use that version my cpan versions gets wiped out. I don't know how many other libraries this applies to but these cases should be covered in the article.

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