

Linux para Ingeniería:

Personalización/Compilación del Nucleo

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How to Build Compile and Install Latest Linux Kernel Source

On a Debian / Ubuntu Linux (16.x)

Questions:

- ▶ How do I download, compile and install (build) the latest version of the Linux kernel ?
- ▶ How do I build and install a custom Linux kernel ?

Answers:

- ▶ In order to create a custom kernel configuration file and build a custom kernel, the full Linux kernel source tree must first be downloaded and installed.
- ▶ The latest Linux kernel stable version is 4.15.8.
- ▶ You will learn how to compile the Linux kernel version 4.15.8 on a Ubuntu Linux (Debian) operating system and build **.deb** file.

Some benefits of build a custom Linux kernel

- ▶ **Modules** contain most of the functionality of the Linux kernel:
 - ▶ They can be dynamically loaded/unloaded from the kernel as necessary.
- ▶ Remove **unwanted drivers** from the kernel.
- ▶ **Faster boot time** due to small kernel size.
- ▶ **Increased security** due to additional or removed modules/drivers/features.
- ▶ You will learn about the **kernel and advanced usage**.
- ▶ Always run the **cutting edge latest kernel**.
- ▶ **Lower memory usage**.

Prerequisites

You need to install the following packages on a Debian or Ubuntu Linux to compile the Linux kernel:

git: Fast, scalable, distributed revision control system. You can grab the latest source code using the git command.

fakerooroot: Tool for simulating superuser privileges. Useful to build .deb files.

build-essential: Tools for building the Linux kernel such as GCC compiler and related tools on a Debian or Ubuntu Linux based system.

ncurses-dev: Developer's libraries for ncurses. This is used by menuconfig while configuring the kernel options.

kernel-package: Utility for building Linux kernel related Debian packages.

xz-utils: XZ-format compression utilities to decompress the Linux kernel tar ball.

Disk space: 10 GB or more free disk space.

Time: Kernel compilation may take quite a while, depending on the power of your machine.

Install required tools:

- ▶ Open the terminal application.
- ▶ Type the following apt-get command to install the required packages for building the Linux kernel:

```
$ sudo apt-get install git fakerooot build-essential ncurses-dev xz-utils  
libssl-dev bc
```

[illegible]

Install required building tools: kernel-package

Utility for building Linux kernel related Debian packages

Finally, install the kernel-package package too:

```
$ sudo apt-get install kernel-package
```

```
veryinstance-1:~$ sudo apt-get --no-install-recommends install kernel-package
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
  bc docbook-xsl docbook-xsl-gettext inittool-debian libcroco3 libglib2.0-0 libunistring4
  libxml2-utils po-debconf sgml-base sgml-data xslt xsltproc
Suggested packages:
  docbook docbook-dsssl docbook-defguide dbtoepub docbook-xsl-doc-html docbook-xsl-doc-pdf
  docbook-xsl-doc-text docbook-xsl-doc docbook-xsl-saxon fop libxaxon-java libxalan2-java
  libxalan1-java xalan gettext-doc linux-source libmail-box-perl sgml-base-doc perlsgml
  w3-reco openasp debhelper w3m lynx-curl links xmtex
Recommended packages:
  autopoint libgettext-dev libgettextpo-dev docbook-utils uboot-mkimage kernel-common
  libglib2.0-data shared-mime-info xdg-user-dirs libmail-sendmail-perl libpaper-utils rip
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  bc docbook-xsl docbook-xsl-gettext inittool-debian kernel-package libcroco3 libglib2.0-0
  libunistring4 libxml2-utils po-debconf sgml-base sgml-data xslt xsltproc
0 upgraded, 16 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 7,918 kB of archives.
After this operation, 34.5 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? (Y/n) Y
```

The Linux kernel sources archives:

<https://cdn.kernel.org/>

The Linux Kernel Organization is a California Public Benefit Corporation established in 2002 to distribute the Linux kernel and other Open Source software to the public without charge.



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Linux Kernel Archives'. The header features the title 'The Linux Kernel Archives' and a Tux penguin logo. Navigation links include 'About', 'Contact us', 'FAQ', 'Releases', 'Signatures', and 'Site news'. A section titled 'Protocol' lists HTTP, GIT, and RSYNC with their respective locations. A yellow box highlights the 'Latest Stable Kernel: 4.15.7' with a download icon. Below is a table of kernel releases with columns for version, date, and download links.

Protocol	Location
HTTP	https://www.kernel.org/pub/
GIT	https://git.kernel.org/
RSYNC	rsync://rsync.kernel.org/pub/

Latest Stable Kernel:
4.15.7

Version	Date	tarball	pgp	patch	inc. patch	view diff	browse	changelog
mainline: 4.16-rc4	2018-03-04	[tarball]		[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	
stable: 4.15.7	2018-02-28	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 4.14.24	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 4.9.86	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 4.4.120	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 4.1.50	2018-03-05	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 3.18.98 [EOL]	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 3.16.55	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
longterm: 3.2.100	2018-03-03	[tarball]	[pgp]	[patch]	[inc. patch]	[view diff]	[browse]	[changelog]
linux-next: next-20180308	2018-03-08						[browse]	

Download the Linux kernel source code

Type the following wget command to grab both source code and pgp keys:

```
$ wget https://cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.15.8.tar.sign
$ wget wget https://cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.15.8.tar.xz
```

```
vivek@dev.cyberciti.biz:~$ wget https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.2.tar.xz
--2015-09-09 10:25:29-- https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.2.tar.xz
Resolving www.kernel.org (www.kernel.org)... 198.145.20.140, 149.20.4.69, 199.204.44.194, ...
Connecting to www.kernel.org (www.kernel.org)|198.145.20.140|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
length: 85507784 (82M) [application/x-xz]
Saving to: 'linux-4.2.tar.xz'

linux-4.2.tar.xz 100%[=====] 81.55M 36.6MB/s in 2.2s
2015-09-09 10:25:32 (36.6 MB/s) - 'linux-4.2.tar.xz' saved [85507784/85507784]

vivek@dev.cyberciti.biz:~$
```


Verify kernel signatures:

Use GnuPG to verify kernel signatures:

```
$ unxz linux-4.15.8.tar.xz  
$ gpg --verify linux-4.15.8.tar.sign
```

Output

```
gpg: assuming signed data in 'linux-4.15.8.tar'  
gpg: Signature made Monday 20 February 2017 04:28:37 AM IST using RSA key ID  
6092693E  
gpg: Can't check signature: public key not found
```

Get the public key from the PGP keyserver

Get the public key from the PGP keyserver in order to verify the signature
i.e. RSA key ID 6092693E (from the above outputs):

```
gpg --keyserver hkp://keys.gnupg.net --recv-keys 6092693E
```

Output:

```
gpg: requesting key 6092693E from hkp server keys.gnupg.net
gpg: key 6092693E: public key "Greg Kroah-Hartman (Linux kernel stable release
      signing key) <greg@kroah.com>" imported
gpg: key 6092693E: public key "Greg Kroah-Hartman <gregkh@linuxfoundation.org>"
      imported
gpg: no ultimately trusted keys found
gpg: Total number processed: 2
gpg:         imported: 2   (RSA: 2)
```

Now verify again:

Now verify again:

```
gpg --verify linux-4.15.8.tar.sign
```

Output:

```
gpg: assuming signed data in 'linux-4.15.8.tar'  
gpg: Signature made Sat 18 Feb 2017 09:13:06 AM -05 using RSA key ID 6092693E  
gpg: Good signature from "Greg Kroah-Hartman <gregkh@linuxfoundation.org>"  
gpg:          aka "Greg Kroah-Hartman <gregkh@kernel.org>"  
gpg:          aka "Greg Kroah-Hartman (Linux kernel stable release  
    signing key) <greg@kroah.com>"  
gpg: WARNING: This key is not certified with a trusted signature!  
gpg:          There is no indication that the signature belongs to the owner.  
Primary key fingerprint: 647F 2865 4894 E3BD 4571  99BE 38DB BDC8 6092 693E
```

Untar the Linux kernel

If you do not “BAD signature” output from “gpg -verify” command, untar the Linux kernel tar ball using the tar command enter:

```
$ tar xvf linux-4.15.8.tar
$ ls
$ cd linux-4.15.8/
$ ls
```

Output:

```
linux-4.15.8/
linux-4.15.8/.coocciconfig
linux-4.15.8/.get_maintainer.ignore
linux-4.15.8/.gitattributes
linux-4.15.8/.gitignore
linux-4.15.8/.mailmap
linux-4.15.8/COPYING
linux-4.15.8/CREDITS
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/.gitignore
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/00-INDEX
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/README
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/obsolete/
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/obsolete/proc-sys-vm-nr_pdflush_threads
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/obsolete/sysfs-block-zram
linux-4.15.8/Documentation/ABI/obsolete/sysfs-bus-usb
```

Kernel Configuration

- ▶ The Linux kernel configuration file is usually found (debian/ubuntu) in the `/boot` directory:
 - ▶ `/boot/config*`.
- ▶ It is not recommended to edit this file directly but to use one of these configuration options:
 - ▶ **make config** - starts a character based questions and answer session
 - ▶ **make menuconfig** - starts a terminal-oriented configuration tool (using ncurses)
 - ▶ **make xconfig** - starts a X based configuration tool
- ▶ Ultimately these configuration tools edit the `config*` file to allow modifications on it.

A sample of a Kernel Configuration file

```
1 #
2 # Automatically generated file; DO NOT EDIT.
3 # Linux/x86_64 4.9.11 Kernel Configuration
4 #
5 CONFIG_64BIT=y
6 CONFIG_X86_64=y
7 CONFIG_X86=y
8 CONFIG_INSTRUCTION_DECODER=y
9 CONFIG_OUTPUT_FORMAT="elf64-x86-64"
10 CONFIG_ARCH_DEFCONFIG="arch/x86/configs/x86_64_defconfig"
11 CONFIG_LOCKDEP_SUPPORT=y
12 CONFIG_STACKTRACE_SUPPORT=y
13 CONFIG_MMU=y
14 CONFIG_ARCH_MMAP_RND_BITS_MIN=28
15 CONFIG_ARCH_MMAP_RND_BITS_MAX=32
16 CONFIG_ARCH_MMAP_RND_COMPAT_BITS_MIN=8
17 CONFIG_ARCH_MMAP_RND_COMPAT_BITS_MAX=16
18 CONFIG_NEED_DMA_MAP_STATE=y
19 CONFIG_NEED_SG_DMA_LENGTH=y
20 CONFIG_GENERIC_ISA_DMA=y
21 CONFIG_GENERIC_BUG=y
22 CONFIG_GENERIC_BUG_RELATIVE_POINTERS=y
23 CONFIG_GENERIC_HWEIGHT=y
24 CONFIG_ARCH_MAY_HAVE_PC_FDC=y
25 CONFIG_RWSEM_XCHGADD_ALGORITHM=y
26 CONFIG_GENERIC_CALIBRATE_DELAY=y
27 CONFIG_ARCH_HAS_CPU_RELAX=y
28 CONFIG_ARCH_HAS_CACHE_LINE_SIZE=y
29 CONFIG_HAVE_SETUP_PER_CPU_AREA=y
30 CONFIG_NEED_PER_CPU_EMBED_FIRST_CHUNK=y
31 CONFIG_NEED_PER_CPU_PAGE_FIRST_CHUNK=y
32 CONFIG_ARCH_HIBERNATION_POSSIBLE=y
33 CONFIG_ARCH_SUSPEND_POSSIBLE=y
34 CONFIG_ARCH_WANT_HUGE_PMD_SHARE=y
35 CONFIG_ARCH_WANT_GENERAL_HUGETLB=y
36 CONFIG_ZONE_DMA32=y
-- INSERT --
```

1,1

Top

Options in the Kernel Configuration File

- ▶ An option will either indicate:
 - ▶ some driver is built into the kernel ("=y") or
 - ▶ will be built as a module ("=m") or
 - ▶ is not selected.
- ▶ The unselected state can either be indicated by:
 - ▶ a line starting with "#" (e.g. "# CONFIG_SCSI is not set") or
 - ▶ by the absence of the relevant line from the .config file.
- ▶ **Example:** The 3 states of the main selection option for the SCSI subsystem:

```
CONFIG_SCSI=y
CONFIG_SCSI=m
# CONFIG_SCSI is not set
```

Configure the Linux kernel

First, copy your existing Linux kernel config file

```
$ cd linux-4.15.8  
$ cp -v /boot/config-$(uname -r) .config
```

Sample outputs:

```
/boot/config-4.4.0-62-generic' -> '.config'
```


Start Configuring the Kernel

To configure the kernel, run:

```
$ make menuconfig
```

```
veryv@instance-1:~/linux-4.2$ make menuconfig
HOSTCC      scripts/basic/fixdep
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/mconf.o
SHIPPED     scripts/kconfig/zconf.tab.c
SHIPPED     scripts/kconfig/zconf.lex.c
SHIPPED     scripts/kconfig/zconf.hash.c
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/zconf.tab.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/checklist.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/util.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/inputbox.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/textbox.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/yesno.o
HOSTCC      scripts/kconfig/lxdialog/menubox.o
HOSTLD      scripts/kconfig/mconf
scripts/kconfig/mconf Kconfig
```

```
mconf - Linux/4.2.0 Kernel Configuration

Linux/4.2.0 Kernel Configuration
ARROW keys navigate the menu. <Enter> selects submenus ---> (or empty submenu
--->). Highlighted letters are hotkeys. Pressing <Y> includes, <N> excludes, <M>
modularizes features. Press <Esc><Esc> to exit, <?> for Help, </> for Search.
Legend: [*] built-in | excluded <M> module < > module capable

[*] 64-bit kernel
General setup --->
[*] Enable loadable module support --->
[*] Enable the block layer --->
Processor type and features --->
Power management and ACPI options --->
Bus options (PCI etc.) --->
Executable file formats / Emulations --->
[*] Networking support --->
Device Drivers --->
Firmware Drivers --->
File systems --->
Kernel hacking --->
Security options --->
*- Cryptographic API --->
[*] Virtualisation --->
Library routines --->

<Enter> < Exit > < Help > < Save > < Load >
```

Linux Commands to Explore your Hardware

1. How to View Linux System Information:
 - ▶ **uname**, options (-n, -v, -r, -m, -a)
2. How to View Linux System Hardware Information: **lshw**, options (-short)
3. How to View Linux CPU Information: **lscpu**
4. How to Collect Linux Block Device Information: **lsblk**
5. How to Print USB Controllers Information: **lsusb**, options (-v)
6. How to Print PCI Devices Information: **lspci**, options (-v)
7. How to Print SCSI Devices Information: **lsscsi**
8. How to Print Information about SATA Devices:
 - ▶ **hdparm** /dev/sda1
9. How to Print Linux File System Information:
 - ▶ **sudo fdisk -l**
10. How to Extract Information about Hardware Components:
 - ▶ **sudo dmidecode -t memory**

WARNING

WARNING

- ▶ It is easy to remove support for a device driver or option and end up with a broken kernel.
- ▶ For example, if the ext4 driver is removed from the kernel configuration file, a system may not boot.
- ▶ When in doubt, just leave support in the kernel.

Make sure you save the changes before exit from menuconfig.

Kernel Compilations Commands

fakeroot:

- ▶ Run a command in an environment faking root privileges for file manipulation
- ▶ This is useful for allowing users to create archives (tar, ar, .deb etc.) with files in them with root permissions/ownership

maker-kpkg:

- ▶ build Debian kernel packages from Linux kernel sources, and options are:
 - initrd: Create an initrd image.
 - revision=1.0.NAS: Set custom revision for your kernel such as 1.0.NAS or -1.0-custom-kernel etc.
 - kernel_image: This target produces a Debian package of the Linux kernel source image, and any modules configured in the kernel configuration file .config.
 - kernel_headers: This target produces a Debian package of the Linux kernel header image.

Compile the Linux kernel

Now, you can compile the kernel, run:

- First, make a clean

```
$ make-kpkg clean
```

- Now, you can compile the kernel, run:

```
$ fakeroot make-kpkg --initrd --revision=1.0.NAS kernel_image  
kernel_headers
```

- To speed up the compile process pass the -j option (-j 4 means you are using all 4 cores to compile the Linux kernel):

```
$ fakeroot make-kpkg --initrd --revision=1.0.NAS kernel_image  
kernel_headers -j 4
```

Some Requirements for the Compilation

- ▶ Please note that kernel compilation may take quite a while, depending on the power of your machine.
- ▶ On my shared 4 CORE CPU and 8GB ram it took 60 mins to build the Linux kernel.
- ▶ In the end you should see something as follows on screen:

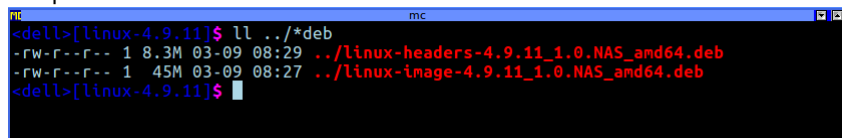
```
test ! -e debian/control~ || rm -f debian/control~
dpkg-gencontrol -isp -DArchitecture=amd64 -plinux-headers-4.15.8 \
                -P/tmp/linux-4.15.8/debian/linux-headers-4.15.8/
dpkg-gencontrol: warning: -isp is deprecated; it is without effect
create_md5sums_fn () { cd $1 ; find . -type f ! -regex './DEBIAN/.*' ! -
    regex './var/.*' -printf '%P\0' | xargs -r0 md5sum > DEBIAN/
    md5sums ; if [ -z "DEBIAN/md5sums" ] ; then rm -f "DEBIAN/md5sums" ;
    fi ; } ; create_md5sums_fn /tmp/linux-4.15.8/debian
    /linux-headers-4.15.8
chown -R root:root /tmp/linux-4.15.8/debian/linux-headers-4.15.8
chmod -R og=rX /tmp/linux-4.15.8/debian/linux-headers-4.15.8
dpkg --build /tmp/linux-4.15.8/debian/linux-headers-4.15.8 ..
dpkg-deb: building package 'linux-headers-4.15.8' in '../linux-headers
-4.15.8_1.0.NAS-amd64.deb'.
cp -pf debian/control.dist debian/control
make[2]: Leaving directory '/tmp/linux-4.15.8'
make[1]: Leaving directory '/tmp/linux-4.15.8'
```

Verify kernel deb files:

List the parent directory:

```
$ ls ../*.deb
```

Output:



```
<dell>[linux-4.9.11]$ ll ../*.deb
-rw-r--r-- 1 8.3M 03-09 08:29 ../linux-headers-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb
-rw-r--r-- 1 45M 03-09 08:27 ../linux-image-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb
<dell>[linux-4.9.11]$
```

Installing a custom kernel

Type the following dpkg command to install a custom kernel on your system:

```
$ cd ..  
$ sudo dpkg -i linux-headers-4.15.8_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb
```

```
rdell@cclinux$ sudo dpkg -i linux-headers-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb  
[sudo] password for lg:  
Selecting previously unselected package linux-headers-4.9.11.  
(Reading database ... 377441 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack linux-headers-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb ...  
Unpacking linux-headers-4.9.11 (1.0.NAS) ...  
Setting up linux-headers-4.9.11 (1.0.NAS) ...  
Examining /etc/kernel/header_postinst.d.  
rdell@cclinux$
```

```
$ sudo dpkg -i linux-image-4.15.8_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb
```

```
rdell@cclinux$ sudo dpkg -i linux-image-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb  
Selecting previously unselected package linux-image-4.9.11.  
(Reading database ... 398972 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack linux-image-4.9.11_1.0.NAS_amd64.deb ...  
Done.  
Unpacking linux-image-4.9.11 (1.0.NAS) ...  
Setting up linux-image-4.9.11 (1.0.NAS) ...  
  
Hmm. There is a symbolic link /lib/modules/4.9.11/build  
However, I can not read it: No such file or directory  
Therefore, I am deleting /lib/modules/4.9.11/build  
  
Hmm. The package shipped with a symbolic link /lib/modules/4.9.11/source  
However, I can not read the target: No such file or directory  
Therefore, I am deleting /lib/modules/4.9.11/source  
  
Running dpkg.  
Examining /etc/kernel/postinst.d.  
run-parts: executing /etc/kernel/postinst.d/apt-auto-removal 4.9.11 /boot  
run-parts: executing /etc/kernel/postinst.d/initramfs-tools 4.9.11 /boot  
update-initramfs: Generating /boot/initrd.img-4.9.11  
W: Possible missing firmware /lib/firmware/1915/abl_guc_ver9_14.bin for M:  
W: Possible missing firmware /lib/firmware/1915/bxt_guc_ver0_7.bin for M:  
run-parts: executing /etc/kernel/postinst.d/pm-utils 4.9.11 /boot/vmlinuz  
run-parts: executing /etc/kernel/postinst.d/unattended-upgrades 4.9.11 /
```


Reboot the box/server/laptop

Type the following command:

```
$ sudo reboot
```

Verify that everything is working

Type the following command to verify your new kernel and everything is working fine:

```
$ uname -a
$ uname -r
$ uname -mrs
$ dmesg | more
$ dmesg | egrep -i --color 'error|critical|failed'
```

Output:

```
Linux ubuntu-box-1 4.15.8 #1 SMP Mon Feb 20 21:10:55 IST 2017 x86_64 x86_64
x86_64 GNU/Linux
```