IN719 Systems Administration
Setting Up a Package Repository

1   Introduction

We made a Debian package file in the previous lab. But to take advantage of the full power of the Debian Package management system we need to place our package in a *repository*. Often repositories are served up over the network using HTTP or FTP. But, as we'll see in this lab, we can also create a repository on the local filesystem.

For this lab, you'll need the `interactive-cowsay-1.0.deb` file from the previous lab.

2   Create the repository

Create a new subdirectory in your home directory named `local_repo`. Place the `.deb` file you created in that directory. cd into the `local_repo` directory and issue the command `dpkg-scanpackages .  > Packages`. Go ahead and check out the `Packages` file with the command `cat Packages`.

3   Telling your system to use the repository

Edit the file `/etc/apt/sources.list`. Add the following lines to the bottom:

```
# my local repository
deb file:/home/<your_user>/local_repo /
```

4   Using the repository with apt

Use the command `sudo apt-get update` to update your package manger with information from the new repository.

Use the command `apt-cache search interactive-cowsay` to see that your package manager knows about your package.

Use the command `sudo apt-get install interactive-cowsay` to install your package. Note how it also installs the dependency `cowsay`. Draw yourself a nice cow, or moose, or sheep using the new program.

Finally, use the command `sudo apt-get remove cowsay` Note that it also removes `interactive-cowsay` since it depended on `cowsay`.