**Upgrade Instructions [Link](http://library.linode.com/WhAfQk)**

You should stop as many services as possible before upgrading your system. This should include web server deaemons (Apache, nginx, etc), database servers (PostgreSQL, MySQL, etc), and any other non-critical services.

If you are running Ubuntu 8.04 or 9.10, edit your /etc/fstab file to include the following line (see later notes on Ubuntu 9.04).

**File excerpt:** */etc/fstab*

dev /dev devtmpfs rw 0 0

Issue the following commands to update your existing packages:

apt-get update

apt-get upgrade

Issue the following command to install the screen utility and the update manager program:

apt-get install screen update-manager-core

Edit the /etc/update-manager/release-upgrades file, setting "Prompt=lts" as shown below. Please note that if you are running Ubuntu 9.04, you will be upgraded to Ubuntu 9.10 instead of Ubuntu 10.04; afterward, you may upgrade to Ubuntu 10.04 by repeating the do-release-upgrade process. Although there is an option for setting Prompt=lts in the/etc/update-manager/release-upgrades file, it is not possible to upgrade directly to Ubuntu 10.04 from 9.04 using this method.

**File excerpt:** */etc/update-manager/release-upgrades*

Prompt=normal

Start a screen session and issue the upgrade command:

screen

do-release-upgrade

If you're logged in via SSH, you will receive the following warning:

Continue running under SSH?

This session appears to be running under ssh. It is not recommended

to perform a upgrade over ssh currently because in case of failure it

is harder to recover.

If you continue, an additional ssh daemon will be started at port

'9004'.

Do you want to continue?

Continue [yN]

Enter "y" to continue. If something goes wrong and your SSH session is interrupted, you should be able to connect to your Linode via the additional SSH daemon by connecting to port 9004 with your SSH client. If you need to do this, you may resume your screen session by issuing the following command at your Linode's root shell prompt:

screen -Dr

At the end of the upgrade process, you'll see this message:

System upgrade is complete.

Restart required

To finish the upgrade, a restart is required.

If you select 'y' the system will be restarted.

Continue [yN]

Enter "n" to avoid rebooting from the console. Reboot your Linode using the "Reboot" button on the dashboard of the Linode Manager. When your Linode boots up again, you may notice messages on the console regarding ureadahead andplymouthd being killed; these are not a cause for concern. You can prevent such messages from appearing again by issuing the following commands:

cd /etc/init

for i in plymouth\* ureadahead\*; do mv ${i} ${i}.disabled; done

If you were running Ubuntu 9.04 previously and have gone through this guide once, you're now running Ubuntu 9.10. You'll need to repeat these steps (making sure to modify /etc/fstab as indicated above) to complete your upgrade to Ubuntu 10.04.

**Fixing a Broken System [Link](http://library.linode.com/bAqvcj)**

If you've already attempted to upgrade but your Linode is failing to boot properly, you'll need to start by creating a **[Finnix recovery profile](http://library.linode.com/troubleshooting/finnix-recovery)**. In that profile, set your Ubuntu disk image to attach to xvdb. Boot into Finnix and issue the following command to open your Linode's fstab file for editing:

mount /dev/xvdb

nano /mnt/xvdb/etc/fstab

Add the following line to your file:

**File excerpt:** */mnt/xvdb/etc/fstab*

dev /dev devtmpfs rw 0 0

Save the file by entering Ctrl+x and agreeing to the changes. You may now reboot your Linode from the Linode Manager dashboard using its normal configuration profile.