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This guide explains how to install Apache Tomcat on an Ubuntu 16.04 server.

Prerequisites

- Deploy a new Ubuntu 16.04 server instance.
- Create a non-root sudo user.
- Log into the machine via SSH as the user you created.

Update your system

Make sure that you have the latest stable version of Ubuntu 16.04.

```
sudo apt-get update
```

Install Java.

```
sudo apt-get install default-jdk
```

Update the JAVA_HOME variable

Find the directory for `JAVA_HOME`.

```
update-alternatives --config java
```

Copy the directory, and then type the following.

```
nano /etc/environment
```

This will open up the file that contains environment variables.

Add `JAVA_HOME`.

```
JAVA_HOME="/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-amd64"
```

The path in quotes is the path that you are using.

Save and close the file.

Reload the environment variables so that they take effect.

```
source /etc/environment
```

Check to make sure that it worked:

```
echo $JAVA_HOME
```

You will see the path you've entered.

Create a user to run the Tomcat web server

We will call this user 'tomcat', but you can use any name for this user.

```
groupadd tomcat  
useradd -s /bin/false -g tomcat -d /opt/tomcat
```

Make sure that you know the version of Tomcat that you want to install.

For this tutorial, we will use version 8.5.24 , and the download link is as follows.

```
http://www-eu.apache.org/dist/tomcat/tomcat
```

Remember to choose the download with a .gz extension.

Make a directory for the Tomcat files.

```
mkdir /opt/tomcat
```

Download Tomcat.

```
cd  
wget your-tomcat-link
```

Unzip the files into the tomcat folder.

```
tar xvf apache-tomcat-8*tar.gz -C /opt/tomcat
```

You can press the " Tab " key after typing `apache` , since you only have one download in your folder.

Make sure that the folders have the correct permissions.

```
cd /opt/  
sudo chown -R tomcat tomcat/
```

Display the `JAVA_HOME` path again, so that you can copy it.

```
nano /etc/systemd/system/tomcat.service
```

Configure Tomcat

Copy and paste the settings below into the `tomcat.service` file you have just created. Edit the `JAVA_HOME` path to the one that you copied. After this, save and close the file.

```
[Unit]  
Description=Apache Tomcat Web Application Container  
After=network.target  
  
[Service]  
Type=forking  
  
Environment=JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/jvm/java-1.8  
Environment=CATALINA_PID=/opt/tomcat/temp/tomcat.pid  
Environment=CATALINA_HOME=/opt/tomcat  
Environment=CATALINA_BASE=/opt/tomcat  
Environment='CATALINA_OPTS=-Xms512M -Xmx1024M -XXMetaspaceSize=256M -Djava.awt.headless=true'  
Environment='JAVA_OPTS=-Djava.awt.headless=true'  
  
ExecStart=/opt/tomcat/bin/startup.sh  
ExecStop=/opt/tomcat/bin/shutdown.sh  
  
User=tomcat  
Group=tomcat  
UMask=0007  
RestartSec=10  
Restart=always  
  
[Install]  
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Reload the SystemD daemon so that the service settings that were added are included.

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
```

Start the Tomcat service.

```
sudo systemctl start tomcat
```

Check the status of your Tomcat server.

```
sudo systemctl status tomcat
```

Browse to `http://your_ip_address:8080`

You will see the Tomcat server landing page.

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