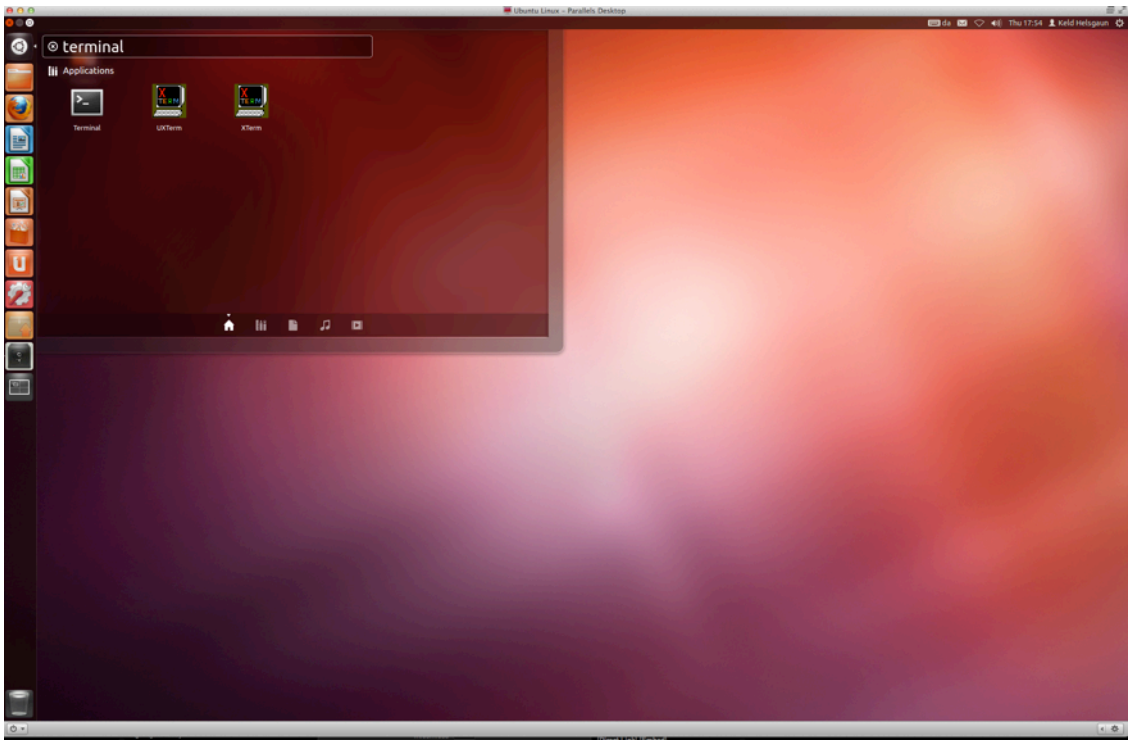
How to Compile and Run a C Program on Ubuntu Linux

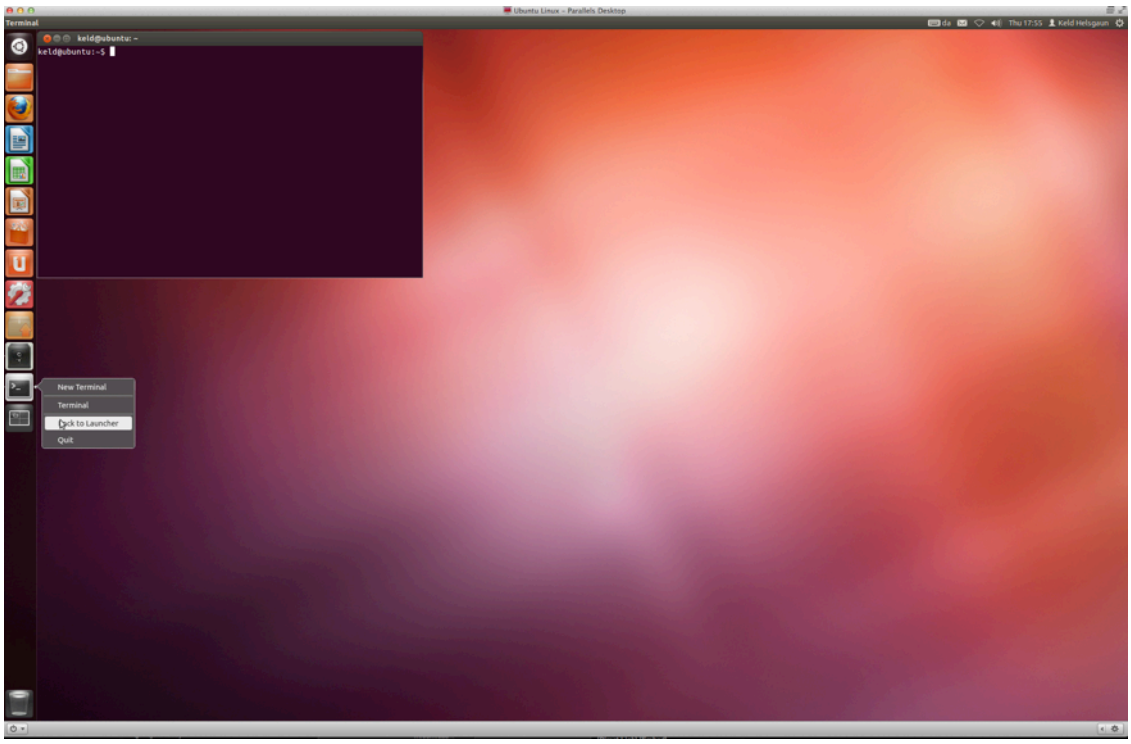
This document shows how to compile and run a C program on Ubuntu Linux using the gcc compiler.

Step 1. Open up a terminal

Search for the terminal application in the Dash tool (located as the topmost item in the Launcher). Open up a terminal by clicking on the icon.



For ease of future access to the terminal application, right click its icon in the Launcher and select “Lock to Launcher”.



Step 2. Use a text editor to create the C source code.

Type the command

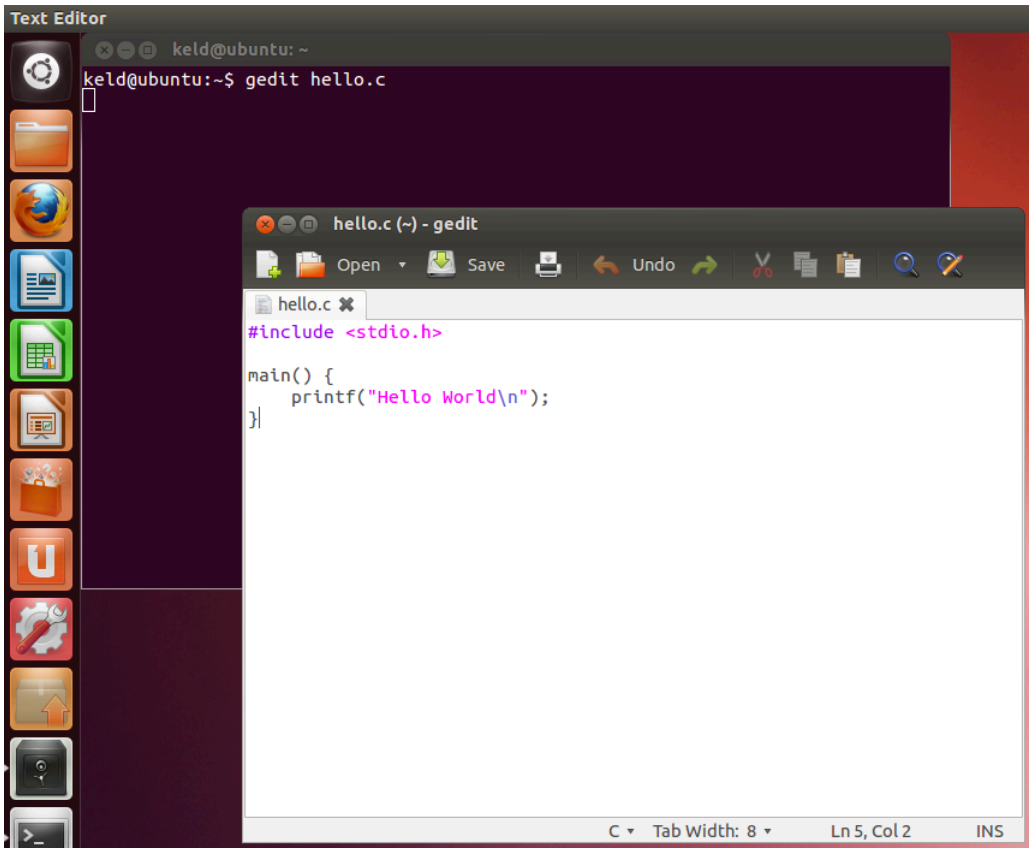
```
gedit hello.c
```

and enter the C source code below:

```
#include <stdio.h>

main() {
    printf("Hello World\n");
}
```

Close the editor window.

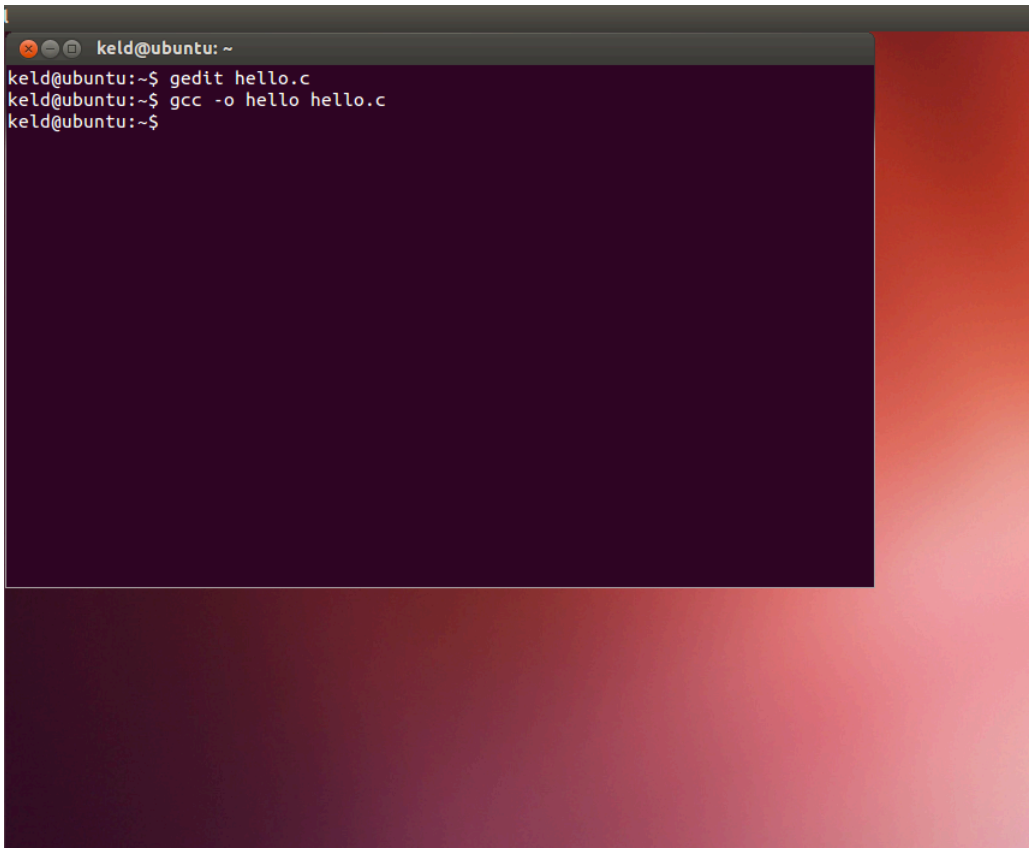


Step 3. Compile the program.

Type the command

```
gcc -o hello hello.c
```

This command will invoke the GNU C compiler to compile the file `hello.c` and output (-o) the result to an executable called `hello`.



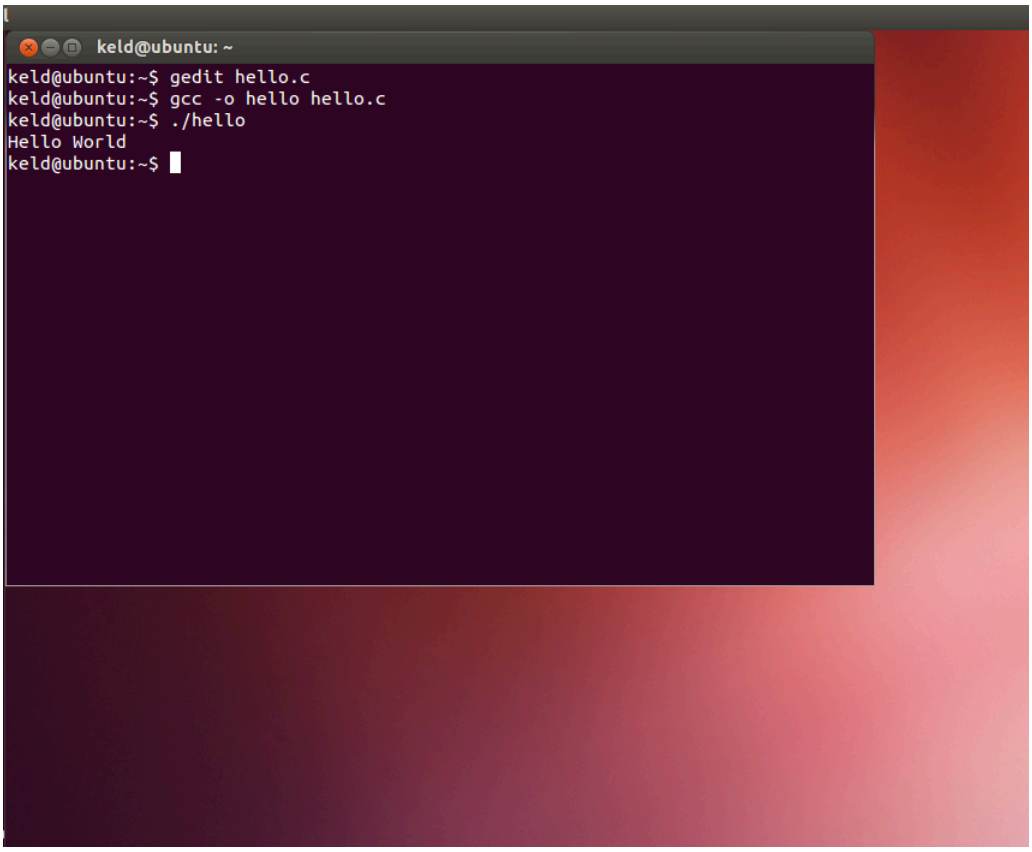
Step 4. Execute the program.

Type the command

```
./hello
```

This should result in the output

```
Hello World
```

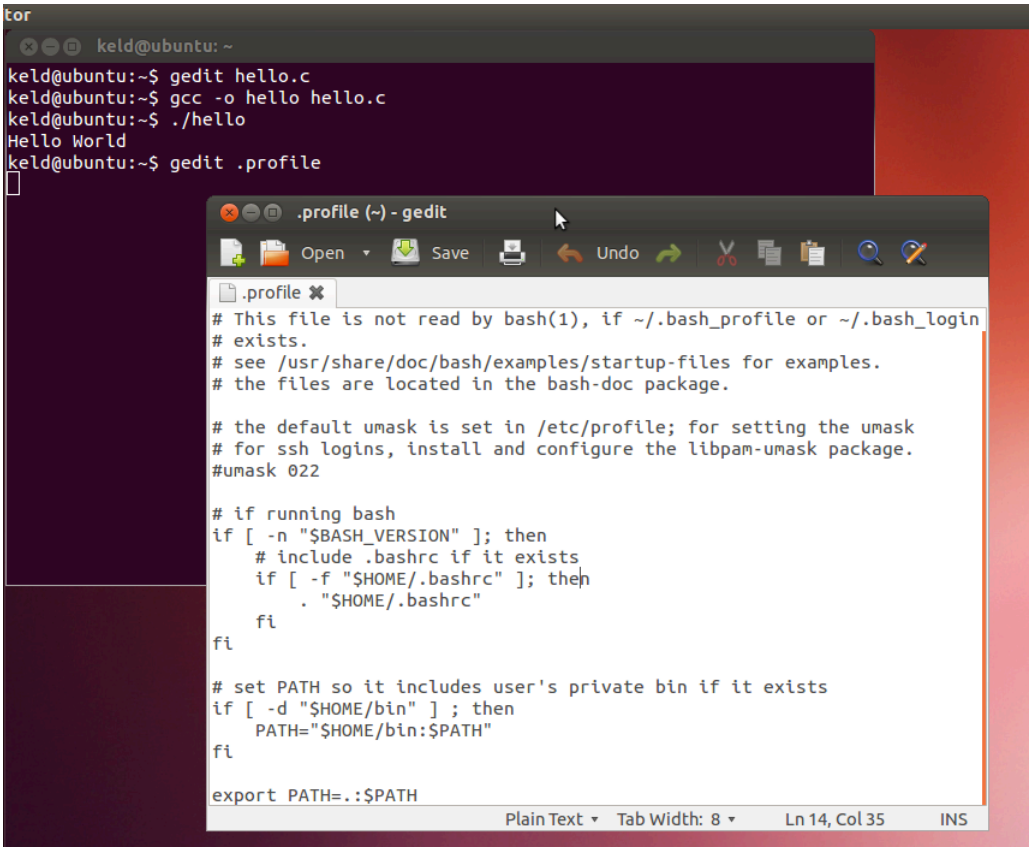


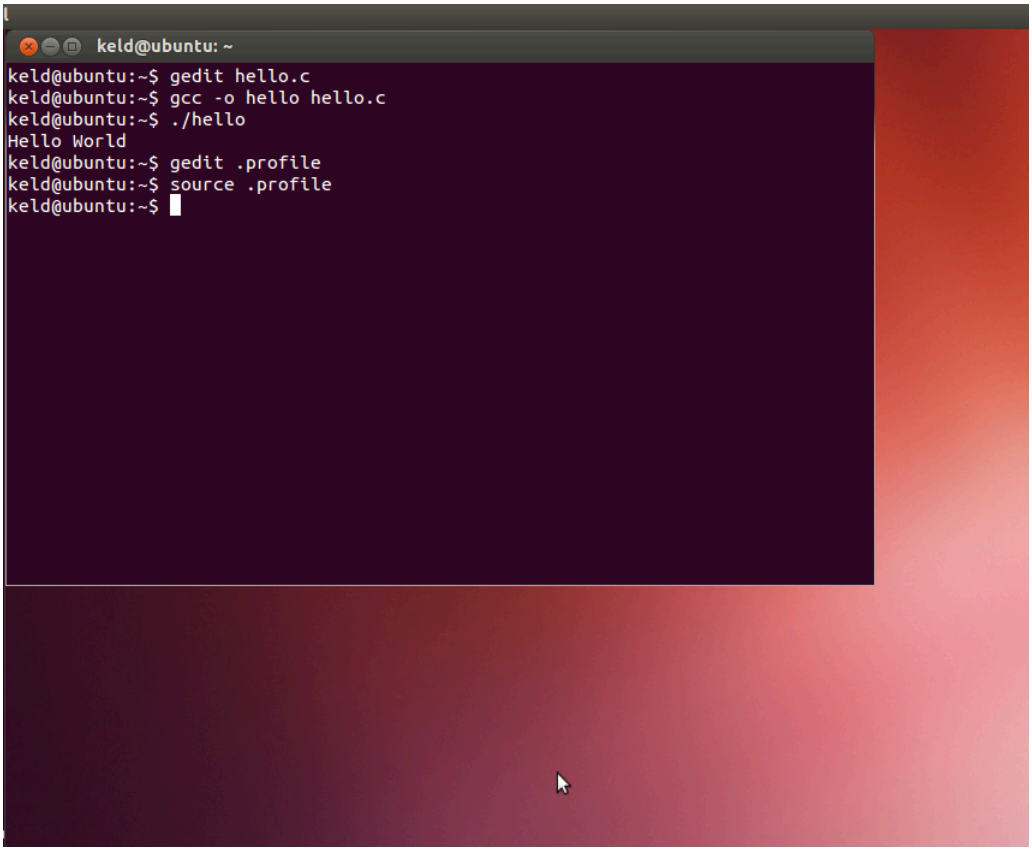
Optional step

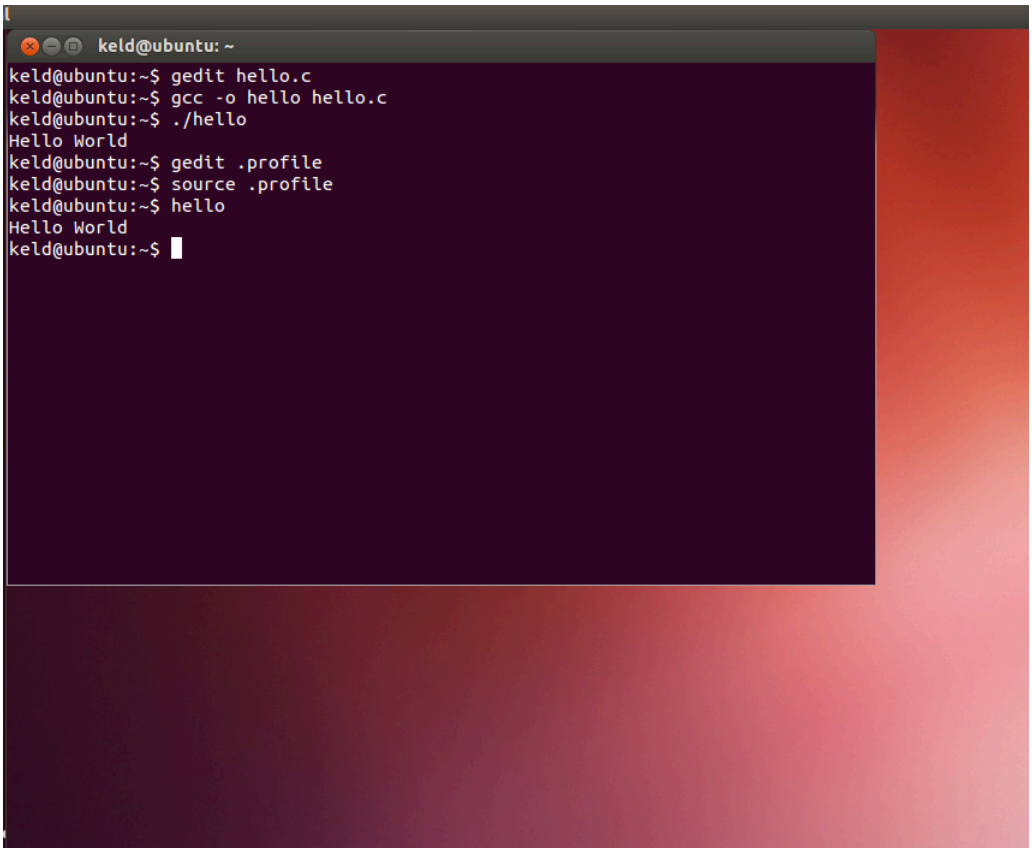
In order to avoid the./ prefix each time a program is to be executed, insert the following as the last line in the file `.profile` (located in your home folder):

```
export PATH=.:$PATH
```

This step needs only to be done once.




keld@ubuntu: ~
keld@ubuntu:~$ gedit hello.c
keld@ubuntu:~$ gcc -o hello hello.c
keld@ubuntu:~$ ./hello
Hello World
keld@ubuntu:~$ gedit .profile
keld@ubuntu:~$ source .profile
keld@ubuntu:~$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