Install an RPM Package on Ubuntu Linux

Installing software on Ubuntu usually entails using Synaptic or by using an apt-get command from the terminal. Unfortunately, there are still a number of packages out there that are only distributed in RPM format.

There's a utility called Alien that converts packages from one format to the other. This doesn't always mean that an rpm will work on your system, though. You will need to install some prerequisite software packages in order to install alien, however. These packages include gcc and make.

Run this command to install alien and other necessary packages:

```
sudo apt-get install alien dpkg-dev debhelper build-essential
```

To convert a package from rpm to debian format, use this command syntax. The sudo may not be necessary, but we'll include it just in case.

```
sudo alien packagename.rpm
```

To install the package, you'll use the dpkg utility, which is the internal package management tool behind debian and Ubuntu.

```
sudo dpkg -i packagename.deb
```

The package should now be installed, providing it's compatible with your system.

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Lowell Heddings, better known online as the How-To Geek, spends all his free time bringing you fresh geekery on a daily basis. You can follow him on Google+ if you'd like.

- **Published 11/27/06**

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