18 – More Package Management, and some distros

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2019 [1]

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Homebrew time
OSX Package Management: Install `brew` on your own

- Sitting in class right now with a Mac?
- **DON’T DO THIS IN CLASS.** You will want to make sure you do not have to interrupt the process.
  - Make sure you have the “Command Line Tools” installed.
  - Instructions are on the First Things First Config Page
- Visit [http://brew.sh/](http://brew.sh/)
  - Copy-paste the given instructions in the terminal as a regular user (**not** `root`).
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** READ WHAT THE OUTPUT IS!!!! It will tell you to do things, and you **have** to do them. Specifically, you should run `'brew doctor'` BEFORE you install anything.
OSX Package Management (brew)

- Installing and uninstalling:
  - Install a formula:
    brew install <fmla1> <fmla2> ... <fmla2>
  - Remove a formula:
    brew uninstall <fmla1> <fmla2> ... <fmlaN>
  - Only one fmla required, but can specify many.
  - “Group” packages have no meaning in brew.

- Updating components:
  - Update brew, all taps, and installed formulae listings. This does not update the actual software you have installed with brew, just the definitions: brew update.
  - Update just installed formulae: brew upgrade.
    - Specify a formula name to only upgrade that formula.

- Searching for packages:
  - Same command: brew search <formula>
Safe: confines itself (by default) in `/usr/local/Cellar`:
- common feature of “non-system” package managers
- No `sudo`, plays nicely with OSX (e.g. Applications, `python3`).
- Non-linking by default. If a conflict is detected, it will tell you.
- Really important to read what `brew` tells you!!!

`brew` is modular. Additional repositories (“taps”) available:
- This concept exists for all package managers

Common taps people use:
- `brew tap homebrew/science`
  - Various “scientific computing” tools, e.g. `opencv`.
- `brew tap caskroom/cask`
  - Install `.app` applications! Safe: installs in the “Cellar”, symlinks to `~/Applications`, but now these update with `brew` all on their own when you `brew update`!
  - E.g. `brew cask install vlc`
• **brew** installs formulas.
  • A **ruby** script that provides rules for where to download something from / how to compile it. Similar concept to **portage**’s bash files

• Sometimes the packager creates a “Bottle”:
  • If a bottle for your version of OSX exists, you don’t have to compile locally.
  • The bottle just gets *downloaded* and then “poured”.

• Otherwise, **brew** downloads the source and compiles locally.
• Though more time consuming, can be quite convenient!
  • **brew** options opencv
  • **brew** install --with-cuda --c++11 opencv
  • It really really really is magical. Just like USE flags in Gentoo!
  • **brew** reinstall --with-missed-option formula
Reiteration: **pay attention to brew and what it says.** Seriously.

Example: after installing **opencv**, it tells me:

```bash
mkdir -p /Users/sven/.local/lib/python2.7/site-packages
echo 'import site; site.addsitedir( \\ 
  "/usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages")' >> \\ 
/Users/sven/.local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/homebrew.pth
```

- **brew** gives copy-paste format, above is just so you can read.
- I want to use **opencv** in **Python**, so I do what **brew** tells me.
Language-specific package management

- Modern programming language environments have their own package managers
  - Haskell: cabal
  - Ocaml: opam
  - Python: conda/pip/pip3
  - Ruby: bundler / gem
  - Rust: cargo

- Works basically exactly like brew
  - separate, user-specific install directory
  - preferred to system packages but does not replace them

- Be careful when using these!
  - system packages are not preferred, but sometimes get used anyway
  - when languages rely on external packages, things get really hairy
Other Managers
Like What?

- There are so many package managers out there for different things, too many to list them all!
- Ruby: `gem`
- Anaconda Python: `conda`
- Python: `pip`
- Python: `easy_install` (but really, just use `pip`)
- Python3: `pip3`
- LaTeX: `tlmgr` (uses the CTAN database)
  - Must install TeX from source to get `tlmgr`
- Perl: `cpan`
- Sublime Text: `Package Control`
- Many many others...
• Some notes and warnings about Python package management.
• Notes:
  • If you want X in Python 2 and 3:
    • `pip install X and pip3 install X`
  • OSX Specifically: advise only using `brew` or Anaconda Python. The system Python can get really damaged if you modify it, you are better off leaving it alone.
  • So even if you want to use `python2` on Mac, I strongly encourage you to install it with `brew`.
• Warnings:
  • Don’t mix `easy_install` and `pip`. Choose one, stick with it.
    • But the internet told me if I want `pip` on Mac, I should `easy_install pip`
    • NO! Because this `pip` will modify your system python, USE BREW.
  • Don’t mix `pip` with `conda`. If you have Anaconda python, just stick to using `conda`. 
Concepts in language-specific (per-user) package management

- Packages do not require root to install
- Packages installed to *per-user* directory
  - normally a “dotfile” directory in your home
  - better-behaved things in `~/.local/share`
- need to change your environment variables to use correctly
  - usually at least `$PATH` and `$LD_LIBRARY_PATH`
  - sometimes also `$JAVA_HOME`, `$PYTHON_PATH`, etc
- can control selection of package managers with edits to `$PATH`
Demo: the language-specific package managers I have installed.
Choosing a Linux Distro, revisited
What is a linux distro?

- Custom combination of
  - kernel version,
  - default shell
  - package manager
  - graphical interface

- there are TOO MANY of these
  - open source: anyone can make one

- Most of the differences between distros are cosmetic
- Only very few “families” of distros with serious and important differences
What to consider when choosing a distro

- familiarity
  - how much of a learning curve will this be for me?

- popularity
  - how likely am I to find people on the internet who’ve seen my problems?

- community
  - Linux is very user-supported. How nice people on the internet are matters for your daily life.
  - Want to find a community where you feel supported and welcome
  - different distros are popular with different languages

- your use case
  - why do you want linux?
  - how often do you need or want bleeding-edge stuff?
  - what programs need to work for you?
Evaluating familiarity

- Package manager is most important
  - Ubuntu from *debian* family (uses .deb)
  - Fedora from *RedHat* family (uses .rpm)
  - distros will tell you where they’re from
- Desktop environment is second-most important
- Rest of it doesn’t matter too much.
More about desktop environments

• Refers to “Graphical Shell” – the actual graphical part of the OS
  • Windows Explorer is the Windows Desktop Environment
  • Cocoa was the Mac Desktop environment (I think they changed that now?)

• Most important part of your daily computer experience
• Defines the look and feel of your OS
• Lots and lots of alternatives out there
• We’ll look at these at the end of lecture (and maybe next time too)
Evaluating popularity

- distrowatch.com
- Check their forums and website
- ask your friends
- look in the windows store (no really)
Evaluating community

- Read through random forum posts, especially of the “how do I install it” variety
- go on IRC (or whatever has replaced it) for the distro
  - really old chat service
  - basically only used for Linux user support
- Check the wikis or other user-contribute items
Your use case

• Need stability and easy access to a terminal?
  • Maybe MacOS terminal / Windows Subsystem for Linux are good enough

• Need stability, terminal, and linux-specific hardware or graphics management?
  • Ubuntu and Debian
  • there are lots of distros based on one of these
  • they’re all basically just as good as the next – differences are in customization, not essential

• Need serious security?
  • Linux in general is very secure
  • if you’re very invested in security, find a security-focused distro
Your use case

• Need access to bleeding-edge software without upgrading your system?
  • docker might be good enough for you
  • if not, consider a rolling-release distro
  • can also consider a “bleeding” distro that emphasizes early package access

• Want to seriously get into the internals of your distro/customize packages?
  • Gentoo or Arch, or something based on those.
[1] Stephen McDowell, Bruno Abrahao, Hussam Abu-Libdeh, Nicolas Savva, David Slater, and others over the years. “Previous Cornell CS 2043 Course Slides”. 