

# Ubuntu Server Upgrade Steps

Ubuntu also constantly updates itself with newer versions. If you're using the desktop, you'll be prompted when an update is available and receive instructions on the process. However, on the server, you may not have this privilege. So updating Ubuntu server will involve running a few command lines.

Ubuntu is one of the most popular operating systems on servers for running websites. Additionally, VPS providers like DigitalOcean, Vultr, and Linode make it even easier to install Ubuntu with just a few clicks.

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However, on the server, you may not have this privilege. So updating Ubuntu server will involve running a few command lines. Learn how to do that through the following article!

## Condition

Before you start, it's a good idea to have a backup of your website files and database or a snapshot (record of all settings) of your server. This way you can always revert to the previous state of the server in case the update fails or something on the site goes down.

If you're running a production site where users are constantly using the site, you might want to send them a notification that the site will be momentarily under maintenance.

Finally, you need to have root or pseudo access to the server as it will require high privileges to run the update operation.

Once all these prerequisites are in place, you can get started.

## Version check

First, check the current Ubuntu version you have. As can be seen in the image below, the current version the example is running is Ubuntu 18.04 LTS.



```
root@ubuntu:~# lsb_release -a
No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Ubuntu
Description:   Ubuntu 18.04.5 LTS
Release:      18.04
Codename:     bionic
root@ubuntu:~#
```

LTS (Long-term Support) means that it will be provided by Canonical with updates, security patches, and support for at least 5 years, plus a few more years for maintenance releases, during when the non-LTS version is only supported for about 1 year.

At the time of writing, the current LTS version is 20.04. So the article will update it to 20.04.

## Clean and update packages

First, delete the files in the local repositories that can't be downloaded anymore, and remove obsolete packages that were automatically installed, as these files are now mostly useless. To do this:

Step 1. Type the command:

```
apt clean && apt autoclean && apt autoremove -y
```




```
root@ubuntu:~# apt autoclean && apt autoremove
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
```

Step 2. Then type the following command to update the package index list and repositories, as well as upgrade some packages:

```
apt update && apt dist-upgrade -y
```

The dist-upgrade command also fixes some conflicts on installed packages and dependencies, so it can also remove some packages that are no longer in use.



```
root@ubuntu:~# apt update && apt dist-upgrade -y
Get:1 http://mirrors.digitalocean.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease [242 kB]
Hit:2 http://mirrors.digitalocean.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://mirrors.digitalocean.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease
Get:4 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
Fetched 331 kB in 1s (361 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
40 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
```

Step 3. In this step, you may have to restart the server after performing these package upgrades. So when you're prompted to reboot, type:

```
reboot
```

This command will automatically log you out of the current SSH session. Wait a while and then re-login SSH.

# Upgrade Ubuntu Release

Now, you've got everything covered, updating and dealing with packages in Ubuntu. Next, you can perform the Ubuntu upgrade.

Step 1. To upgrade Ubuntu, enter the following command:

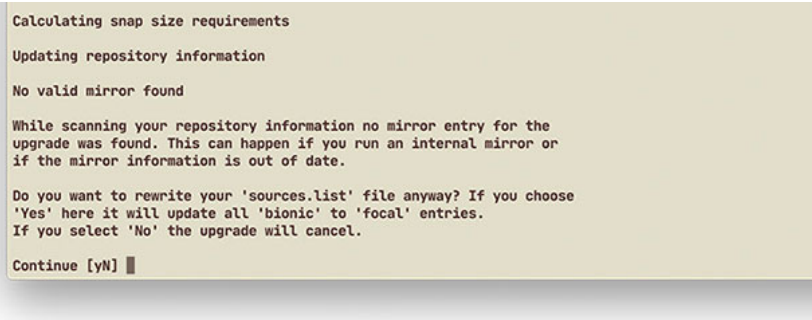
```
do-release-upgrade
```

Step 2. This process will first ask you to perform the upgrade on a new SSH daemon. Type 'y' to continue.



```
root@ubuntu:~# do-release-upgrade
Checking for a new Ubuntu release
Get:1 Upgrade tool signature [1554 B]
Get:2 Upgrade tool [1340 kB]
Fetched 1342 kB in 0s (0 B/s)
authenticate 'focal.tar.gz' against 'focal.tar.gz.gpg'
extracting 'focal.tar.gz'
```

Step 3. Second, it will ask to update the package repositories list to Ubuntu 20.04 ('Focal' Fossa). So type 'y' when you want all the list to be updated, then continue.



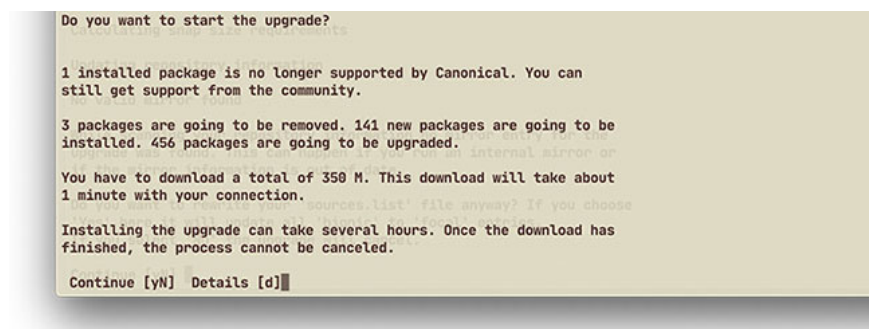
```
Calculating snap size requirements
Updating repository information
No valid mirror found

While scanning your repository information no mirror entry for the
upgrade was found. This can happen if you run an internal mirror or
if the mirror information is out of date.

Do you want to rewrite your 'sources.list' file anyway? If you choose
'Yes' here it will update all 'bionic' to 'focal' entries.
If you select 'No' the upgrade will cancel.

Continue [yN]
```

Step 4. Next, the number of packages and downloads for the upgrade will be confirmed, and the upgrade can take hours. This is usually true when you are upgrading on your local computer, but server upgrades are usually faster.



```
Do you want to start the upgrade?

1 installed package is no longer supported by Canonical. You can
still get support from the community.

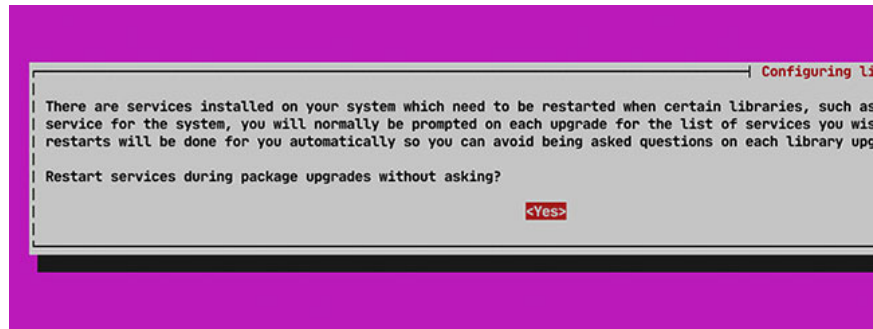
3 packages are going to be removed. 141 new packages are going to be
installed. 456 packages are going to be upgraded.

You have to download a total of 350 M. This download will take about
1 minute with your connection.

Installing the upgrade can take several hours. Once the download has
finished, the process cannot be canceled.

Continue [yN] Details [d]
```

Step 5. During the upgrade process, you will also receive a message as shown below. This indicates that the upgrade will update some running services and requires a service restart. Select 'Yes' so that the device does not ask for permission every time it needs to be restarted.



Step 6. Now, wait for the upgrade to proceed. At the end of the process, it will ask you to reboot again.

Those are all the steps to upgrade Ubuntu on your VPS. When you log back into SSH after rebooting, you'll be greeted with the new version: Ubuntu 20.04.

Hope you are succesful.

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