

Local Ubuntu repositories with apt-mirror



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Agenda

- **What is it? Why use it?**
- **Installing**
- **Configuring**
- **Usage**
- **Using plugins**

- **Lab & Exercises: Create a local repository and make your other machines use that!**

apt-mirror

What? Why?

- **Running Ubuntu on many machines on your (and you users) network, you will have frequent need for updates - this creates a significant amount of network traffic. And it can be very slow!**
- **Creating a local mirror once, and then making it available to other people (e.g. over the network, on USB drive or DVDs) near you can be a great way to help building networks and user satisfaction!**
- **Cascading mirrors in a meaningful way multiplies the benefits!**

Installing apt-mirror

- **apt-mirror is part of the Ubuntu repositories, so it may be installed via apt-get:**
 - > **apt-get install apt-mirror**

Configuring apt-mirror

- **Running a default install, apt-mirror will create its repository in**

`/var/spool/mirror`

and the files will be in, e.g.

`/var/spool/apt-mirror/archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu`

- **It can be a good idea to point this to an external disk instead, e.g.**

`/var/spool/apt-mirror# ln -s /media/<your_disk>/apt-mirror/mirror/`

Configuring apt-mirror

- **If you want that repository to be reachable from the outside as**

http://<yourIP>/ubuntu

you need to create a symlink in /var/www, like so:

**ubuntu -> /var/spool/apt-mirror/mirror/archive.ubuntu.com/
ubuntu**

- **Apt-mirror has its config file here:**

/etc/apt/mirror.list

in a default install, it copies its settings from your existing

/etc/apt/sources.list (your machines' Ubuntu repo settings)

- take a look at both to verify they use reasonable repos.

Using apt-mirror

- **Do an initial**

```
>apt-mirror
```

This will take a looooooong time - once! (~50GB!)

- **If you can, do this against another repository nearby, or - even better - fill the initial repo from a DVD or disk**
- **Also make sure that you do not cause trouble for the line owner, by running over the cap, or causing a huge bill!**
- **If this is all fine, go ahead.**
- **Later updates will be a lot smaller and faster!**

Using

Your new repository

- **Now you can do the following on all other machines on your network:**
- **Find the apt configuration files in /etc/apt**
- **Make backup copy of sources.list and then:**

Change all occurrences of the old (external) repositories to your new (internal) repository!

- **Then try a test install of some package you need, or a full upgrade - you will notice a speed difference! :)**

Finetuning **apt-mirror**

- **Once you have the basics running, get familiar with the single entries in your mirror.list, make decisions on where to get what, what to exclude and so forth.**
- **Make sure apt-mirror appears in your cron jobs!**



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Sources: this presentation from
<http://wirelessu.org/node/148>