

# How To Install Git on Ubuntu 12.04

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## About Git

Git is a distributed version control system released to the public in 2005. The program allows for non-linear development of projects, and can handle large amounts of data effectively by storing it on the local server.

This tutorial will cover two ways to install Git.

## How to Install Git with Apt-Get

Installing Git with apt-get is a quick and easy process. The program installs on the virtual private server with one command:

```
sudo apt-get install git-core
```

After it finishes downloading, you will have Git installed and ready to use.

## How to Install Git from Source

If you are eager to download the most recent version of Git, it is generally a good idea to install it from the source.

Quickly run apt-get update to make sure that you download the most recent packages to your VPS.

```
sudo apt-get update
```

Prior to installing Git itself, download all of the required dependancies:

```
sudo apt-get install libcurl4-gnutls-dev libexpat1-dev gettext libz-dev  
libssl-dev build-essential
```

Once they are installed, you can download the latest version of Git from the google code page.

```
wget https://git-core.googlecode.com/files/git-1.8.1.2.tar.gz
```

After it downloads, untar the file and switch into that directory:

```
tar -zxf git-1.8.1.2.tar.gz
```

```
cd git-1.8.1.2
```

If you want to do a global install, install it once as yourself and once as root, using the sudo prefix:

```
make prefix=/usr/local all
```

```
sudo make prefix=/usr/local install
```

If you need to update Git in the future, you can use Git itself to do it.

```
git clone git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/git/git.git
```

## How to Setup Git

After Git is installed, whether from apt-get or from the source, you need to copy your username and email in the gitconfig file. You can access this file at ~/.gitconfig.

Opening it following a fresh Git install would reveal a completely blank page:

```
sudo nano ~/.gitconfig
```

You can use the follow commands to add in the required information.

```
git config --global user.name "NewUser"
```

```
git config --global user.email newuser@example.com
```

You can see all of your settings with this command:

```
git config --list
```

If you avoid putting in your username and email, git will later attempt to fill it in for you, and you may end up with a message like this:

```
[master 0d9d21d] initial project version
```

```
Committer: root
```

Your name and email address were configured automatically based

on your username and hostname. Please check that they are accurate.

You can suppress this message by setting them explicitly:

```
git config --global user.name "Your Name"
```

```
git config --global user.email you@example.com
```

After doing this, you may fix the identity used for this commit with:

```
git commit --amend --reset-author
```