

Setting Up Automatic Updates for the Ubuntu Server

The unattended-upgrades function can load automatic updates to your server.

1. Login to the Ubuntu server using the username and password
2. First, we need to install the upgrade package

```
username@ubuntu1:~$ sudo apt-get install unattended-upgrades
```

3. Then we need to edit the nano /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/50unattended-upgrades file

```
username@ubuntu1:~$ sudo nano /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/50unattended-upgrades
```

And read the following code:¹

```
// Automatically upgrade packages from these (origin, archive) pairs
Unattended-Upgrade::Allowed-Origins {
    // ${distro_id} and ${distro_codename} will be automatically expanded
    "${distro_id} stable";
    "${distro_id} ${distro_codename}-security";
    "${distro_id} ${distro_codename}-updates";
    // "${distro_id} ${distro_codename}-proposed-updates";
};

// List of packages to not update
Unattended-Upgrade::Package-Blacklist {
    // "vim";
    // "libc6";
    // "libc6-dev";
    // "libc6-i686";
};

// Send email to this address for problems or packages upgrades
// If empty or unset then no email is sent, make sure that you
// have a working mail setup on your system. The package 'mailx'
// must be installed or anything that provides /usr/bin/mail.
//Unattended-Upgrade::Mail "root@localhost";

// Do automatic removal of new unused dependencies after the upgrade
// (equivalent to apt-get autoremove)
//Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-Unused-Dependencies "false";

// Automatically reboot *WITHOUT CONFIRMATION* if a
// the file /var/run/reboot-required is found after the upgrade
//Unattended-Upgrade::Automatic-Reboot "false";
```

¹Automatic Security Updates, 2011, Ubuntu.com website, July 14, 2011,
<<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/AutomaticSecurityUpdates>>

By placing the double forward slash in front of an update, we make that line a comment and it will not be read by the computer. Remove the double forward slash, and update will happen.

Updates can also be listed in the blacklist column that will not be added to the server daily.

4. We press CTRL – X and then “y” for yes to save the file and Enter.
5. To enable automatic updates, we need to edit the /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/10periodic file and set the appropriate apt configuration options:

```
username@ubuntu1:~$ sudo nano /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/10periodic
```

And modify the code as shown²

```
APT::Periodic::Enable "1";  
APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";  
APT::Periodic::Download-Upgradeable-Packages "1";  
APT::Periodic::AutocleanInterval "5";  
APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";  
APT::Periodic::RandomSleep "1800";
```

6. We press CTRL – X and then “y” for yes to save the file and Enter.

² Automatic Security Updates, 2011, Ubuntu.com website, July 14, 2011,
<<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/AutomaticSecurityUpdates>>