

Auto Update Setup

To configure **Ubuntu** to automatically update and upgrade all packages, including security and general updates, follow this **step-by-step documentation**:

Objective

Automatically **update** (fetch the latest package information) and **upgrade** (install latest versions of installed packages) Ubuntu without manual intervention.

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Install `unattended-upgrades`

Ubuntu uses the `unattended-upgrades` package to perform automatic updates.

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install unattended-upgrades
```

2. Enable `unattended-upgrades`

Enable automatic updates system-wide:

```
sudo dpkg-reconfigure --priority=low unattended-upgrades
```

- This command brings up a prompt. Choose **"Yes"** to enable automatic updates.
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3. Configure the Update Settings

Edit the configuration file to define what gets updated:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/50unattended-upgrades
```

Recommended Settings in the file:

Make sure the following lines are **uncommented** (no `//` at the beginning):

```
"${distro_id}:${distro_codename}-security";  
"${distro_id}:${distro_codename}-updates";  
"${distro_id}:${distro_codename}-backports";
```

“`distro_id` is usually `Ubuntu`, and `distro_codename` is like `focal`, `jammy`, etc.

Optional settings you may want to enable:

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-Unused-Dependencies "true";  
Unattended-Upgrade::Automatic-Reboot "true";  
Unattended-Upgrade::Automatic-Reboot-Time "03:00";
```

4. Set Update Frequency

Edit or create this file:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
```

Insert or update these lines:

```
APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";  
APT::Periodic::Download-Upgradeable-Packages "1";  
APT::Periodic::AutocleanInterval "7";  
APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";
```

Explanation:

- `"1"` = daily
- Autoclean removes downloaded packages older than 7 days

5. Check Logs (Optional)

After auto-updates run, logs are stored here:

```
/var/log/unattended-upgrades/
```

Use:

```
less /var/log/unattended-upgrades/unattended-upgrades.log
```

Verification

To simulate what will be upgraded:

```
sudo unattended-upgrade --dry-run --debug
```

Result

With these settings, your Ubuntu system will:

- Check for updates daily
- Automatically install all available upgrades (including security, updates, backports)
- Reboot if needed (optional)

Let me know if you want a version tailored for **servers**, **desktops**, or **containers** (e.g. Docker).

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