

# HOW TO PERFORM UNATTENDED UPGRADES

I have been using unattended upgrades on development machines since the end of last November, when I installed Debian Jessie release.

## Installation

You are required to install the following package.

```
$ sudo apt-get install unattended-upgrades
```

## Configuration

### Location of the configuration file

Configuration is stored inside `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/50unattended-upgrades` file.

### Supported package sources

Use `Origins-Pattern` directive to define examined package sources.

Only packages from matched repositories will be upgraded.

Use following code to upgrade packages only from the current distribution including additional updates.

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Origins-Pattern {  
    "o=Debian,n=${distro_codename}";
```

```
"o=Debian,n=${distro_codename}-updates";  
}
```

`${distro_codename}` macro will be expanded to distribution name - it will be `jessie` in this case.

As an alternative to the previous example, use following code to install every upgrade available through the used sources lists.

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Origins-Pattern {  
    "o=*";  
}
```

The following example will help you understand keywords used in the above-mentioned configuration samples.

```
$ apt-cache policy  
[..  
100 http://ftp.pl.debian.org/debian/ jessie-backports/main amd64 Packages  
    release o=Debian Backports,a=jessie-backports,n=jessie-backports,l=Debian  
Backports,c=main  
    origin ftp.pl.debian.org  
[..]
```

Keyword	Definition	Example
<code>o</code>	origin	Debian Backports

a	archive	jessie-backports
n	codename	jessie-backports
l	label	Debian Backports
c	component	main
site	FQDN	ftp.pl.debian.org

## Blacklist

Use blacklist directive to define list of not upgraded packages.

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Package-Blacklist {  
    "atom";  
    "angband*";  
};
```

## Remove orphaned dependencies

Use the following directive to automatically remove packages that were installed to satisfy dependencies, but currently are not needed.

This directive is equivalent to `apt-get autoremove` command.

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-Unused-Dependencies "true";
```

## Bandwidth cap

The following code will impose bandwidth cap [KB/s] on apt utilities.

```
Acquire::http::Dl-Limit "400";
```

## E-mail notifications

Use following code to define email address and set notification for every action.

```
Unattended-Upgrade::Mail "root";  
Unattended-Upgrade::MailOnlyOnError "false";
```

## Other options

More options are available for user like *whitelist* or *automatic reboot*. These are well documented inside configuration file, so I will just skip them for the sake of simplicity.

## Execution

Update and upgrade process is initiated daily from `/etc/cron.daily/apt` cron task.

Installation process will not automatically enable unattended upgrades.

The interactive way to enable or disable unattended upgrades is to reconfigure package.

```
$ sudo dpkg-reconfigure unattended-upgrades
```

The non interactive way to enable whole process requires simple copy command.

```
$ sudo cp /usr/share/unattended-upgrades/20auto-upgrades /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
```

The non interactive way to disable whole process is very similar to the above one.

```
$ sudo cp /usr/share/unattended-upgrades/20auto-upgrades-disabled /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
```

The `/usr/share/unattended-upgrades/20auto-upgrades` file contains only two directives that enable automatic update and upgrade process. The second one contains opposite settings.

```
APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";  
APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";
```

## Ending notes

Please read `unattended-upgrade` manual page and `/usr/share/doc/unattended-upgrades//README.md.gz` documentation.

This software is often used together with `apt-listchanges` and `aptime` apt notification utilities. I will not describe these useful packages now, but remember that you can always transmit a mail to an external SMTP server using `msmtp` utility.

Source: <https://blog.sleeplessbeastie.eu/2015/01/02/how-to-perform-unattended-upgrades/>