How to extract a deb package on Debian, Ubuntu, Mint Linux and other non debian based distributions

Author : admin

How to extract a deb package?

Have you ever had a debian .deb package which contains image files you need, but the dependencies doesn't allow you to install it on your Debian / Ubuntu / Mint Linux release? I had just recently downloaded the ultimate-edition-themes latest release v 0.0.7 **a large pack of GNOME Themes and wanted to install it on my Debian Stretch Linux but I faced problems because of dependencies when trying to install with dpkg.**

  That is why I took another appoarch and decided to only extract the necessery themes from the archive only with dpkg.

  Here is how I have extracted **ultimate-edition-themes-.0.0.7_all.deb** ;

     dpkg -x ultimate-edition-themes-.0.0.7_all.deb /tmp/ultimate-edition-themes

So how dpkg extracts the .deb file?

Debian **.deb** packages are a regular more in Wikipedia - [Unix archive files (ar)](#) .

The structure of a deb file consists of another 3 files (2 tar.gzs and one binary) as follows:

> **debian-binary**: *regular text file, contains the version of the deb package format*
> **control.tar.gz**: *compressed file, contains file md5sums and control directory for the deb package*
> **data.tar.gz**: *compressed file, contains all the files which will be installed*

Basicly if you're on a Linux distribution that lacks **dpkg** you can easily extract .deb binary using **GNU AR** command *(used to create, modify extract Unix ar files and is the GNU / Linux equivallent of the UNIX ar command).*

To extract on Fedora or RPM based Linux distributions as well as BSDs with AR:

First print file conetnt with:

> *ar p* **ultimate-edition-themes-.0.0.7_all.deb**
> **...**

Then extract it with:

> *ar x* **ultimate-edition-themes-.0.0.7_all.deb**

Later just extract with tar (untar), the 2 other archived files contained in the .deb (ar) archive:

tar -zxvvf control.tar.gz; tar -zxxvf data.tar.gz

Get everything you need from there in my case that's the **usr/share/themes** folder, then **enjoy life :)**