How to install TeX Live on Linux

Slackware installs TeX Live by default. However, extra packages and documentation require root permissions to install. This HOWTO explains how to install TeX Live as a non-root user.

Shared non-root installation

The initial installation size for this method is larger (~9.6GB), but it can save disk storage on shared machines, since users use the same installation. It also does not require tlmgr for additional packages.

```
# download the installer
cd /tmp
wget https://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet/install-tl-unx.tar.gz

# uncompress it
tar xvf install-tl-unx.tar.gz

# install it
(
cd install-tl-[0-9]*
version=$(sed '/version [0-9]/!d; s/.*version //' release-texlive.txt)
# --texmfhome must be ~/usr/local/share/texmf, not hardcoded
$HOME/usr/local/share/texmf
./install-tl \
    --no-interaction \
    --texdir=$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/$version \
    --texmflocal=$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/texmf-local \
    --texmfhome=~/usr/local/share/texmf \
    --scheme=full \
    --paper=letter

# create a symlink for paths
cd ~/usr/local/opt/texlive
ln -s $version current
)

# delete the installer
rm -rf install-tl-*

# add paths to TeX Live
cat << 'EOT' >> ~/.bash_profile

# TeX Live
export PATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/bin/x86_64-linux:$PATH"
export MANPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-dist/doc/man:$MANPATH"
```

```
export INFOPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-
dist/doc/info:$INFOPATH"
EOT

# read them into the current session
. ~/.bash_profile
```

For other users,

```
# create the same directory structure
mkdir -p ~/usr/local/opt ~/usr/local/share/texmf

# create a symbolic link to the above installation
ln -sf ~hcho/usr/local/opt/texlive ~/usr/local/opt

# add paths to TeX Live
cat << 'EOT' >> ~/.bash_profile

# TeX Live
export PATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/bin/x86_64-linux:$PATH"
export MANPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-
dist/doc/man:$MANPATH"
export INFOPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-
dist/doc/info:$INFOPATH"
EOT

# read them into the current session
. ~/.bash_profile
```

Per-user installation

The initial installation size for this method is smaller (~330M) because it installs only the basic
scheme and requires tlmgr to install additional packages. However, this method can take up too much
space when used on shared machines, since each user must install it.

```
# download the installer
cd /tmp
wget https://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet/install-tl-unx.tar.gz

# uncompress it
tar xvf install-tl-unx.tar.gz

# install it
(
cd install-tl-[0-9]*
version=$(sed '/version [0-9]/!d; s/.*version //' release-texlive.txt)
# --texmfhome can be hardcoded as $HOME/usr/local/share/texmf
```

```
./install-tl \
    --no-interaction \
    --texdir=$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/$version \
    --texmflocal=$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/texmf-local \
    --texmfhome=~/usr/local/share/texmf \
    --scheme=basic \
    --paper=letter

# create a symlink for paths
cd ~/usr/local/opt/texlive
ln -s $version current
)

# delete the installer
rm -rf install-tl-*

# add paths to TeX Live
cat << 'EOT' >> ~/.bash_profile

# TeX Live
export PATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/bin/x86_64-linux:$PATH"
export MANPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-dist/doc/man:$MANPATH"
export INFOPATH="$HOME/usr/local/opt/texlive/current/texmf-dist/doc/info:$INFOPATH"
EOT

# read them into the current session
. ~/.bash_profile
```

Use tlmgr (already installed with TeX Live) to install new packages.

You can use Kile (already installed by Slackware) to edit and compile LaTeX files. If you like Vim or Neovim, VimTeX is a great plugin.

For reference management, JabRef is good for BibTeX. I can install it for you.

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