

# How do I install Debathena on my personal computer?

## Q: How do I install Debathena on my personal computer?

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## Context

You want to install one of the Debathena metapackages on your personal computer. The current version of Debathena is [Debathena Trusty (14.04) Release Notes].

## Answer

1. Make sure that your personal computer is running a supported Ubuntu or Debian distribution. Debathena is not a stand-alone operating system: it is a suite of packages designed to install on top of a current release of Ubuntu or Debian Linux. You should already have Ubuntu or Debian configured, and connected to MITnet before you attempt to install Debathena.
  - Currently supported versions:
    - Ubuntu: 14.04, 12.04, 10.04
    - Debian: 6.0 ("squeeze"), 7.0 ("wheezy")
  - **Note:** Not sure what to install? We recommend starting with the Ubuntu 14.04 LTS: Check the [system requirements](#) and [download it](#).
  - **Note:** Not sure what version of Ubuntu or Debian you're running? See [How can I tell which version of Ubuntu I'm running?](#) or [Check Debian Version from the Command Line](#).
2. Choose a Debathena-metapackage. Debathena provides various levels of Athena functionality through different metapackages, and each metapackage comes with different levels of support. Choose a metapackage that suits your needs from [Which Debathena metapackage should I install?](#).
3. Double check the system requirements.
  - Make sure you have enough free disk space. If you have less than 20GB of free disk space available, please check the [metapackage information page](#) for disk-space requirements.
  - Make sure you have an uninterrupted Ethernet connection. The bulk of the installation is done over the network, and we recommend a wired Ethernet connection to MITnet when possible. If possible, use an Ethernet cable during the installation.
  - Installing Debathena inside a **virtual machine** (e.g. VMWare, Parallels)? See [What do I need to know about installing Debathena in a virtual machine?](#)
4. Select a mode of installation.
  - Interactive command-line installer (recommended)  
Debathena has an interactive command-line installer that should be easier to use than the manual installation instructions. Choose the Debathena-metapackage that you wish to install from the list below:
    - [How do I install the Debathena-standard metapackage?](#)
    - [How do I install the Debathena-login metapackage?](#)
    - [How do I install the Debathena-login-graphical metapackage?](#)
    - [How do I install the Debathena-workstation metapackage?](#)
  - Unfortunately, the command-line installer does not support installation for Debathena-cluster. See [How do I install Debathena manually?](#) for more information.
  - Manual installation  
If you wish to install Debathena manually, see [How do I install Debathena manually?](#).
  - PXE  
For computers connected directly to MITnet, it may be possible to use MIT's PXE server to install Debathena. For more information, see [How do I install Debathena via PXE?](#).

## Find out more about Debathena

If you have any questions regarding the above steps, you may find the articles [Troubleshooting Debathena installation](#) or [How can I get help with Debathena issues?](#) helpful.

## Subscribe to the mailing list

Please **subscribe to our announcement list**, `debathena-announce@mit.edu`, so that we can send you announcements about changes in the project and important security upgrades. This list is very low-traffic, receiving 2-3 messages per semester at most. You can subscribe in two easy ways:

- using [WebMoira](#) (authentication required)
- [logging into Athena](#) and typing the following command:  
`blanche debathena-announce -a $USER`

To learn more about Debathena, see [[hdarchive:Debathena Landing Page](#)].