

# Linux Users, Groups, and Permissions

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ITT 221: Linux System Administration and Maintenance

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# GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

## ITT-221 Step by Step Template

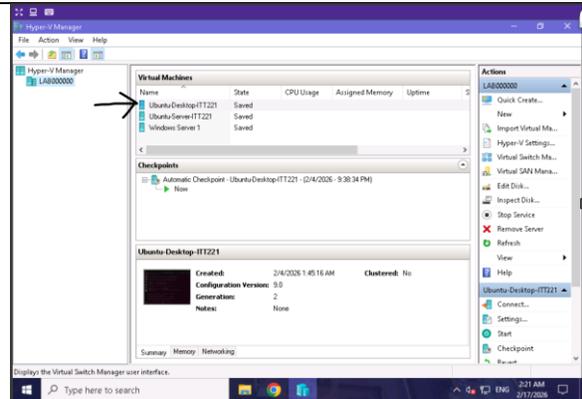
First, we will log into our Virtual Service



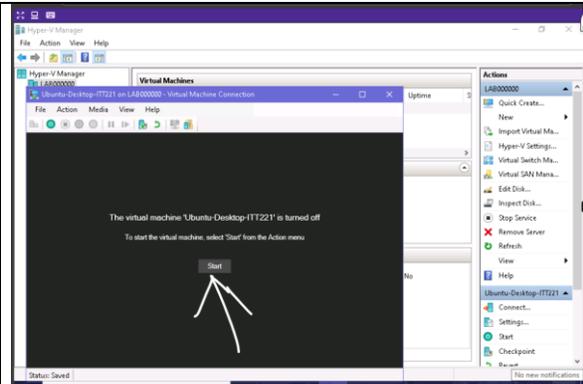
Now we will launch Hyper-V Manager



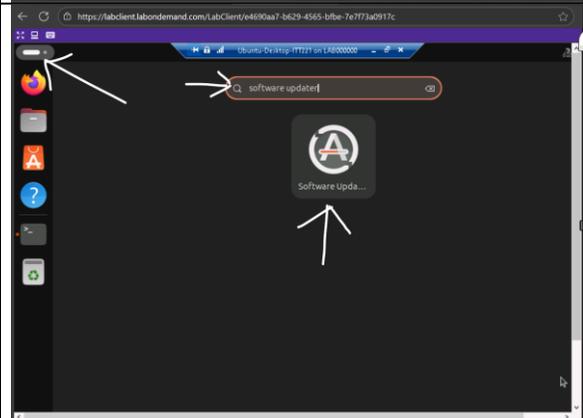
“Double-Click” on the “Ubuntu Desktop” VM



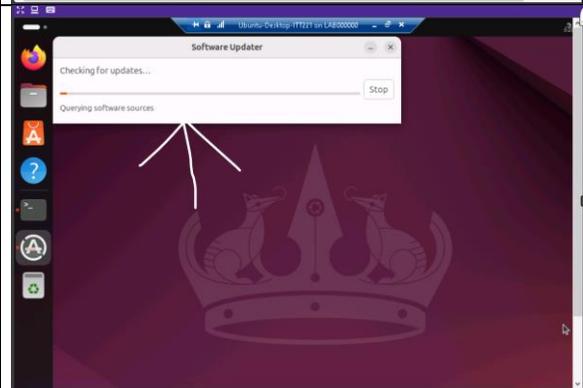
A pop-up menu will appear “click” the “Start” option



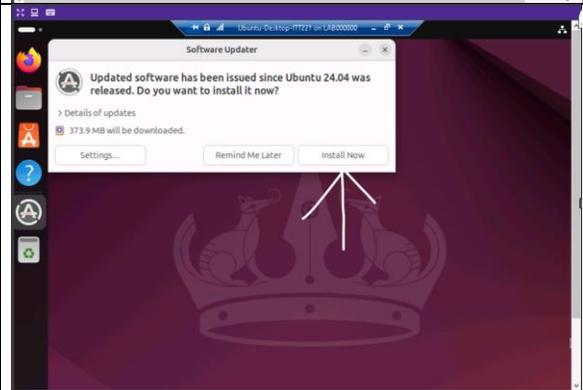
Once you are logged into the “Ubuntu Desktop” in the top left corner click the “activities” option. A window will pop-up. In the search bar type “Software Updater” and “Launch” the application



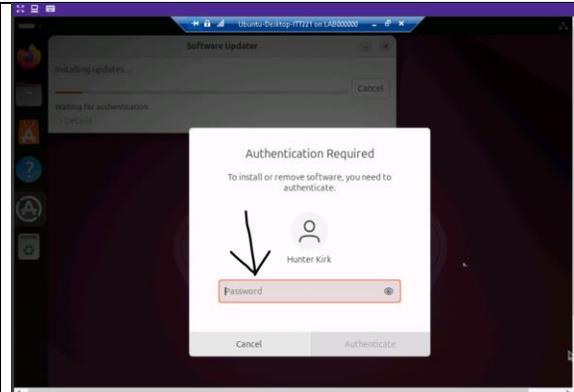
Once you “Launch” the application, your Ubuntu Desktop will automatically start updating your software.



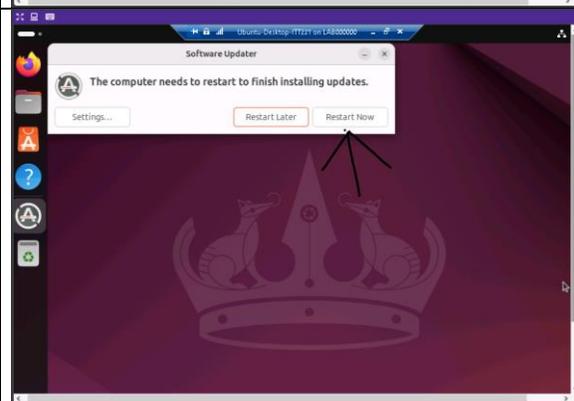
Once the Software Updater has finished checking for updates, you will be asked to install. “Click” the “Install” option



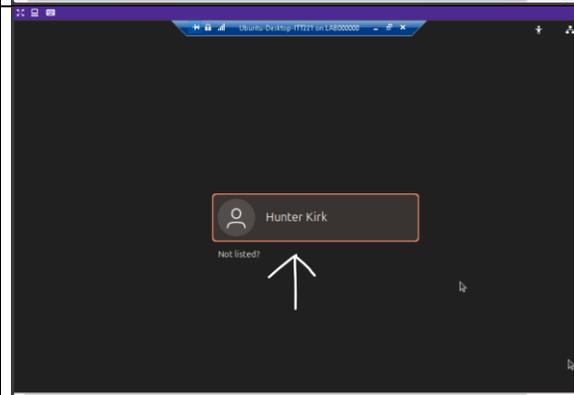
You will then be prompted to input your password. Put your password in and press “enter”



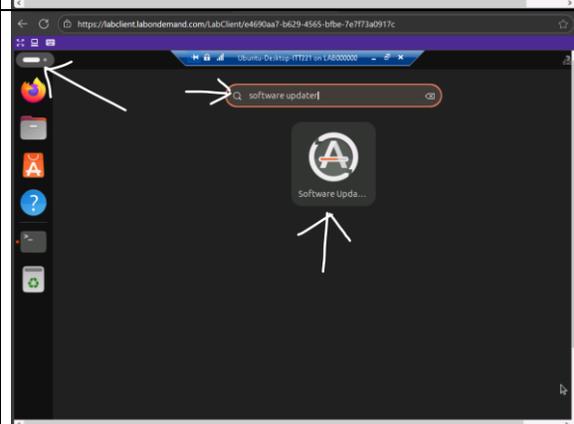
Once the download is completed you will be asked the “restart” your VM. Press “restart”



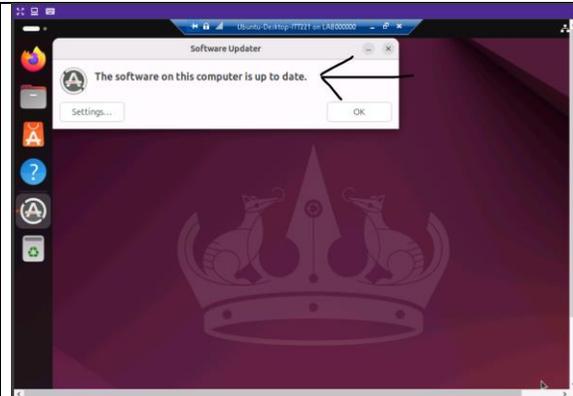
You will need to log back into your Ubuntu Desktop



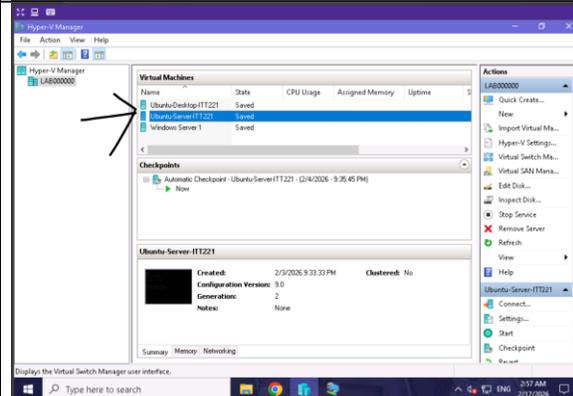
Once you are logged into go to the activities and open the software updater application again



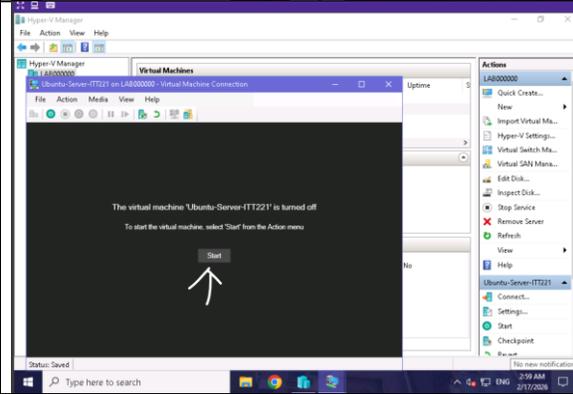
The software updater will automatically check for updates. When it finished checking for updates you will get a message saying “Your system is up to date”



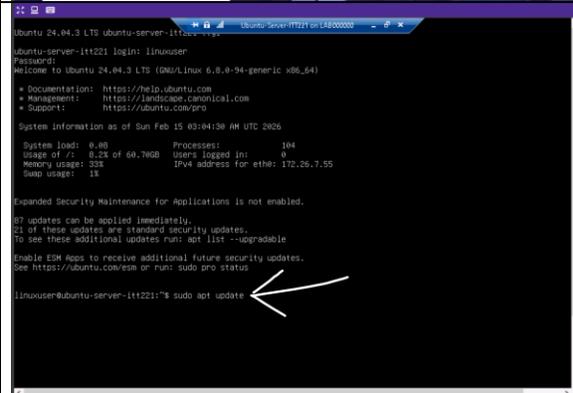
Log out of the Ubuntu Desktop. “Double-click” on the “Ubuntu Server” VM



A pop-up menu will appear “click” the “Start” option

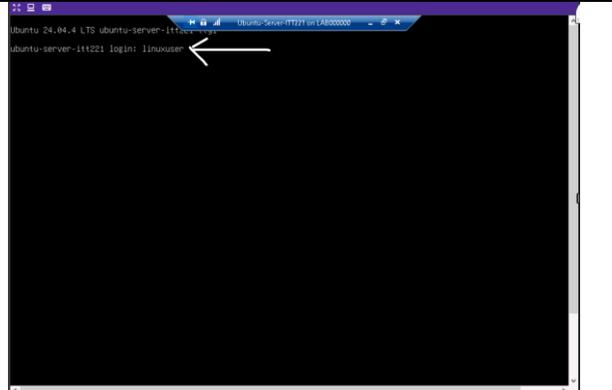


In the Command Terminal type “sudo apt update” and press “enter”





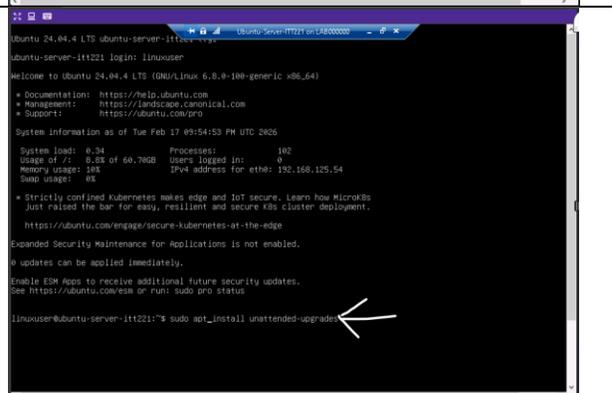
After the Ubuntu Server reboots, you will need to log back in. Type your username and password and press “enter”



```
ubuntu-server-1tt221 login: linuxuser
```

A terminal window showing the login prompt. The prompt is "ubuntu-server-1tt221 login: linuxuser". A white arrow points to the "login:" part of the prompt.

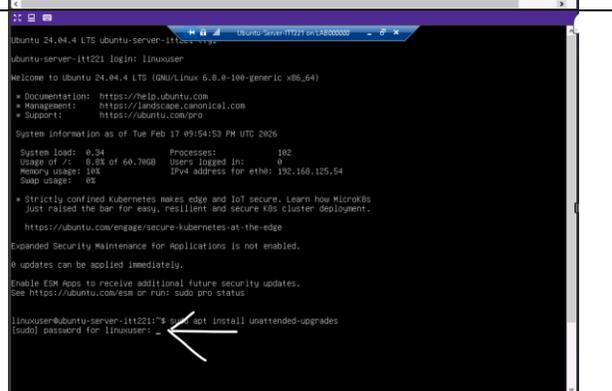
After login into the Ubuntu Server in the command line type “sudo apt install unattended-upgrades” and press “enter”



```
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-1tt221:~$ sudo apt install unattended-upgrades
```

A terminal window showing system information and the command input. The prompt is "Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-1tt221:~\$". The command "sudo apt install unattended-upgrades" is entered. A white arrow points to the end of the command.

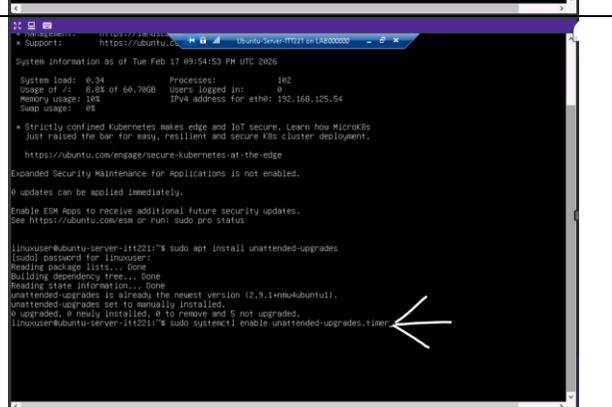
You will be asked to input your password. Type your password and then press “enter”



```
(sudo) password for linuxuser: 
```

A terminal window showing the password prompt. The prompt is "(sudo) password for linuxuser: ". A white arrow points to the prompt.

Once your Ubuntu Server is finished installing the unattended-upgrades. In the next command line type “sudo systemctl enable unattended-upgrades.timer” and press “enter”



```
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-1tt221:~$ sudo systemctl enable unattended-upgrades.timer
```

A terminal window showing the command execution and output. The prompt is "Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-1tt221:~\$". The command "sudo apt install unattended-upgrades" is entered, followed by "sudo systemctl enable unattended-upgrades.timer". The output shows that the package is already installed and the timer is enabled. A white arrow points to the end of the command.

After running the previous command, you will get a message stating that the command is now enabled. Now in the command line type “sudo systemctl start unattended-upgrades.timer” and press “enter”

```
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ sudo systemctl enable unattended-upgrades.service
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ sudo systemctl start unattended-upgrades.service
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ cat /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";
APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ sudo systemctl enable unattended-upgrades.service
Synchronizing state of unattended-upgrades.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable unattended-upgrades
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ sudo systemctl start unattended-upgrades.service
```

After inputting both commands to ensure proper function in the next command line type “systemctl status unattended-upgrades.service” to verify that the command is working properly

```
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ sudo systemctl status unattended-upgrades.service
Linuxuser@ubuntu-server-111221:~$ systemctl status unattended-upgrades.service
unattended-upgrades.service - Unattended Upgrades Shutdown
Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/unattended-upgrades.service; enabled; preset: enabled)
Active: active (running) since Tue 2020-02-17 21:54:18 UTC; 30min ago
Process: 872 (unattended-upgr)
Main PID: 872 (unattended-upgr)
Tasks: 2 (limit: 2107)
Memory: 15.0M (peak: 16.0M)
CPU: 114ms
Group: system.slice/unattended-upgrades.service
CGroup: /system.slice/unattended-upgrades.service
Feb 17 21:54:18 ubuntu-server-111221 systemd[1]: Started unattended-upgrades.service - Unattended Upgrades Shutdown
```

# Questions

1. Why should a system administrator review the list of packages after apt update is run?

System administrators should review the list of packages after running “apt update” in the command line to fully understand what will be changed and the appropriate actions needed to correct any configuration issues. The reason is that when you run the “apt update”, the OS pulls all the latest versions of each component. Once reviewed, an administrator can run the “apt upgrade” to upgrade the OS to the latest version. For example, if an administrator does not review the packages being updated, there may be configuration issues with manually configured software in the system, and the administrator may lose access or misconfigure it. It is an important task for administrators to not only update the packages but also review them to ensure the systems' stability. This not only allows the administrator to know what problems may arise, but also allows the system to stay up to date on security features and any configuration issues (Islam, 2023)

2. As a Linux system administrator managing patching, what is a key risk to evaluate during implementation and a single strategy to mitigate it?

One of the biggest risks for patch management is downtime. In the corporate world, any unnecessary downtime is viewed as a loss of profits. This risk can be avoided by scheduling times when administrators can set up dates and times to update the system without interrupting daily operations (*Linux Security Patches: Best Practices for Risk-Mitigation and Uptime* | Ubuntu, 2026). Not only can the time of day for updates play a major factor, but also whether an administrator reviews what is changing or being implemented during the update, as this can break critical applications used in daily operations. One strategy to mitigate this issue is to test the patch on an internal virtual machine before deploying it to the main network (Souppaya & Scarfone, 2013). This allows administrators the ability to make critical changes before the update. Another strategy to mitigate this risk is to schedule the update for a time when administrators can push it with minimal or no network traffic present. This allows administrators to make these configuration changes and test critical applications for further refinement without worrying about downtime or a flood of work order tickets for certain work-based applications.

References:

Islam, A. (2023, August 21). *A Complete Overview of “sudo apt update” Command in Linux*. LinuxSimply. <https://linuxsimply.com/linux-basics/package-management/update-packages/sudo-apt-update/>

*Linux security patches: best practices for risk-mitigation and uptime | Ubuntu*. (2026). Ubuntu. <https://ubuntu.com/engage/ensure-security-and-uptime-when-patching-linux-vulnerabilities>

Souppaya, M., & Scarfone, K. (2013). *Guide to Enterprise Patch Management Technologies. NIST Special Publication 800-40 Revision 3*. <https://doi.org/10.6028/nist.sp.800-40r3>