Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Spring Semester, 2009
6.01: Introduction to EECS I

Installing the 6.01 software on GNU/Linux

The laptops in the lab use [Xubuntu,](#) so we know things work on that or on [Ubuntu.](#) We also expect the software to work on other distributions. Details of the installation depend on which GNU/Linux distribution you are running, so talk to the staff for help.

A. Get Python, tk, and numpy

Make sure that your machine is running Python 2.6. You can use either your distribution's package manager (apt, synaptic, yum, etc.) to download and install the `python` package (make sure it's version 2.6), or you can compile Python from [source.](#)

You should also install tkinter, a Python package that is necessary for running soar. Installation will be dependent on your distribution. For recent Debian-based distros, there is a package (`python-tk`) that you can install with apt. On other distributions, you should be able to find an appropriate package to install as well.

You will also need to install numpy, a Python package, for some of the assignments. Again, installation will be dependent on your distribution. For recent Debian-based distros, there is a package (`python-numpy`) that you can install with apt. For other distributions, you can either compile from [source](#) or find the appropriate package for your distribution.

B. Get Idle or Emacs

You'll also need Idle or Emacs (and it won't hurt to have both). If your Python distribution did not come with Idle (type "idle" at a command line to see if it's defined), there's a package (`idle`) that you can install with apt. Since you'll be starting Idle a lot, you'll find it convenient to create a launcher for and place it in a menu or on the menu bar.

C. Get soar

Download the [soar source tarball.](#) In there, you will find one directory, `601dist`. Open a terminal window, navigate to that directory, and type

```
sudo python setup.py install
```

You can now delete the 601dist directory and the tar file you downloaded. You should now be able to run soar by typing **`soar`** at a terminal command prompt. You will *not* be able to run `soar` in the `601dist` directory; you will get an error if you try.

Note: You *must* have sudo privileges on the machine in order to do this installation. One symptom of not having sudo privileges is that the install will seem to go OK, but the soar command will not be recognized.

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