

Re: any use to build from source?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2004-06/1826.html>

From: Parv (parv_at_pair.com)

Date: 06/18/04

Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2004 16:32:11 -0400

To: Patrick Useldinger <pu@vo.lu>

in message <40D33478.3060705@vo.lu>,
wrote Patrick Useldinger thusly...

>

> *(Building from source) allows you to compile with the compiler
> options you want, you are able to optimize the binaries for your
> CPU, but: does it really matter? Are the speed improvements really
> visible?*

I haven't run any benchmarks related to speed for use of software on
a personal, non-server computer.

In case when debugging support in a software would be needed,
already built software would be lacking.

> *Dependencies was another argument: you compile with the correct
> headers of dependant files, well... is that really so? If you
> upgraded the dependant binaries, wouldn't you get the same effect?*

I see compiling from source as a way to reduce and/or alter
dependencies, and number/size of installed files.

One drawback of using `pkg_add` to install a binary package is that it
requires unnecessary upgrade of dependencies. If a package to be
installed requires `x-1.2.3` but `x-1.2.2_p9` is already installed AND
there will be no problem of using `x-1.2.2_p9`, `x-1.2.3` will be
installed regardless in addition to `x-1.2.2_p9`, quite possibly
overwriting the files.

The packages are almost never suitable for me even though i do not
run servers other than for personal needs.

> *One certain drawback of compiling from source is the compilation
> time. Large packages like KDE or OpenOffice take ages, so you
> can't just "quickly" upgrade a whole system*

That sure is true, in addition to requirement of large build space
too, `jdk-1.4` requires ~1.7 GB for example.

freebsd-questions: Re: any use to build from source?

BTW, your concerns have had been dealt w/ in past, at least once
this year.

– Parv

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