

AFNOG 2012 – SS-E Track

How to work with distfiles and Screen

A. How to copy distfiles in FreeBSD

The FreeBSD ports system downloads files to /usr/ports/distfiles as it installs software. If the software being installed already exists in this directory, then it will not be downloaded from the Internet which will save time and bandwidth. If you have similar FreeBSD servers and want to install identical software, you can copy the contents of the distfiles from the first server to the second one and avoid having to download the same softwares again. However, the softwares will still need to be downloaded.

Step 1 – Zip/Tar the /usr/ports/distfiles directory on the source server

This has already been done and the contents of the distfiles are in an archive tar file available here:

<http://nwww.ws.afnog.org/afnog2012/sse/apache/ditfiles.tar.gz>

NOTE: This was done by doing :

```
# tar cfzv distfiles.tar.gz /usr/ports/distfiles
```

Step 2 – Download them to your server

Become root:

```
$ su
```

Then go to /usr/ports/

```
# cd /usr/ports
```

Download the files from the above URL using fetch:

```
# fetch http://nwww.ws.afnog.org/afnog2012/sse/apache/ditfiles.tar.gz
```

You will see the progress in percentage.

Step 3 – Extract the files

Use tar to extract the file

```
# tar xzfv ditfiles.tar.gz
```

You will see the files being extracted:

```
x distfiles/  
x distfiles/portmaster-3.11.tar.gz  
x distfiles/portmaster-3.11.tar.gz.asc
```

You are done! Now when installing, the FreeBSD ports will report that the files needed already exist in /usr/ports/distfiles

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Additional: B. Working with Screen

Screen (<http://www.gnu.org/software/screen/>) is a useful tool for system admins working on remote servers via SSH. If the session between the user (SSH Client) and the SSH server breaks, then the user may have to restart whatever actions he/she was doing on the server especially in regards to installing software. Screen is a full-screen window manager that multiplexes a physical terminal between several processes, typically interactive shells.

Step 1 – Install Screen

```
$ sudo portmaster -G sysutils/screen
```

OR

```
$ sudo cd /usr/ports/sysutils/screen && make install clean
```

Choose default options when prompted.

Step 2 – Use it!

Begin a session:

```
$ screen -m
```

Try install something then disconnect the SSH session.

```
$ sudo portmaster -G editors/vim
```

OR

```
$ sudo cd /usr/ports/editors/vim && make install clean
```

Close the window or stop putty to simulate a disrupted session to the server. Then SSH back in and try to re-attach your session like so:

```
$ screen -x
```

You should find your session continuing. For more about screen, check the man pages like so:

```
$ man screen
```

HINT: You can detach from a screen tab by doing Ctrl + A + D