

Set up unattended-upgrades on Ubuntu 20.04

Package upgrades can be set up to install updates on Ubuntu without user intervention.

Install unattended-upgrades

```
apt install unattended-upgrades
```

Install mailx & Postfix

```
apt install bsd-mailx
```

If this does not install Postfix, install it now.

```
apt install postfix
```

This will also install Postfix. mailx is what unattended upgrades uses to send external mail.

Configure unattended-upgrades

Edit `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/50unattended-upgrades`. This file is mostly self explanatory. The options can be enabled by deleting un-commenting the line. At the very least, configure the following:

- `Unattended-Upgrade::Mail "your@email.com"`; to allow sending notifications to your e-mail address.
- `Unattended-Upgrade::Automatic-Reboot "true"`; to enable auto-reboots
- `Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-Unused-Kernel-Packages "true"`; to remove kernel-related packages. This is usually done using `apt autoremove`.
- `Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-New-Unused-Dependencies "true"`; - remove unneeded dependancies. Also manually done with `apt autoremove`.
- `Unattended-Upgrade::Remove-Unused-Dependencies "false"`; - remove unused packages, also, `apt autoremove`.

Restart unattended-upgrades

```
systemctl restart unattended-upgrades
```

Configure Postfix

Edit `/etc/postfix/main.cf`. Configuration of postfix is outside the scope of this article. For my purposes, I use a relay, so I edit and uncomment `relayhost =` to point to my relay.

Test mail

```
mailx -vvv -s "Subject" your@e-mail.com
```

Press CTRL D to send the email.

Test your set up

```
unattended-upgrades --dry-run --debug
```

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