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I am mentioning my practical experience of Dspace installation on Debian Squeeze. I hope, you can do it and this will help you.

First make a dspace user in debian for Dspace.

root@dir:~#adduser dspace

Then install other softwares as prerequisites for Dspace installation. It is a good approach to install sun-java6.

root@dir:~# apt-get install sun-java6-jdk
root@dir:~#update-java-alternatives -v -s java-6-sun
root@dir:~# apt-get install tomcat6
root@dir:~#apt-get install maven2
root@dir:~#apt-get install postgresql-8.4

After installing prerequisite softwares, create dspace database in postgresql for Dspace use.
root@dir:~# cd /home/dspace/
root@dir:/home/dspace# su postgres
postgres@dir:/home/dspace$ createuser -U postgres -d -A -P dspace
Enter password for new role:
Enter it again:
Shall the new role be allowed to create more new roles? (y/n) n
postgres@dir:/home/dspace$ exit
exit
root@dir:/home/dspace# su dspace
dspace@dir:~$ createdb -U dspace -E UNICODE dspace

After that download the latest version of Dspace and set right configuration

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release#nano dspace/config/dspace.cfg

Thereafter build Dspace by running the following command
root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace# mvn package
[INFO] Scanning for projects...
Downloading: http://repo1.maven.org/maven2/org/dspace/dspace-pom/10/dspace-pom-10.pom
[WARNING] Unable to get resource 'org.dspace:dspace-pom:pom:10' from repository central (http://repo1.maven.org/maven2): Error transferring file: repo1.maven.org
[INFO] --
[ERROR] FATAL ERROR
[INFO] --
[INFO] Error building POM (may not be this project's POM).

Project ID: org.dspace:dspace-parent:pom:1.8.2

Reason: Cannot find parent: org.dspace:dspace-pom for project: org.dspace:dspace-parent:pom:1.8.2 for project org.dspace:dspace-parent:pom:1.8.2

[INFO] --
[INFO] Trace
org.apache.maven.reactor.MavenExecutionException: Cannot find parent: org.dspace
If you have problem in your Internet connectivity, you will get the above messages. These messages also can get, if you have proxy in your Internet connectivity. To solve this problem, set proxy in you maven configuration file.

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace#nano /etc/maven2/settings.xml

Uncomment and set you proxy in the following section-

```
<proxies>
    <proxy>
     <id>optional</id>
     <active>true</active>
     <protocol>http</protocol>
     <username></username>
     <password></password>
     <host>proxy.iub.edu.bd</host>
     <port>3000</port>
     <nonProxyHosts>localhost</nonProxyHosts>
 </proxy>
  </proxies>
```

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace# mvn package

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace# cd target/dspace-1.8.2-build.dir/

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace/target/dspace-1.8.2-build.dir# ant fresh_install

To complete installation, you should do the following:

Setup your Web servlet container (e.g. Tomcat) to look for your DSpace web applications in: /home/dspace/webapps/

OR

copy any web applications from /home/dspace/webapps/ to the appropriate place for your servlet container. (e.g. '$CATALINA_HOME/webapps' for Tomcat)

Create E-person in Dsapce by using the command-

root@dir:/home/dspace/dspace-1.8.2-src-release/dspace# /home/dspace/bin/dspace create-administrator

Finally you can get your Dsapce by pointing the address in your web browser:

http://localhsot:8080/xmlui