

How I Installed Lisp

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1 Introduction

It can be a pain in the ass to install software sometimes. I'm currently experiencing such a pain thanks to the not necessarily good idea of upgrading my main machine the other day. So this is a log of how I got things to work.

This might be of use later:

- so I can do it again in less time, or
- so others can take advantage of what I've learned.

2 clisp 2.33 on Plague

Plague is a laptop, my main machine. It's running Red Hat Enterprise workstation version 3. Here's what Plague is:

```
$ uname -a
Linux plague 2.4.21-9.0.1.EL #1 Mon Feb 9 22:44:14 EST 2004
i686 i686 i386 GNU/Linux
$
```

When I attempted to install clisp 2.33 on Plague “out of the box” (clisp’s box), I saw a segmentation fault. I think it was during the “make interpreted.mem” stage. So I backed up, read the installation instructions, & tried again. Here’s what I did:

1. Install software that is recommended in the installation instructions. These include:
 - (a) libsigsegv-2.1
 - (b) Did *not* install libiconv because I’m using a glibc that’s later than 2.2, so according to the clisp installation notes, I don’t need libiconv.
 - (c) libreadline, version 12 I guess, is already installed.
 - (d) gettext is already installed.

3 Skipping way ahead

Let’s jump way ahead in time. Actually, let’s let me just crap out on this article.

I never got clisp to work on Red Hat Enterprise workstation version 3. I even talked to Sam Steingold, the clisp maintainer, on his e-list. Sam made some worthwhile suggestions, but none of them fixed the problem.

So I gave up. No clisp on Plague. I had been a happy clisp user for several years, but now I’m an Steel Bank Common Lisp (SBCL) user.

To make SBCL work as a script language on unix for my web site & other purposes, I had to write a simple wrapper I call lisp-script ([Sto04,]). I will probably also write a short article about writing portable Lisp code; I had to put portability to practice when I switched to SBCL. Luckily, it wasn’t much work.

A Other File Formats

- This document is available in multi-file HTML format at <http://lisp-p.org/hiil/>.
- This document is available in Pointless Document Format at <http://lisp-p.org/hiil/hiil.pdf>.

References

- [Sto04] Gene Michael Stover. Lisp script. *personal web site*, April 2004. <http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/hiil/>.