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How to update libavcodec on ubuntu 14.04

On Ubuntu 14.04.5 I just upgraded firefox to version 50.0; now there is a message on some pages which reads:

```
libavcodec may be vulnerable or is not supported, and should be updated to play videos
```

So how can I update libavcodec?

A simple

```
sudo apt-get install libavcodec
```

gives the following output:

```
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
E: Unable to locate package libavcodec
```

So maybe I don't have `libavcodec` installed in the first place? So why do I get this message...?

14.04 firefox codecs

asked Nov 19 at 14:18

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4 [superuser.com/questions/1137029/...](#) – CelticWarrior Nov 19 at 14:25

Thanks, I guess this worked... – Alex Nov 19 at 14:34

After Firefox was updated to 50 in Ubuntu 14.04.5, I am also getting this message on Facebook: "libavcodec may be vulnerable or is not supported, and should be updated to play video." When playing videos posted to the news feed, the audio was choppy and cutting out every three seconds as though interrupted by video loading processes. After reading the comments by misterjinx and karel, I installed libavcodec54 through Synaptic, which also removed Ubuntu Restricted Extras ('libavcodec-extra' and 'libavcodec-extra-54'). But after doing this I still get the same message on Facebook, although the a – Snooper Nov 19 at 23:08

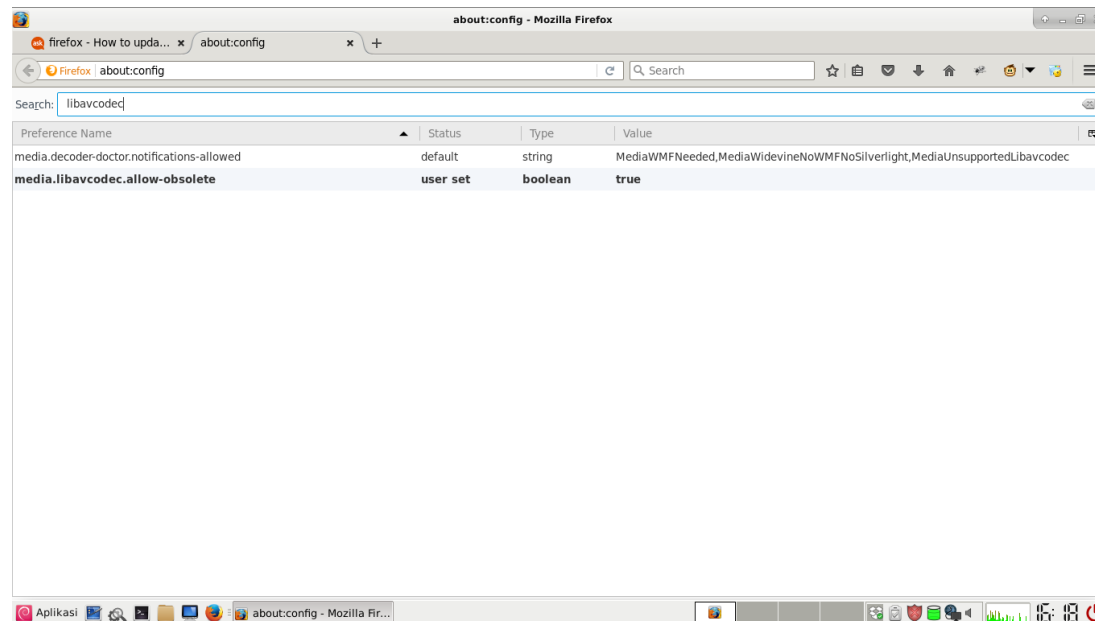
4 Answers

Just enable `libavcodec` in firefox:

type `about:config` in the address bar,

click "I accept the risk" search `libavcodec`

change `media.libavcodec.allow-obsolete;false` to `true`



edited Nov 22 at 7:49

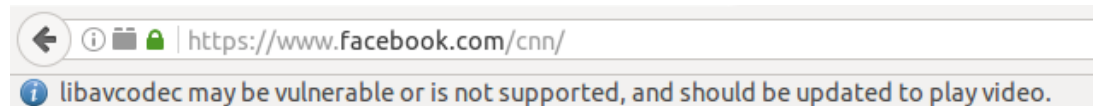
answered Nov 21 at 8:16

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-
- 1 Best response IMO because most users probably want to switch the flag and be done with it rather than mess with their repos. You may want to correct your typo from "flase" to "false". – [soger](#) Nov 22 at 1:22
-
- 5 @soger True. But what users want might not always be what is best for them :D – [Carolus](#) 2 days ago
-
- working, but not a real solution, just a quick workaround, isn't it? Thanks anyway – [Hugo](#) 22 hours ago
-

In Ubuntu 14.04, I am using the Firefox 50 from the default Ubuntu repositories, which is the latest version of Firefox at the time this is written. I do not have any libavcodec package installed in this system, because I do not need to install it. If you don't have a libavcodec package installed, you can ignore the second part of this answer.

I get a libavcodec may be vulnerable or is not supported, and should be updated to play video. notification when attempting to play videos posted to Facebook and videos from other websites like cnn.com and yahoo.com. I decided to ignore this notification and not upgrade my libavcodec because the same videos play perfectly without showing the libavcodec notification in Chromium web browser in the same video players. The only difference in the videos between Firefox and Chromium that I noticed is in Chromium I see additional options to change the video quality when clicking the Facebook video player's gear icon that I don't see in Firefox.



update libavcodec notification in Firefox 50 when libavcodec is not installed

The notification in the above screenshot is a little bit confusing because the video on that webpage plays OK even when libavcodec is not installed. The notification appears to be coming from Firefox because the same notification shows on Facebook and CNN. Do I need to drag in another PPA to get rid of the annoying libavcodec notification in Firefox even though the video plays OK in Firefox without it? The same video plays perfectly in Chromium without showing any libavcodec update notification.

After you upgrade Firefox to version 50 (without libavcodec54 installed) and start playing a video, you may be prompted to Allow and Remember Firefox to run the video's multimedia plugin in order for the video to start playing.

To install *libav-tools* (Multimedia player, encoder and transcoder) *libavcodec56* (Libav codec library) and *libavcodec-extra-56* (Libav codec library (additional codecs)) in Ubuntu 14.04

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```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:heyarje/libav-11
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install libav-tools libavcodec56 libavcodec-extra-56
sudo apt-get upgrade
sudo apt-get dist-upgrade
```

edited yesterday

answered Nov 19 at 14:35



karel

24k 9 57 71

I have the same issue but I opted to install libav from sources (version 12), but after the installation libavcodec is not found. What could be the issue? I haven't tried yet the ppa, I want the ppa to be the final option. – misterjinx Nov 19 at 14:46

In Ubuntu 14.04 the libavcodec package from the default Ubuntu repositories is named *libavcodec54*, not libavcodec. – karel Nov 19 at 14:48

I have not installed any libavcodec* from packages, I did it directly from sources. That's what I was asking, if by installing libav from sources shouldn't libavcodec be available also, because apparently it's not, and I don't know if there's anything special that I should do to have it available also.. – misterjinx Nov 19 at 14:49

If Ubuntu 14.04 is expecting a package named libavcodec54, it will not use libavcodec after it is installed because it is a different package. – karel Nov 19 at 14:51

@misterjinx: Maybe the installer didn't put it to the correct place? My libavcodec.so is in /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ (installed using the package manger; libavcodec.so is a symbolic link to libavcodec.so.54.35.0 in my case). – Kai Nov 20 at 9:48

Type in address bar "about:config", accept risks, find the parameter "media.libavcodec.allow-obsolete" and switch it to True. That helped me.

edited 2 days ago

answered Nov 22 at 8:08



Zanna

19.1k 9 45 89



Alexander

21 1

For the sake of those coming here from google, I also posted this answer on super user:
<https://superuser.com/questions/1137029/libavcodec-may-be-vulnerable-message-in-firefox/1148770#1148770>

karel's answer works if you are okay installing another repo, and user3317398's if you are okay with the security vulnerability.

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disappear - *without disabling libavcodec* (because manually disabling means I'd have to manually re-enable once a fix comes out) - then you should go to `about:config` , and look for:

```
media.decoder-doctor.notifications-allowed
```

In the value field, you may see a comma-separated list of values; the one you want to remove is `MediaUnsupportedLibavcodec` . For example, my setting was:

```
MediaWMFNeeded,MediaWidevineNowMFNoSilverlight,MediaUnsupportedLibavcodec
```

And I changed it to:

```
MediaWMFNeeded,MediaWidevineNowMFNoSilverlight
```

Viola! No more annoying notification, and the videos which require the codec won't work. However, there's no security issue and once the official repo pushes a fix, the videos will start working again without any further effort on your part.

answered 2 days ago



cegfault

121 1

protected by **Community ♦** 2 days ago

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 **reputation** on this site (the **association bonus** does not count).

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