Building a Debian/Ubuntu package from source

This short article describes, how to build a *Debian* / *Ubuntu* package from a source tarball (very compressed version of Ubuntu Packaging Guide). Assume for example you have downloaded the source package `dfcgen-gtk-0.2.tar.gz` and you are working under *Ubuntu* 10.04 (*Lucid Lynx*).

Here are the steps:

1. Decompress `dfcgen-gtk-0.2.tar.gz` in a directory of your choice, e.g. in `<path>/tmp`:

   ```
   tar -xvfz dfcgen-gtk-0.2.tar.gz
   ```

2. Change into directory `dfcgen-gtk-0.2` and create a directory named debian:

   ```
   cd dfcgen-gtk-0.2; mkdir debian
   ```

3. Generate a fresh set of *Debian* control files using the helper tool `dh_make`.
4. Edit all files in directory `debian` to describe your package. See the Debian Policy Manual for details on syntax and semantics.[1)]
5. Ensure that you have a GPG/PGP key and the *seahorse-agent* is running. Notice that the user name of your key must match the used name in your (edited) package description.
6. Go into directory `<path>/tmp/dfcgen-gtk-0.2` and execute

   ```
   dpkg-buildpackage -rfakeroot
   ```

   to build your *Debian* package.

7. Look into `<path>/tmp` for your package files and be happy 😉

1)
If the package normally is build by `./configure; make; make install`, then there is no need to edit the file `rules`.

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