

How to check glibc version on Linux

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Question: I need to find out the version of the GNU C library (`glibc`) that I have on my Linux system. How can I check `glibc` version on Linux?

The GNU C library (`glibc`) is the GNU implementation of the standard C library. `glibc` is a critical component of the GNU toolchain, which is used along with `binutils` and compiler to generate userspace application binaries for a target architecture.

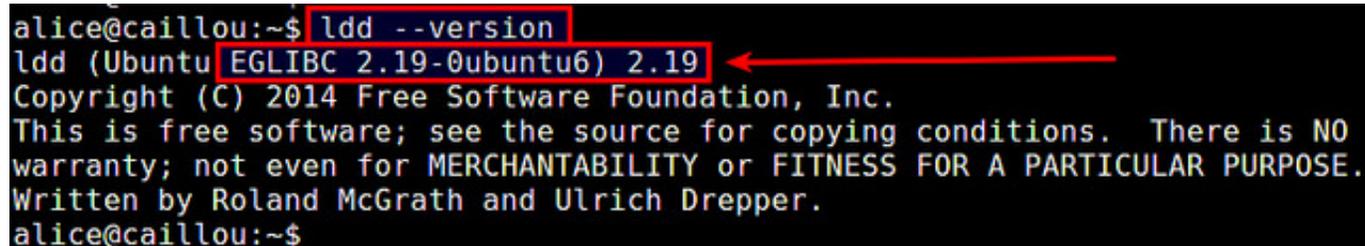
When built from source, some Linux programs may be required to link against a particular version of `glibc`. In that case, you may want to check out the information about installed `glibc` to see if dependencies are met.

Here are simple ways to check `glibc` version on Linux.

Method One

A simple command-line to check the version of the GNU C library is as follows.

```
$ ldd --version
```



```
alice@caillou:~$ ldd --version
ldd (Ubuntu EGLIBC 2.19-0ubuntu6) 2.19
Copyright (C) 2014 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions. There is NO
warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
Written by Roland McGrath and Ulrich Drepper.
alice@caillou:~$
```

In this example, the version of `glibc` is 2.19.

Method Two

Another method is to "type" the `glibc` library (i.e., `libc.so.6`) from the command line as if it were a command.

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The output will show more detailed information about `glibc` library, including the version of `glibc` and the GNU compiler used, as well as available `glibc` extensions. The location of `glibc` varies depending on distros and processor architectures.

On 64-bit Debian based system:

```
$ /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
```

on 32-bit Debian based system:

```
$ /lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
```

On 64-bit Red Hat based system:

```
$ /lib64/libc.so.6
```

On 32-bit Red Hat based systems:

```
$ /lib/libc.so.6
```

Here is the sample output of typing `glibc` library.

```
alice@caillou:~$ /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
GNU C Library (Ubuntu EGLIBC 2.19-0ubuntu6) stable release version 2.19, by Roland McGrath et al.
Copyright (C) 2014 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions.
There is NO warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A
PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
Compiled by GNU CC version 4.8.2.
Compiled on a Linux 3.13.9 system on 2014-04-12.
Available extensions:
  crypt add-on version 2.1 by Michael Glad and others
  GNU Libidn by Simon Josefsson
  Native POSIX Threads Library by Ulrich Drepper et al
  BIND-8.2.3-T5B
libc ABIs: UNIQUE IFUNC
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<https://bugs.launchpad.net/ubuntu/+source/eglibc/+bugs>.
alice@caillou:~$
```