

Adobe® AIR™ 1.5 for Linux

Release Notes

Release date: 12/17/08

Getting Started

Welcome to the release notes for AIR 1.5 for Linux. This document contains system requirements, installation instructions, known issues, and other information about using the AIR 1.5 runtime.

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System requirements

Processor	Modern x86 processor (800MHz or faster, 32-bit)
RAM	1GB of RAM, 128MB of graphics memory
Supported Linux distributions	Fedora 8 Ubuntu 7.10 openSUSE 10.3 These are the officially supported distributions; however, the AIR runtime and SDK should work on new Linux distributions that use rpm/Debian based package management systems.
Supported desktop environments	GNOME KDE
Package management systems	RPM Debian
Minimum GTK+ version	2.6
Window managers	Metacity (default for GNOME) KWin (default for KDE)
Transparency	Support for transparency in AIR applications requires a compositing window manager and additional X server extensions. The following are supported: Compositing window managers: Beryl, Compiz, Compiz-fusion X server extensions: Composite, Render, Shape

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Supported languages

The Adobe AIR 1.5 installation and runtime user experience supports the following languages:

- Chinese Traditional
- Chinese Simplified
- Czech
- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Polish
- Brazilian Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Turkish

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Features in AIR 1.5

Adobe AIR 1.5 Linux supports all the features that are available in AIR 1.5 on Windows/Macintosh including following new features of AIR 1.5.

Flash Player 10 features

Adobe AIR 1.5 includes support for the following new features in Flash Player 10:

- Custom Filters and Effects
- Enhanced Drawing API
- Dynamic Sound Generation
- Vector Data Type
- Enhanced file upload and download APIs
- Real Time Media Flow Protocol (RTMFP)
- 3D Effects
- Advanced Text Support
- Color Management
- Text Engine
- Dynamic Streaming
- Speex Audio Codec

For more information, see <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/features/> for details of these features.

Database Encryption

Database files can be encrypted in AIR 1.5. All database content, including the metadata, can be encrypted so that the data is unreadable outside of the AIR application that encrypted it. This feature will allow a developer to encrypt, decrypt, and re-encrypt database files. The encryption will use AES with CCM. You can open or attach database files that are encrypted or any combination thereof.

WebKit

The version of WebKit used by Adobe AIR has been updated and it now includes support for the SquirrelFish JavaScript interpreter.

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Installing Adobe AIR

Before proceeding, uninstall all previous installations of AIR runtime (see below) and AIR applications. Also, before upgrading to the newer runtime, remove the adobe-certs package if that is installed on your system. If you have a beta version of AIR for Linux installed, remove the .adobe, .macromedia and .appdata folder from your home directory.

Installing the AIR 1.5 runtime and AIR applications requires you to have administrator privileges on your computer. If you're not logged in as an administrator, invoking the installer prompts you to enter the admin password (root password for non-Debian systems and sudo user's password for Debian systems).

You can download Adobe AIR for Linux here: <http://get.adobe.com/air/>

The runtime installer is a binary file named AdobeAIRInstaller.bin and it can be installed by double-clicking the file.

Also note the following:

- You need to grant execution rights to the bin file (chmod +x AdobeAIRInstaller.bin).
- The runtime is installed as a native package. In other words, as rpm on an rpm based distribution and deb on a Debian distribution. Currently AIR doesn't support any other package format, so it may not install on distributions like Slackware, etc.
- The package name is adobear1.0 and adobe-certs.
- The runtime is installed to the following location: /opt/Adobe AIR/Versions/1.0

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Uninstalling Adobe AIR

Once you have installed the runtime, you can uninstall it using the following procedure.

- Use the Uninstall AIR Runtime menu item in the Programs > Applications menu. Use the system's package manager to remove the adobe-certs package.
- AIR registers the mime-type "application/vnd.adobe.air-application-installer-package+zip", which means that .air files are of this mime-type and are therefore owned by AIR.

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Installing AIR applications

Users install AIR applications via a badge install (clicking an embedded SWF from a web page, which seamlessly installs the runtime as well if needed) and directly by double-clicking the .air file.

- The installer prompts users (for install location, etc.) to complete the installation.
- AIR applications are installed as a native package (rpm or deb).
- The package name is a combination of the applicationID and publisherID for the application.

Tips and tricks

- You can also install AIR applications using the command `"/usr/bin/Adobe AIR Application Installer <full path to the air file here>".` Currently relative paths do not work.
- If double-clicking on .air file, after having installed the runtime, doesn't launch the application installer (this happens on some older distributions), you might have to log out and log back in.
- To clean up the machine and try a fresh installation, you may rename the .adobe and .macromedia folder in the home directory for both root and the current user to any name. Also remove the .appdata folder in the home directory.
- To generate logs for runtime installation, create the empty file .airinstall.log (touch .airinstall.log) in user home directory. Please post this file when reporting issues in the forum.
- To generate logs for application installation, create the empty file .airappinstall.log (touch .airappinstall.log) in user home directory. Please post this file while reporting issues in the forum.

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Known issues and limitations

Runtime installation

- Some older distributions have issues with .bin in the filename. Simply remove the .bin from the installer file name and run the installer.
- No package format other than rpm or deb is supported. Installation will not work on distributions that have a different package management mechanism.
- For Debian based systems like Ubuntu, gnomesu/kdesu/kdesudo should be there for installation. Otherwise, install xdg-su and enable root user.

Application installation

- The programMenuFolder entries in the AIR application descriptor are not honored in some older distributions and also in KDE4.
- If there are space characters in the text of the <name> tag in the AIR application descriptor, an entry in the System Applications menu is not created in some older distributions.
- You must use an absolute path to the AIR file when installing an AIR application on the command line.
- Installation progress bar goes to completion and then resets itself.
- Special characters like single and double quotes are not supported in some application xml tags. This may cause an application to not install.
- Badge/Seamless installation will require Flash Player 10 to work.
- Multi-level program menu folders do not work.
- Multiple entries of AIR installer may appear (for example, also added to the "Others" menu in Ubuntu).

File type registration

- Application icons do not appear for some unknown extensions (e.g. abc, def etc.) on certain KDE distributions.
- The application will not register itself as secondary handler (it won't appear in the "Open With" context menu), for already registered extensions (e.g. txt, html).

Windows and menus

- Windowing actions (setting of bounds, maximize etc.) are always asynchronous.
- There might be differences across distributions due to dependency on Window Manager.
- Transparency requires a compositing Window Manager (e.g compiz, beryl, latest metacity).
- Transparency won't work with virtualization software like VMWare.
- Transparent windows do not allow mouse events to pass through.

LocalConnections

- LocalConnections between AIR apps and SWFs require Flash Player 10.

Encrypted local store

- Local store data cannot be accessed when session is exported using SSH or when session is changed to another user using su.
- ELS is bound to the desktop environment in which ELS database was first created. An ELS store created in KDE will not be accessible in GNOME and Vice Versa
- Encrypted Local store uses Keyring (GNOME) or KWallet (KDE). System may prompt for a password for accessing ELS data.
- Application name is reported as "anonymous" in the KWallet password dialog.

PDF

- To view PDF content in AIR applications, you should have Adobe Reader for Linux version 8.1.1 or higher installed.

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Installing the AIR SDK

- The SDK is available in tbz2 format.
- To install the SDK, use the following command: `tar -jxvf <path to AIR-SDK.tbz2>`

Known issues with ADT

- ADT doesn't work with GNU Java, which comes as a standard with many Linux distributions. To get it working, ensure that you have Sun Java in your path. Try the command `java -version` in the terminal to figure out which flavor of Java is being used.
- Minimum required version of Sun Java/JRE is 1.4.2.
- This build does not work with Flex builder. Use the command line options to package AIR applications.

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