Build from source

As LibreCAD is an open-source software, it changes at the pace of contributions. In some periods, the several improvements can be added long before the next release comes up. If you want to be on the edge of LibreCAD progress then you have to **build from source**.

What is "build from source"?

It means that you get the *source code* and you *make it a runnable or executable program* that your operating system will be able to launch. This process is called *building* or *compiling* and the way it is done depends on your operating system. So if a build for Windows is done then the LibreCAD program cannot be used for Linux/Ubuntu for example.

How can I build from source?

There are 3 steps:

1. **Get the source code**. It is available to everyone in Github repository. You can download a compressed archive or ask git to clone (copy) the code onto your computer.
2. **Install the necessary packages**. LibreCAD uses many functions stored in packages or libraries. These functions are small blocks which are assembled with LibreCAD-specific blocks to make the final software. The list of packages and their versions are given in the *building from source instruction*.
3. **Build on you computer**. The C++ program will be compiled on your computer to make an executable LibreCAD program. This is done once.

You will find the building from source instructions for most operating systems.

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