



NVIDIA cuDNN

Installation Guide | NVIDIA Docs

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Chapter 1. Overview

The NVIDIA® CUDA® Deep Neural Network library (cuDNN) is a GPU-accelerated library of primitives for deep neural networks. cuDNN provides highly tuned implementations for standard routines such as forward and backward convolution, pooling, normalization, and activation layers. cuDNN is part of the NVIDIA Deep Learning SDK.

Deep learning researchers and framework developers worldwide rely on cuDNN for high-performance GPU acceleration. It allows them to focus on training neural networks and developing software applications rather than spending time on low-level GPU performance tuning. cuDNN accelerates widely used deep learning frameworks and is freely available to members of the NVIDIA Developer Program™.

Chapter 2. Installing cuDNN on Linux

2.1. Prerequisites

For the latest compatibility software versions of the OS, NVIDIA CUDA, the CUDA driver, and the NVIDIA hardware, see the [NVIDIA cuDNN Support Matrix](#).

2.1.1. Installing NVIDIA Graphics Drivers

Install up-to-date NVIDIA graphics drivers on your Linux system.

Procedure

1. Go to: [NVIDIA download drivers](#)
2. Select the GPU and OS version from the drop-down menus.
3. Download and install the NVIDIA graphics driver as indicated on that web page. For more information, select the **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** tab for step-by-step instructions for installing a driver.
4. Restart your system to ensure that the graphics driver takes effect.

2.1.2. Installing the CUDA Toolkit for Linux

Refer to the following instructions for installing CUDA on Linux, including the CUDA driver and toolkit: [NVIDIA CUDA Installation Guide for Linux](#).

2.1.3. Installing Zlib

About this task

For Ubuntu users, to install the zlib package, run:

```
sudo apt-get install zlib1g
```

For RHEL users, to install the zlib package, run:

```
sudo yum install zlib
```

2.2. Downloading cuDNN for Linux

In order to download cuDNN, ensure you are registered for the [NVIDIA Developer Program](#).

Procedure

1. Go to: [NVIDIA cuDNN home page](#).
2. Click **Download**.
3. Complete the short survey and click **Submit**.
4. Accept the Terms and Conditions. A list of available download versions of cuDNN displays.
5. Select the cuDNN version that you want to install. A list of available resources displays.

2.3. Installing on Linux

The following steps describe how to build a cuDNN dependent program. Choose the installation method that meets your environment needs. For example, the tar file installation applies to all Linux platforms. The Debian package installation applies to Ubuntu 18.04 and 20.04. The RPM package installation applies to RHEL 7 and 8.

About this task

In the following sections:

- ▶ your CUDA directory path is referred to as `/usr/local/cuda/`
- ▶ your cuDNN download path is referred to as `<cudaPath>`

2.3.1. Tar File Installation

Before issuing the following commands, you must replace `x.y` and `v8.x.x.x` with your specific CUDA and cuDNN versions and package date.

Procedure

1. Navigate to your `<cudaPath>` directory containing the cuDNN tar file.
2. Unzip the cuDNN package.
3. Copy the following files into the CUDA toolkit directory.

```
$ tar -xvf cudnn-linux-x86_64-8.x.x.x_cudaX.Y-archive.tar.xz
```

```
$ sudo cp cudnn-*-archive/include/cudnn*.h /usr/local/cuda/include
```

```
$ sudo cp -P cudnn-*-archive/lib/libcudnn* /usr/local/cuda/lib64
```

```
$ sudo chmod a+r /usr/local/cuda/include/cudnn*.h /usr/local/cuda/lib64/libcudnn*
```

2.3.2. Debian Local Installation

Download the Debian local repository installation package. Before issuing the following commands, you must replace `x.y` and `8.x.x.x` with your specific CUDA and cuDNN versions.

Procedure

1. Navigate to your <cudaPath> directory containing the cuDNN Debian local installer file.
2. Enable the local repository.

```
sudo dpkg -i cudnn-local-repo-${OS}-8.x.x.x_1.0-1_amd64.deb
```

Or

```
sudo dpkg -i cudnn-local-repo-${OS}-8.x.x.x_1.0-1_arm64.deb
```

3. Import the CUDA GPG key.

```
sudo cp /var/cudnn-local-repo-*/cudnn-local-*-keyring.gpg /usr/share/keyrings/
```

4. Refresh the repository metadata.

```
sudo apt-get update
```

5. Install the runtime library.

```
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8=8.x.x.x-1+cudaX.Y
```

6. Install the developer library.

```
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8-dev=8.x.x.x-1+cudaX.Y
```

7. Install the code samples and the cuDNN library documentation.

```
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8-samples=8.x.x.x-1+cudaX.Y
```

2.3.3. RPM Local Installation

Download the RPM local repository installation package. Before issuing the following commands, you must replace *X.Y* and *8.x.x.x* with your specific CUDA and cuDNN versions.

Procedure

1. Navigate to your <cudaPath> directory containing the cuDNN RPM local installer file.
2. Enable the local repository.

```
sudo rpm -i cudnn-local-repo-${OS}-8.x.x.x-1.0-1.x86_64.rpm
```

Or

```
sudo rpm -i cudnn-local-repo-${OS}-8.x.x.x-1.0-1.aarch64.rpm
```

3. Refresh the repository metadata.

```
sudo yum clean all
```

4. Install the runtime library.

```
sudo yum install libcudnn8-8.x.x.x-1.cudaX.Y
```

5. Install the developer library.

```
sudo yum install libcudnn8-devel-8.x.x.x-1.cudaX.Y
```

6. Install the code samples and the cuDNN library documentation.

```
sudo yum install libcudnn8-samples-8.x.x.x-1.cudaX.Y
```

2.3.4. Package Manager Installation

The Package Manager installation interfaces with your system's package manager.

If the actual installation packages are available online, then the package manager will automatically download them and install them.

2.3.4.1. Ubuntu Network Installation

These are the installation instructions for Ubuntu 18.04 and 20.04 users.

Procedure

1. Enable the repository. The following commands enable the repository containing information about the appropriate cuDNN libraries online for Ubuntu 18.04 and 20.04.

```
wget https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/repos/${OS}/x86_64/cuda-
${OS}.pin

sudo mv cuda-${OS}.pin /etc/apt/preferences.d/cuda-repository-pin-600
sudo apt-key adv --fetch-keys https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/repos/
${OS}/x86_64/7fa2af80.pub
sudo add-apt-repository "deb https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/repos/
${OS}/x86_64/ /"
sudo apt-get update
```

2. Install the cuDNN library:

```
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8=${cudnn_version}-1+${cuda_version}
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8-dev=${cudnn_version}-1+${cuda_version}
```

Where:

- ▶ `${cudnn_version}` is 8.4.1.*
- ▶ `${cuda_version}` is cuda10.2 or cuda11.6

2.3.4.2. RHEL Network Installation

These are the installation instructions for RHEL7 and RHEL8 users.

Procedure

1. Enable the repository:

```
sudo yum-config-manager --add-repo https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/
repos/${OS}/x86_64/cuda-${OS}.repo

sudo yum clean all
```

Where `${OS}` is `rhel7` or `rhel8`.

2. Install the cuDNN library:

```
sudo yum install libcudnn8=${cudnn_version}-1.${cuda_version}
sudo yum install libcudnn8-devel=${cudnn_version}-1.${cuda_version}
```

Where:

- ▶ `${cudnn_version}` is 8.4.1.*
- ▶ `${cuda_version}` is `cuda10.2` or `cuda11.6`

2.4. Verifying the Install on Linux

To verify that cuDNN is installed and is running properly, compile the `mnistCUDNN` sample located in the `/usr/src/cudnn_samples_v8` directory in the Debian file.

Procedure

1. Copy the cuDNN samples to a writable path.

```
$cp -r /usr/src/cudnn_samples_v8/ $HOME
```

2. Go to the writable path.

```
$ cd $HOME/cudnn_samples_v8/mnistCUDNN
```

3. Compile the mnistCUDNN sample.

```
$make clean && make
```

4. Run the mnistCUDNN sample.

```
$ ./mnistCUDNN
```

If cuDNN is properly installed and running on your Linux system, you will see a message similar to the following:

```
Test passed!
```

2.5. Upgrading from cuDNN 7.x.x to cuDNN 8.x.x

Since version 8 can coexist with previous versions of cuDNN, if the user has an older version of cuDNN such as v6 or v7, installing version 8 will not automatically delete an older revision. Therefore, if the user wants the latest version, install cuDNN version 8 by following the installation steps.

About this task

To upgrade from cuDNN v7 to v8, refer to the [Package Manager Installation](#) section and follow the steps for your OS.

To switch between v7 and v8 installations, issue `sudo update-alternatives --config libcudnn` and choose the appropriate cuDNN version.

2.6. Troubleshooting

Join the [NVIDIA Developer Forum](#) to post questions and follow discussions.

Chapter 3. Installing cuDNN on Windows

3.1. Prerequisites

For the latest compatibility software versions of the OS, CUDA, the CUDA driver, and the NVIDIA hardware, refer to the [NVIDIA cuDNN Support Matrix](#).

3.1.1. Installing NVIDIA Graphic Drivers

Install up-to-date NVIDIA graphics drivers on your Windows system.

Procedure

1. Go to: [NVIDIA download drivers](#)
2. Select the GPU and OS version from the drop-down menus.
3. Download and install the NVIDIA driver as indicated on that web page. For more information, select the **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** tab for step-by-step instructions for installing a driver.
4. Restart your system to ensure that the graphics driver takes effect.

3.1.2. Installing the CUDA Toolkit for Windows

Refer to the following instructions for installing CUDA on Windows, including the CUDA driver and toolkit: [NVIDIA CUDA Installation Guide for Windows](#).

3.1.3. Installing Zlib

Zlib is a data compression software library that is needed by cuDNN.

Procedure

1. Download and extract the zlib package from [ZLIB DLL](#). Users with a 32-bit machine should download the [32-bit ZLIB DLL](#).



Note: If using Chrome, the file may not automatically download. If this happens, right-click the link and choose **Save link as...** Then, paste the URL into a browser window.

2. Add the directory path of `zlibwapi.dll` to the environment variable PATH.

3.2. Downloading cuDNN for Windows

In order to download cuDNN, ensure you are registered for the [NVIDIA Developer Program](#).

Procedure

1. Go to: [NVIDIA cuDNN home page](#).
2. Click **Download**.
3. Complete the short survey and click **Submit**.
4. Accept the Terms and Conditions. A list of available download versions of cuDNN displays.
5. Select the cuDNN version that you want to install. A list of available resources displays.
6. Download the cuDNN package for Windows (zip).

3.3. Installing on Windows

The following steps describe how to build a cuDNN dependent program.

About this task

In the following steps, you must replace `8.x` and `8.x.y.z` with your specific cuDNN version.

Package installation (zip)

In the following steps:

- ▶ The NVIDIA cuDNN directory path is referred to as `C:\Program Files\NVIDIA\CUDNN\8.x`
- ▶ The package directory path is referred to as `<packagepath>`

Procedure

1. Navigate to your `<packagepath>` directory containing the cuDNN package.
2. Unzip the cuDNN package.

```
cuda-nn-windows-x86_64-*-archive.zip
```

3. Copy the following files from the unzipped package into the NVIDIA cuDNN directory.
 - a). Copy `bin\cudnn*.dll` to `C:\Program Files\NVIDIA\CUDNN\v8.x\bin`.
 - b). Copy `include\cudnn*.h` to `C:\Program Files\NVIDIA\CUDNN\v8.x\include`.
 - c). Copy `lib\x64\cudnn*.lib` to `C:\Program Files\NVIDIA\CUDNN\v8.x\lib\x64`.
4. Set the following environment variable to point to where cuDNN is located. To access the value of the `$ (PATH)` environment variable, perform the following steps:
 - a). Open a command prompt from the **Start** menu.
 - b). Type `Run` and hit **Enter**.
 - c). Issue the `control sysdm.cpl` command.
 - d). Select the **Advanced** tab at the top of the window.
 - e). Click **Environment Variables** at the bottom of the window.
 - f). Add the NVIDIA cuDNN directory path to the `PATH` environment variable:


```
Variable Name: PATH
Value to Add: C:\Program Files\NVIDIA\CUDNN\v8.x
```
5. Include `cudnn.lib` in your Visual Studio project.
 - a). Open the Visual Studio project and right-click on the project name.
 - b). Click **Linker > Input > Additional Dependencies**.
 - c). Add `cudnn.lib` and click **OK**.

3.4. Upgrading cuDNN

Navigate to the directory containing cuDNN and delete the old cuDNN `bin`, `lib`, and `header` files. Remove the path to the directory containing cuDNN from the `$ (PATH)` environment variable. Reinstall a newer cuDNN version by following the steps in [Installing on Windows](#).

3.5. Troubleshooting

Join the [NVIDIA Developer Forum](#) to post questions and follow discussions.

Chapter 4. Cross-Compiling cuDNN Samples

This section describes how to cross-compile cuDNN samples.

4.1. NVIDIA DRIVE OS Linux

Follow the steps in this section to cross-compile cuDNN samples on NVIDIA DRIVE® OS Linux.

4.1.1. Installing the CUDA Toolkit for NVIDIA DRIVE OS

Before issuing the following commands, you must replace x-x with your specific CUDA version.

Procedure

1. Download the Ubuntu package: `cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb`
2. Download the cross compile package: `cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb`
3. Execute the following commands:

```
sudo dpkg -i cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
sudo dpkg -i cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install cuda-toolkit-x-x -y
sudo apt-get install cuda-cross-aarch64* -y
```

4.1.2. Installing cuDNN for NVIDIA DRIVE OS

Procedure

1. Download the cuDNN Debian for x86 HOST.
`cuda-dnn-local-repo-ubuntu2004-*amd64.deb`
2. Download the cuDNN cross Debian for cross-compiling.
`cuda-dnn[local/prune-87]repo-cross-aarch64-ubuntu2004*all.deb`

3. Install the cuDNN Debians for Linux.

```
sudo dpkg -i cudnn-local-repo-ubuntu2004*amd64.deb
sudo apt update
sudo apt install libcudnn8
sudo apt install libcudnn8-dev
sudo apt install libcudnn8-samples
```

4. Install the cuDNN Debians for cross-compiling on Linux.

```
sudo dpkg -i cudnn[local/prune-87]repo-cross-aarch64-ubuntu2004*all.deb
sudo apt update
sudo apt install libcudnn8-cross-aarch64
```

4.1.3. Cross-Compiling cuDNN Samples for NVIDIA DRIVE OS

Procedure

1. Copy the `cudnn_samples_v8` directory to your home directory:

```
$ cp -r /usr/src/cudnn_samples_v8 $HOME
```

2. For each sample, execute the following commands:

```
$ cd $HOME/cudnn_samples_v8/(each sample)
$ make TARGET_ARCH=aarch64
```

4.2. NVIDIA DRIVE OS QNX

Follow the steps in this section to cross-compile cuDNN samples on NVIDIA DRIVE OS for QNX.

4.2.1. Installing the CUDA Toolkit for QNX

Before issuing the following commands, you must replace `x-x` with your specific CUDA version.

Procedure

1. Download the Ubuntu package.

```
cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
```

2. Download the cross compile package.

```
cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb
```

3. Download the minimal toolkit package.

```
cuda-repo-minimal-toolkit*_amd64.deb
```

4. Execute the following commands:

```
sudo dpkg -i cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
sudo dpkg -i cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb
sudo dpkg -i cuda-repo-minimal-toolkit*_amd64.deb
sudo apt update
sudo apt install cuda-qnx-standard-cross-qnx* -y
sudo apt install cuda-toolkit-x-x -y
sudo apt install cuda-qnx-safe-toolkit-x-x -y
```

4.2.2. Installing cuDNN for QNX

Procedure

1. Download the cuDNN Debian for x86 HOST.

```
cuda-local-repo-ubuntu2004*amd64.deb
```

2. Download the cuDNN cross Debian for cross-compiling.

```
cuda-[local/prune-87]repo-cross-aarch64-qnx*_all.deb
```

3. Execute the following commands:

```
sudo dpkg -i cuda-local-repo-ubuntu2004*amd64.deb  
sudo dpkg -i cuda[local/prune-87]repo-cross-aarch64-qnx*_all.deb  
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install libcudnn8-cross-qnx  
sudo apt install libcudnn8-dev  
sudo apt install libcudnn8-samples
```

4.2.3. Set the Environment Variables

To set the environment variables, issue the following commands:

About this task

```
export QNX_HOST={flash_dir}/toolchains/qnx_toolchain/host/linux/x86_64  
export QNX_TARGET={flash_dir}/toolchains/qnx_toolchain/target/qnx7  
export HOST_COMPILER=$QNX_HOST/usr/bin/aarch64-unknown-nto-qnx7.1.0-g++  
export CUDNN_LIB_PATH=/usr/lib/aarch64-unknown-nto-qnx  
export CUDNN_INCLUDE_PATH=/usr/include/aarch64-unknown-nto-qnx  
export CUDA_PATH=/usr/local/cuda-safe-11.4/targets/aarch64-qnx  
export PATH=$PATH:$QNX_HOST/usr/bin
```

4.2.4. Cross-Compiling cuDNN Samples for QNX

Procedure

1. Copy the `cuda_samples_v8` directory to your home directory.

```
$ cp -r /usr/src/cuda_samples_v8 $HOME
```

2. For each sample, execute the following commands:

```
cd $HOME/cuda_samples_v8/(each sample)  
make TARGET_OS=QNX TARGET_ARCH=aarch64 NVCC=/usr/local/cuda-safe-11.4/bin/nvcc
```

4.3. Linux AArch64 SBSA

Follow the steps in this section to cross-compile cuDNN samples on Linux AArch64. Linux AArch64 incorporates ARM[®] based CPU cores for Server Base System Architecture (SBSA).

4.3.1. Installing the CUDA Toolkit for Linux AArch64 SBSA

Before issuing the following commands, you must replace x-x with your specific CUDA version.

Procedure

1. Download the Ubuntu package: `cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb`
2. Download the cross compile package: `cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb`
3. Execute the following commands:

```
sudo dpkg -i cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install cuda-toolkit-x-x -y
sudo apt-get install cuda-cross-aarch64* -y
```

4.3.2. Installing cuDNN for Linux AArch64 SBSA

Procedure

1. Download the cuDNN Ubuntu package for your preferred CUDA toolkit version.

```
cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
```

2. Download the cross compile package.

```
cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb
```

3. Execute the following commands:

```
sudo dpkg -i cuda*ubuntu*_amd64.deb
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8 libcudnn8-dev libcudnn-samples -y
sudo dpkg -i cuda*-cross-aarch64*_all.deb
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install libcudnn8-cross-aarch64* -y
```

4. Install AArch64 host compiler.

```
sudo apt install g++-aarch64-linux-gnu
```

4.3.3. Cross-Compiling cuDNN Samples for Linux AArch64 SBSA

Procedure

1. Copy the `cuda_samples_v8` directory to your home directory:

```
$ cp -r /usr/src/cudnn_samples_v8 $HOME
```

2. For each sample, execute the following commands:

```
$ cd $HOME/cudnn_samples_v8/(each sample)
```

```
$ sudo make TARGET_ARCH=aarch64 SBSA=1
```

Chapter 5. Appendix

5.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NVIDIA would like to thank the following individuals and institutions for their contributions:

- ▶ This product includes zlib - a general purpose compression library <https://zlib.net/> Copyright © 1995-2017 Jean-loup Gailly and Mark Adler
- ▶ This product includes zstr - a C++ zlib wrapper <https://github.com/mateidavid/zstr> Copyright © 2015 Matei David, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
- ▶ This product includes RapidJSON - A fast JSON parser/generator for C++ with both SAX/ DOM style API <https://github.com/Tencent/rapidjson> Copyright © 2015 THL A29 Limited, a Tencent company, and Milo Yip.

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