

AI-02086 PartKeepr Setup Procedure

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What is PartKeepr what's the story of the application and founder? Is it really free or there's a catch? How PartKeepr get their revenue? Provide a Step by Step on the setup and installation for Ubuntu. (Use mysql db)

What is PartKeepr?

PartKeepr is an open-source inventory management system primarily designed for tracking and organizing electronic components and parts. It's a comprehensive web-based solution that helps individuals, hobbyists, and businesses with tasks like:

- **Stock Management:** Keeping track of available parts, their locations, and stock levels.
- **Reordering:** Preventing stock shortages by setting reorder levels and getting alerts.
- **Data Organization:** Storing and managing detailed information about each part, including manufacturers, distributors, datasheets, and custom parameters.
- **Search Functionality:** Offering a fast and robust search feature to quickly find parts based on various criteria.
- **Transaction History:** Tracking all changes to the inventory, including who added or removed parts, when, and for what purpose.

Essentially, it's a powerful tool to streamline inventory oversight and reduce the time and effort spent on manual tracking.

The Story and Founder

PartKeepr was founded by **Félicia Hummel**. It was created out of a need for a practical and efficient way to manage electronics parts, especially for hobbyists and small businesses. The project's name was coined by Georgyo of NYC Resistor.

The core idea was to create an open-source solution that would be highly customizable and adaptable to different needs, unlike more rigid, commercial ERP systems. Being open-source, it allows a community of users and developers to contribute to its development and tailor it to their specific requirements.

Is it Really Free or is There a Catch?

PartKeepr is genuinely free and open-source. There's no cost to download, install, and use the software. The "catch," if you can call it that, is that it is a self-hosted solution. This means:

- **You host it yourself:** You are responsible for providing the server, database, and all the necessary infrastructure to run the application.
- **Technical knowledge is required:** Setting up and maintaining PartKeepr requires a certain level of technical expertise, including knowledge of Linux, web servers (like Apache), PHP, and databases (like MySQL).
- **No commercial support:** As an open-source project, there isn't a dedicated commercial support team. You rely on the community, forums, and documentation for help.

How PartKeepr Gets Revenue

Since PartKeepr is a free and open-source project, it doesn't have a traditional revenue model like selling licenses or subscriptions. Its "revenue" comes in other forms that are common in the open-source world:

- **Donations:** Users and businesses who find the software valuable may choose to donate to support its ongoing development.

- **Community Contribution:** Developers and users contribute their time and expertise to improve the software, fix bugs, and add new features. This is a form of non-monetary "revenue" that sustains the project.
- **Indirect Revenue:** Some developers or consulting companies might offer paid services related to PartKeepr, such as installation, customization, or support, but this is a separate business and not a direct revenue stream for the project itself.

Step-by-Step PartKeepr Setup on Ubuntu (with MySQL)

This guide assumes you are starting with a fresh Ubuntu server and you have root or `sudo` access.

Step 1: Update Ubuntu and Install Required Packages

First, update your system's package list and upgrade existing packages. Then, install the necessary components for a LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) stack, which PartKeepr requires.

Bash

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt upgrade -y
sudo apt install -y apache2 mariadb-server php php-cli php-mysql php-xml php-zip php-mbstring php-gd php-curl
php-intl php-bcmath php-fpm
```

Note: The specific PHP packages may vary slightly depending on your Ubuntu version. PartKeepr generally requires PHP 7.4 or newer.

Step 2: Configure MariaDB (MySQL)

MariaDB is a drop-in replacement for MySQL. Secure your MariaDB installation and create a database and user for PartKeepr.

Bash

```
sudo mysql_secure_installation
```

Follow the prompts to set a root password and remove test data.

Next, log in to the MariaDB shell:

Bash

```
sudo mysql -u root -p
```

Enter the root password you just set.

Create the database and user. Be sure to replace `your_db_name`, `your_db_user`, and `your_password` with your own values.

SQL

```
CREATE DATABASE your_db_name CHARACTER SET utf8mb4 COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci;
CREATE USER 'your_db_user'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'your_password';
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON your_db_name.* TO 'your_db_user'@'localhost';
FLUSH PRIVILEGES;
EXIT;
```

Step 3: Download and Extract PartKeepr

Download the latest stable release of PartKeepr from its official GitHub repository.

Bash

```
cd /tmp
wget https://github.com/partkeepr/PartKeepr/releases/latest/download/partkeepr.zip
sudo unzip partkeepr.zip -d /var/www/html/partkeepr
```

Step 4: Configure Apache

PartKeepr uses a front-controller pattern, so you need to configure Apache to route all requests through a single entry point.

Create a new Apache configuration file for PartKeepr:

Bash

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/partkeepr.conf
```

Add the following configuration. Replace `your_domain_or_ip` with your server's domain name or IP address.

Apache

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName your_domain_or_ip
  DocumentRoot /var/www/html/partkeepr/web

  <Directory /var/www/html/partkeepr/web>
    AllowOverride All
    Order Allow,Deny
    Allow from All
    Require all granted
  </Directory>

  ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/partkeepr_error.log
  CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/partkeepr_access.log combined
</VirtualHost>
```

Enable the new site and the `rewrite` module, then restart Apache.

Bash

```
sudo a2ensite partkeepr.conf  
sudo a2enmod rewrite  
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

Step 5: Set Permissions and Install Composer

Set the correct permissions for the PartKeepr directory to allow the web server to write to it. Then, install Composer, the PHP dependency manager.

Bash

```
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/html/partkeepr  
sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/html/partkeepr  
curl -sS https://getcomposer.org/installer | sudo php -- --install-dir=/usr/local/bin --filename=composer
```

Now, change into the PartKeepr directory and install the necessary PHP dependencies.

Bash

```
cd /var/www/html/partkeepr  
sudo composer install --no-dev
```

Step 6: Run the Web Installer

Open your web browser and navigate to your server's domain or IP address. You should be greeted by the PartKeepr web installer.

Follow the on-screen instructions:

1. **System Check:** The installer will check if all the required dependencies are met.
2. **Database Configuration:** Enter the database name, user, and password you created in Step 2.
3. **User Creation:** Create an admin user for your PartKeepr installation.
4. **Finalize:** The installer will complete the setup.

After the installation is complete, you can access your PartKeepr instance and begin managing your inventory.