

Hi everyone

In order to make life easier (and not rely so heavily on conference wifi), it is highly recommended that you download a couple of things before you come along to the Sphinx tutorial. Firstly, you'll want to get Sphinx itself (it's best to stick with 0.9.8.1):

<http://www.sphinxsearch.com/downloads.html>

If you're running Linux, MacOS X or some other flavour of Unix, just grab the source. For Windows users, your life is even easier with an installer there. Linux users who run package managers like apt and yum may find Sphinx packages that way. If the source is what you get, don't worry too much about running through the install process, we'll be discussing that on the day. Mac users, it may be worth reading the following blog post and maybe downloading the sources for iconv and the expat XML parser, just in case.

<http://www.viget.com/extend/installing-sphinx-on-os-x-leopard>

Don't forget, you'll also want either MySQL or PostgreSQL installed - because they are the only databases 0.9.8 supports.

It's also a good idea to grab the Thinking Sphinx source from GitHub. If you're running git, the following command will do the job:

```
git clone git://github.com/freelancing-god/thinking-sphinx.git
```

If you don't have git installed, then just download it all as a tarball:

<http://github.com/freelancing-god/thinking-sphinx/tarball/master>

Don't worry about setting up a Rails project for this just yet - we'll be running through all that as well at RailsConf.

And if perchance you don't have a laptop with you, don't stress - there'll still be plenty to learn without having a screen in front of you.

Kind regards,

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