Installing software

This chapter describes the different ways in which you can install software on NixOS - as well as ways to run software *without* permanently installing it.

- Installing software globally

Installing software globally

Probably the most common case, is wanting to install software system-wide. This is not *technically* system-wide in NixOS, due to its internal isolation properties, but the difference doesn't really matter for your day-to-day use.

Installing software globally is done by adding it to your `environment.systemPackages`. For example, like so:

```
{
  # ... other configuration goes here ...

  environment.systemPackages = [
    pkgs.htop
    pkgs.iotop
  ];

  # ... other configuration goes here ...
}
```

In this example, two packages are installed: `htop`, and `iotop`. As you can see, they are prefixed with pkgs. - this means that they are *attributes* (ie. properties) of the pkgs *binding* (ie. variable). The type of `environment.systemPackages` is a *list*, containing *derivations*.

Once you have added the package(s) that you want to install to your `systemPackages`, you need to rebuild the system to make the changes take effect.