

# What is Hydra?

Hydra is, more or less, a build server. Unsurprisingly, it uses [Nix and nixlang](#) for specifying what to build. It's used to build the binary packages for [nixpkgs](#), for example, as well as for running automated tests to ensure that packages actually work. If you're just using Nix or [NixOS](#) as an end user, you probably don't need to care about this.

Because Hydra supports deployment operations after a successful build-and-testing cycle, you could also technically consider it a Continuous Deployment system.

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