Setting up a Dropbox folder on your AMI

Introduction

If we are working from both our local desktop or laptop and the cloud-based AMI, we often want to transfer files between the two systems. One easy way to do this is to install Dropbox on the Linux-based AMI, and configure one folder to selectively sync.

Step 1: Visit dropbox.com on Firefox from inside the AMI environment

If you navigate to www.dropbox.com/install, you should be able to scroll down to find a command for the Headless Install via the command line. The 64-bit version seems to work:

Dropbox Headless Install via command line

The Dropbox daemon works fine on all 32-bit and 64-bit Linux servers. To install, run the following command in your Linux terminal.

32-bit:
```
$ cd - &
wget -O - "https://www.dropbox.com/download?plat=lnx.x86" | tar xzf -
```

64-bit:
```
$ cd - &
wget -O - "https://www.dropbox.com/download?plat=lnx.x86_64" | tar xzf -
```

Next, run the Dropbox daemon from the newly created .dropbox-dist folder.
```
$ ./dropbox-dist/dropbox
```

If you’re running Dropbox on your server for the first time, you’ll be asked to copy and paste a link in a working browser to create a new account or add your server to an existing account. Once you do, your Dropbox folder will be created in your home directory. Download this Python script to control Dropbox from the command line. For easy access, put a symlink to the script anywhere in your PATH.

Step 2: Run the Headless Install Command inside a Terminal window

Highlight the command in the browser. If you have a 3-button mouse, you can typically middle-click in the Terminal window to paste. Otherwise, right-click and use the context menu to copy and paste.
When you run the command, it should download and install Dropbox. When it completes, it should open a browser window and prompt you to log in. Once you complete this step, quickly move on to Step 3.
Step 3: Pause Syncing

When Dropbox launches, it will immediately start syncing your entire folder. As soon as possible, right click and pause the syncing.

Step 4: Create a new Dropbox folder that will serve as a swap space

Using your local laptop or desktop machine, create a new Dropbox folder, for example “AMI-swap”.

Step 5: Enable Selective Syncing on the AMI Dropbox

Back on the AMI, right click again on the Dropbox toolbar icon. Next, right below the Pause Syncing item, open the Preferences... then select the last Sync tab, and choose [Selective Sync].
Uncheck the “Select all” box at the top to deselect all folders. Then click only the “AMI-swap” folder (or whatever you called it) to enable syncing just this folder. Click **Update** and then **OK** to exit Preferences.

All done! You should see the swap folder appear on both your local system and the AMI.