Keeping apt-get up to date

Ubuntu frequently has security and bug fix updates to the published software. The apt-get system keeps a list of the known packages and the version numbers of the packages. If the version that apt-get tries to fetch is out of date, it may have been removed from the repository. The package still exists, but apt-get needs to ask for the new version.

These slides show how to update apt-get's knowledge of package versions.
apt-get can't find the package

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

The following NEW packages will be installed:
  - libapache2-mod-php5 php5-common
0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 3,541kB of archives.
After this operation, 9,548kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue [Y/n]?
Err http://mirror.cs.dixie.edu/ubuntu/lucid-updates/main php5-common 5.3.2-1ubuntu4.9
  404 Not Found
Err http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/lucid-security/main php5-common 5.3.2-1ubuntu4.9
  404 Not Found [IP: 91.189.92.166 80]
Err http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/lucid-security/main libapache2-mod-php5 5.3.2-1ubuntu4.9
  404 Not Found [IP: 91.189.92.166 80]
Failed to fetch http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/pool/main/p/php5/php5-common_5.3.2-1ubuntu4.9 amd64.deb 404 Not Found [IP: 91.189.92.166 80]
Failed to fetch http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/pool/main/p/php5/libapache2-mod-php5 5.3.2-1ubuntu4.9 amd64.deb 404 Not Found [IP: 91.189.92.166 80]
E: Unable to fetch some archives, maybe run apt-get update or try with --fix-missing?
root@www:--#
Update the list of packages apt-get knows about

```
root@www:~# apt-get update
Hit http://mirror.cs.dixie.edu lucid Release.gpg
Get:1 http://mirror.cs.dixie.edu/lucid-updates Release.gpg [198B]
Hit http://mirror.cs.dixie.edu lucid Release
Get:2 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security Release.gpg [198B]
Get:3 http://mirror.cs.dixie.edu lucid-updates Release [44.7kB]
```
Try to install again

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Get:15 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security/main Sources [67.2kB]
Get:16 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security/restricted Sources [14B]
Get:17 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security/universe Packages [91.1kB]
Get:18 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security/universe Sources [26.2kB]
Get:20 http://security.ubuntu.com lucid-security/multiverse Sources [1,742B]
Fetched 1,567kB in 4s (385kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
root@www:~# apt-get install libapache2-mod-php5
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
  php5-common
Suggested packages:
  php-pear php5-suhosin
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libapache2-mod-php5 php5-common
0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 15 not upgraded.
Need to get 3,542kB of archives.
After this operation, 9,544kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue [Y/n]?
This time it works correctly