Alcove. Your companion's private space

Linux Prerequisite
Software Installation Guide

This installation guide was written / tested based on an installation against Debian Linux 12.11 and variants such as Raspberry PI OS (64-bit) (with 8GB of RAM) and an AWS EC2 Instance running 2GB of RAM.

This document assumes you have a certain level of Linux administration knowledge necessary to set up a virtual Python environment, install components, etc.

The following prerequisite system software and programming modules must be installed and configured prior to installing Alcove:

1. From a user account with sudo access, ensure the following modules are installed and up to date:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install unzip
sudo apt install python3.13-venv
sudo apt install pip
sudo apt install ffmpeg
```

2. Change to the user's home directory:

```
cd ~
```

3. Create a virtual python environment in the user's home directory (a best practice on most Linux platforms). PLEASE USE the name of "alcove-env" below so that Alcove can find this directory and auto-set its parameters from it. Otherwise you'll have to manually source the virtual environment every time you start Alcove.

```
python3 -m venv alcove-env
```

4. Activate the new virtual environment. You will need to perform this any time you use / call Alcove:

```
source ~/alcove-env/bin/activate
```

5. Install the lxml_html_clean python library which is required by the Alcove installer:

```
pip install lxml_html_clean
```

6. More Depencies Will Be Installed Later - Alcove requires a number of third party Python modules to run. These are handled by running the install_depys.py script. Be sure to check out this step in the Step 3 - Engine Setup Guide for new installations (after you configure any/all applicable online services!)

If all checks above pass, you are ready to move on. Refer to the Step 2 installation guide.