

# System Configuration

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How to configure gentoo to use SCIM as default input method platform.

## SCIM installation on Gentoo

Assumptions:

1. You have not yet installed SCIM.
2. You have just done an **emerge sync**
3. This is a system-wide change
4. You are running as root

### Step 1: Set your locale

Using SCIM means using character sets outside the normal POSIX range; Unicode characters. `locale`

All of the entries should be either blank or say "POSIX", Unless your locale has been previously set. `locale -a | grep utf`

Gives a list of all the unicode locales available on your system. Choose the language you want your menus to be in, NOT the one you are setting up for. For example, a Frenchman wanting to write japanese would choose `fr_FR.utf8`.

Now, following the Frenchman example: `echo LANG="fr_FR.UTF-8" >> /etc/env.d/02locale`  
`env-update`  
`source /etc/profile`

Notice the change from `utf8` to `UTF-8`. This is needed. `locale`

Make sure it has taken effect. If not, restart, reboot, ask questions later.

Please consult the [general configure page](#) about SCIM supported locales. If no `utf8` locales is available in your system, please refer to [Gentoo Linux Localization Guide](#) about how to add one.

### Step2: set your USE flags and rebuild

add ***nls cjk unicode immqt-bc*** to your USE flags in `make.conf` `emerge --newuse world`

to make your system consistent. It could take a long time.

## Step 3: Install your input method.

The Frenchman wants to install japanese, and now, with the assurance the rest of his menus will not show English again, he does a `emerge uim`

This is the layer that takes care of the interpretations between your keyboard and what shows up onscreen. UIM is popular, but not the only methods SCIM can handle. See the ebuild for details.

Now, to make it work.

## Step 4: Install Scim and its relatives

```
emerge scim scim-uim skim
```

Scim is your chooser for Gtk+/Gnome Apps. Scim-UIM is the interface between UIM and Scim, and adds all its functions to the menu. Skim is the Qt/Kde version of the interface.

Once they are re-installed, you really should reboot to let the changes filter through your system.

## Step 5: Test

once your system has rebooted and you are logged back in, check your **locale** again, and make sure you set it correctly.

In KDE and Gnome, you should notice Skim is now in the system tray. Clicking it reveals a menu with different languages. Refer to the Scim Documentation.