Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'dpkg-deb.1'

$ man dpkg-deb.1

dpkg-deb(1)   dpkg suite   dpkg-deb(1)

NAME

   dpkg-deb - Debian package archive (.deb) manipulation tool

SYNOPSIS

   dpkg-deb [option...] command

DESCRIPTION

   dpkg-deb packs, unpacks and provides information about Debian archives.

   Use dpkg to install and remove packages from your system.

   You can also invoke dpkg-deb by calling dpkg with whatever options you want to pass to

   dpkg-deb. dpkg will spot that you wanted dpkg-deb and run it for you.

   For most commands taking an input archive argument, the archive can be read from standard

   input if the archive name is given as a single minus character (?-?); otherwise lack of

   support will be documented in their respective command description.

COMMANDS

   -b, --build binary-directory [archive|directory]

      Creates a debian archive from the filesystem tree stored in binary-directory. binary-

      directory must have a DEBIAN subdirectory, which contains the control information

      files such as the control file itself. This directory will not appear in the binary

      package's filesystem archive, but instead the files in it will be put in the binary

      package's control information area.

      Unless you specify --nocheck, dpkg-deb will read DEBIAN/control and parse it. It will

      check the file for syntax errors and other problems, and display the name of the

      binary package being built. dpkg-deb will also check the permissions of the

maintainer scripts and other files found in the DEBIAN control information directory.

If no archive is specified then dpkg-deb will write the package into the file binary-directory.deb.

If the archive to be created already exists it will be overwritten.

If the second argument is a directory then dpkg-deb will write to the file directory/package_version_arch.deb. When a target directory is specified, rather than a file, the --nocheck option may not be used (since dpkg-deb needs to read and parse the package control file to determine which filename to use).

-I, --info archive [control-file-name...]

Provides information about a binary package archive.

If no control-file-names are specified then it will print a summary of the contents of the package as well as its control file.

If any control-file-names are specified then dpkg-deb will print them in the order they were specified; if any of the components weren't present it will print an error message to stderr about each one and exit with status 2.

-W, --show archive

Provides information about a binary package archive in the format specified by the --showformat argument. The default format displays the package's name and version on one line, separated by a tabulator.

-f, --field archive [control-field-name...]

Extracts control file information from a binary package archive.

If no control-field-names are specified then it will print the whole control file.

If any are specified then dpkg-deb will print their contents, in the order in which they appear in the control file. If more than one control-field-name is specified then dpkg-deb will precede each with its field name (and a colon and space).

No errors are reported for fields requested but not found.

-c, --contents archive

Lists the contents of the filesystem tree archive portion of the package archive. It is currently produced in the format generated by tar's verbose listing.

-x, --extract archive directory

Extracts the filesystem tree from a package archive into the specified directory.

Note that extracting a package to the root directory will not result in a correct installation! Use dpkg to install packages.

directory (but not its parents) will be created if necessary, and its permissions

modified to match the contents of the package.

-X, --vextract archive directory

Is like --extract (-x) with --verbose (-v) which prints a listing of the files

extracted as it goes.

-R, --raw-extract archive directory

Extracts the filesystem tree from a package archive into a specified directory, and

the control information files into a DEBIAN subdirectory of the specified directory

(since dpkg 1.16.1).

The target directory (but not its parents) will be created if necessary.

The input archive is not (currently) processed sequentially, so reading it from

standard input (?-?) is not supported.

--ctrl-tarfile archive

Extracts the control data from a binary package and sends it to standard output in tar

format (since dpkg 1.17.14). Together with tar(1) this can be used to extract a

particular control file from a package archive. The input archive will always be

processed sequentially.

--fsys-tarfile archive

Extracts the filesystem tree data from a binary package and sends it to standard

output in tar format. Together with tar(1) this can be used to extract a particular

file from a package archive. The input archive will always be processed sequentially.

-e, --control archive [directory]

Extracts the control information files from a package archive into the specified

directory.

If no directory is specified then a subdirectory DEBIAN in the current directory is

used.

The target directory (but not its parents) will be created if necessary.

-?, --help

Show the usage message and exit.

--version

Show the version and exit.

OPTIONS

--showformat=format

This option is used to specify the format of the output --show will produce. The format is a string that will be output for each package listed.

The string may reference any status field using the ?${field-name}? form, a list of the valid fields can be easily produced using -I on the same package. A complete explanation of the formatting options (including escape sequences and field tabbing) can be found in the explanation of the --showformat option in dpkg-query(1).

The default for this field is ?${Package}\t${Version}\n?.

-zcompress-level

Specify which compression level to use on the compressor backend, when building a package (default is 9 for gzip, 6 for xz and 19 for zstd). The accepted values are 0-9 with: 0 being mapped to compressor none for gzip. Before dpkg 1.16.2 level 0 was equivalent to compressor none for all compressors.

-Scompress-strategy

Specify which compression strategy to use on the compressor backend, when building a package (since dpkg 1.16.2). Allowed values are none (since dpkg 1.16.4), filtered, huffman, rle and fixed for gzip (since dpkg 1.17.0) and extreme for xz.

-Zcompress-type

Specify which compression type to use when building a package. Allowed values are gzip, xz (since dpkg 1.15.6), zstd (since dpkg 1.19.0.5ubuntu2) and none (default is zstd).

--[no-]uniform-compression

Specify that the same compression parameters should be used for all archive members (i.e. control.tar and data.tar; since dpkg 1.17.6). Otherwise only the data.tar member will use those parameters. The only supported compression types allowed to be uniformly used are none, gzip, xz and zstd. The --no-uniform-compression option disables uniform compression (since dpkg 1.19.0). Uniform compression is the default (since dpkg 1.19.0).

--root-owner-group

Set the owner and group for each entry in the filesystem tree data to root with id 0 (since dpkg 1.19.0).

Note: This option can be useful for rootless builds (see rootless-builds.txt), but should not be used when the entries have an owner or group that is not root. Support for these will be added later in the form of a meta manifest.

--deb-format=format

    Set the archive format version used when building (since dpkg 1.17.0). Allowed values

    are 2.0 for the new format, and 0.939000 for the old one (default is 2.0).

    The old archive format is less easily parsed by non-Debian tools and is now obsolete;

    its only use is when building packages to be parsed by versions of dpkg older than

    0.93.76 (September 1995), which was released as i386 a.out only.

--nocheck

    Inhibits dpkg-deb --build's usual checks on the proposed contents of an archive. You

    can build any archive you want, no matter how broken, this way.

-v, --verbose

    Enables verbose output (since dpkg 1.16.1). This currently only affects --extract

    making it behave like --vextract.

-D, --debug

    Enables debugging output. This is not very interesting.

EXIT STATUS

0   The requested action was successfully performed.

2   Fatal or unrecoverable error due to invalid command-line usage, or interactions with

    the system, such as accesses to the database, memory allocations, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

DPKG_COLORS

    Sets the color mode (since dpkg 1.18.5). The currently accepted values are: auto

    (default), always and never.

TMPDIR

    If set, dpkg-deb will use it as the directory in which to create temporary files and

    directories.

SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH

    If set, it will be used as the timestamp (as seconds since the epoch) in the deb(5)'s

    ar(5) container and used to clamp the mtime in the tar(5) file entries.

NOTES

Do not attempt to use just dpkg-deb to install software! You must use dpkg proper to

ensure that all the files are correctly placed and the package's scripts run and its

status and contents recorded.

BUGS

dpkg-deb -I package1.deb package2.deb does the wrong thing.

There is no authentication on .deb files; in fact, there isn't even a straightforward

checksum. (Higher level tools like APT support authenticating .deb packages retrieved

from a given repository, and most packages nowadays provide an md5sum control file

generated by debian/rules. Though this is not directly supported by the lower level

tools.)

SEE ALSO

deb(5), deb-control(5), dpkg(1), dselect(1).

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