



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'dpkg-parsechangelog.1'

\$ man dpkg-parsechangelog.1

dpkg-parsechangelog(1) dpkg suite dpkg-parsechangelog(1)

NAME

dpkg-parsechangelog - parse Debian changelog files

SYNOPSIS

dpkg-parsechangelog [option...]

DESCRIPTION

dpkg-parsechangelog reads and parses the changelog of an unpacked Debian source tree and outputs the information in it to standard output in a machine-readable form.

OPTIONS

-l, --file changelog-file

Specifies the changelog file to read information from. A ?-? can be used to specify reading from standard input. The default is debian/changelog.

-F changelog-format

Specifies the format of the changelog. By default the format is read from a special line near the bottom of the changelog or failing that defaults to the debian standard format. See also "CHANGELOG FORMATS".

-L libdir

Obsolete option without effect (since dpkg 1.18.8). Setting the perl environment variables PERL5LIB or PERLLIB has a similar effect when looking for the parser perl modules.

-S, --show-field field

Specifies the name of the field to show (since dpkg 1.17.0). The field name is not printed, only its value.

-?, --help

Show the usage message and exit.

--version

Show the version and exit.

Parser Options

The following options can be used to influence the output of the changelog parser, for example the range of entries or the format of the output.

--format output-format

Set the output format. Currently supported values are `dpkg` and `rfc822`. `dpkg` is the classic output format (from before this option existed) and the default. It consists of one stanza in Debian control format (see `deb-control(5)`). If more than one entry is requested, then most fields are taken from the first entry (usually the most recent entry), except otherwise stated:

Source: pkg-name

The source package name.

Version: version

The source version number. Note: For binary-only releases there might be no corresponding source release.

Distribution: target-distribution

A space-separated list of one or more distribution names where this version should be installed when it is uploaded.

Urgency: urgency

The highest urgency of all included entries is used, followed by the concatenated (space-separated) comments from all the versions requested.

Maintainer: author

The name and email address of the person who prepared these changes, they are not necessarily those of the uploader or the usual package maintainer.

Date: date

The date of the entry as a string, as it appears in the changelog. With a `strptime(3)` format `"%a, %d %b %Y %T %Z"`, but where the day of the week might not actually correspond to the real day obtained from the rest of the date string. If you need a more accurate representation of the date, use the `Timestamp` field, but take into account it might not be possible to map it back to the exact value in this

field.

Timestamp: timestamp

The date of the entry as a timestamp in seconds since the epoch (since dpkg 1.18.8).

Closes: bug-number

The Closes fields of all included entries are merged.

Changes: changelog-entries

The text of all changelog entries is concatenated. To make this field a valid Debian control format multiline field empty lines are replaced with a single full stop and all lines is intended by one space character. The exact content depends on the changelog format.

The Version, Distribution, Urgency, Maintainer and Changes fields are mandatory.

There might be additional user-defined fields present.

The rfc822 format uses the same fields but outputs a separate stanza for each changelog entry so that all metadata for each entry is preserved.

--reverse

Include all changes in reverse order (since dpkg 1.19.1).

Note: For the dpkg format the first entry will be the most ancient entry.

--all

Include all changes. Note: Other options have no effect when this is in use.

-s, --since version

-v version

Include all changes later than version.

-u, --until version

Include all changes earlier than version.

-f, --from version

Include all changes equal or later than version.

-t, --to version

Include all changes up to or equal than version.

-c, --count number

-n number

Include number entries from the top (or the tail if number is lower than 0).

-o, --offset number

Change the starting point for --count, counted from the top (or the tail if number is

lower than 0).

CHANGELOG FORMATS

It is possible to use a different format to the standard one, by providing a parser for that alternative format.

In order to have `dpkg-parsechangelog` run the new parser, a line must be included within the last 40 lines of the `changelog` file, matching the Perl regular expression:

`?\s[changelog-format:]\s+([0-9a-z]+\)\W?`. The part in parentheses should be the name of the format. For example:

```
@@@ changelog-format: otherformat @@@
```

Changelog format names are non-empty strings of lowercase alphanumerics (`?a-z0-9?`).

If such a line exists then `dpkg-parsechangelog` will look for the parser as a `Dpkg::Changelog::Otherformat` perl module; it is an error for it not being present. The parser name in the perl module will be automatically capitalized. The default changelog format is `debian`, and a parser for it is provided by default.

The parser should be derived from the `Dpkg::Changelog` class and implement the required documented interface.

If the changelog format which is being parsed always or almost always leaves a blank line between individual change notes, these blank lines should be stripped out, so as to make the resulting output compact.

If the changelog format does not contain date or package name information this information should be omitted from the output. The parser should not attempt to synthesize it or find it from other sources.

If the changelog does not have the expected format the parser should error out, rather than trying to muddle through and possibly generating incorrect output.

A changelog parser may not interact with the user at all.

NOTES

All Parser Options except for `-v` are only supported since `dpkg 1.14.16`.

Short option parsing with non-bundled values available only since `dpkg 1.18.0`.

ENVIRONMENT

DPKG_COLORS

Sets the color mode (since `dpkg 1.18.5`). The currently accepted values are: `auto` (default), `always` and `never`.

DPKG_NLS

If set, it will be used to decide whether to activate Native Language Support, also known as internationalization (or i18n) support (since dpkg 1.19.0). The accepted values are: 0 and 1 (default).

FILES

debian/changelog

The changelog file, used to obtain version-dependent information about the source package, such as the urgency and distribution of an upload, the changes made since a particular release, and the source version number itself.

BUGS

The Maintainer field has a confusing name matching the field in the debian/control file but not its exact semantics, where its meaning would be better represented by the Changed-By field name used in the .changes file.

SEE ALSO

deb-changelog(5).

1.23.7	2026-03-31	dpkg-parsechangelog(1)
--------	------------	------------------------