

decr-f
Version 0.6.2

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1 Introduction

1.1 What is decr-f

Decr-f is a package information system. It collects distribution independent data about packages. Distributors and end users can use the information to build their packages or even their package-database.

1.2 The aim

Decr-f tries to collect distribution independent information about software packages like "How to get the source or binary of the package?" or "How to contact the maintainer?" and "What packages does it depend on?".

1.3 How does it work

The data of decr-f is stored in a flat database. We allow easy internationalization: All files are written in UTF-8 (Unicode). It can be retrieved by any HTTP able program. Anybody can add package information, but only the maintainers can commit new data to the database.

1.4 How to retrieve data

You can use any program, which is able to speak HTTP. `decr-f.show`, part of the `decr-f-tools` package, is such a progra. If you use `decr-f.show`, you simply call it from the command line:

```
decr-f.show <package> <which-information>
```

Soon there will be the possibility to view and search decr-f information through a web-interface at <http://linux.schottelius.org/decr-f/search.php>. If you use any other program, you have to point it to a decr-f mirror and select the package by retrieving `http(s)://decr-f.mirror/decr-f/package/information`. There is also the possibility to retrieve the whole database via `rsync`.

1.5 How to add information

The recommend method is to use "decr-f.user.menu" and then select "Add package", but you can also add packages via <http://linux.schottelius.org/decr-f/add.php>. If you want to learn how decr-f internally works, you can build up yourself a flat database and create an entry for your package.

1.6 decr-f mirrors

Currently we are searching for more people mirroring decr-f and making it available via `rsync`, `http` or (preferred) via `https`. A list of current mirrors can always be found at the main site, <http://linux.schottelius.org/decr-f/#mirrors>.

2 Specification of version 0.6

Decr-f consists of objects, which contain subobjects. Some are mandatory, some may be used multiply. Those, which have multiple entries use \n (new-line) separated entries. Currently there are no exclusive-use-only objects.

2.1 decr-f

The "decr-f" object is the "main" object. You have to use it in every decr-f entry.

Table 1: decr-f-objects

Object	Description	Mandatory	Multiply
decr-f/maintainer	Maintainer of the decr-f information	yes	no
decr-f/version	Version used (0.6 currently)	yes	no

Example:

Table 2: decr-f-objects

Object	Value
decr-f/maintainer	Nico Schottelius (nico-linux@schottelius.org)
decr-f/version	0.6

2.2 info

The "info" table contains general information about the package.

Table 3: info-objects

Object	Description	Mandatory	Multiply
info/name	name of the package	yes	no
info/longname	longname of the package	no	no
info/development_line	the development line it belongs to	yes	no
info/category	sys(tem)/net(work)/fun/(multi)media	yes	no
info/use_as	purpose of the package	yes	no
info/type	lib(rary)/prog(ram)/doc(umentation)/patch	yes	no
info/description/ <i>language</i>	description "en" is mandatory, the rest optional.	yes	no
info/keywords/ <i>language</i>	keywords "en" is mandatory, the rest optional.	yes	no
info/copyright	copyright/left license	yes	yes
info/provides	(new-line separated) list of provided files	yes	yes

info/obsoleted_by	package is obsoleted by	no	no
info/replaces	package it replaces	no	no

Example:

Table 4: info-example

Object	Value
info/name	gpm
info/longname	general purpose mouse
info/development_line	1.20
info/category	sys
info/use_as	mouse_driver
info/type	prog
info/description/en	GPM enables the mouse in the console.
info/description/de	GPM ermöglicht die Verwendung der Maus in der Console.
info/keywords/en	mouse console
info/keywords/de	Maus Console
info/copyright	GPL
info/provides	sbin/gpm lib/libgpm.a include/gpm.h libgpm.so bin/gpm-root bin/mev bin/hltest bin/mouse-test bin/disable-paste

2.3 contact

The "contact" table describes how to contact the authorities for the package. If mailinglist objects are having multiple entries, the first one belongs to the first one, the second to the second, etc.

Table 5: contact-objects

Object	Description	Mandority	Multiply
contact/author	Contact of the author At least name and email.	yes	yes
contact/maintainer	Contact of the maintainer(s)	yes	yes
contact/ml/public	Is the mailinglist public?	no	yes

contact/ml/sub_mail	Email for subscribing to the list	no	yes
contact/ml/sub_subject	Subject for subscribing to the list	no	yes
contact/ml/post	Email to post on the list	no	no

Example:

Table 6: contact-example

Object	Value
contact/author	mailto://nico-decr-f@schottelius.org irc://irc.freenode.org/#clinux (telmich)
contact/maintainer	mailto:nico-decr-f@schottelius.org
contact/ml/public	yes no
contact/ml/sub_email	decr-f-subscribe@lists.schottelius.org decr-f-dev-subscribe@lists.schottelius.org
contact/ml/sub_subject	secret
contact/ml/posttoaddress	decr-f@lists.schottelius.org decr-f-dev@lists.schottelius.org

2.4 source

The "source" table describes the ways to get the package.

Table 7: source-objects

Object	Description	Mandority	Multi
source/homepage/original	URI of original homepage	yes	no
source/homepage/mirror	URI of mirror homepage	no	yes
source/archive/original	URI of original source archive	yes	no
source/archive/mirrors	URI of alternate source archiv	no	yes
source/archive/size	Size of original source archiv	yes	no
source/archive/checksum	URI of checksum file	yes	no
source/archive/checksum_type	Type of (md5,sha1)	yes	no
source/archive/signature	URI of pgp-signature file	no	no
source/archive/signature_id	Your PGP-key ID	no	no
source/alternative	Freeform description of alternative source. Should be used for VCS ¹ .	no	yes
source/changelog	URI of the ChangeLog	no	yes
source.faq	URI of the F.A.Q.	no	yes

¹Version Control Systems, like CVS, Monotone or TLA

Example:

Table 8: source-example

Object	Value
source/homepage/original	http://linux.schottelius.org/gpm/
source/archive/original	http://ftp.schottelius.org/pub/linux/gpm/gpm-1.20.1.tar.bz2
source/archive/mirrors	ftp://arcana.linux.it/pub/gpm/gpm-1.20.1.tar.bz2
source/archive/size	565014
source/archive/checksum	http://ftp.schottelius.org/pub/linux/gpm/gpm-1.20.1.tar.bz2.sha1
source/archive/checksum_type	sha1
source/alternative	Monotone VCS is available. The key can be found on the homepage. The collection ist org.schottelius.gpm. The server is linux.schottelius.org.

2.5 depends

The "depends" table contains all dependencies of the package. It should list one dependency per line. Packages depend on other packages, but you must specify the development line. You must also include one of the following "mathematic" symbols:

==, >, >=, <, <=, !=

Table 9: depends objects

depends/build	All packages it needs to be build	no	yes
depends/run	All packages it needs when running	no	yes

Table 10: depends-example

depends/build	== gcc-2.9.5
depends/run	>= apache-1.3 == mysql-1.4

2.6 The database - Storing information

Decr-f is organized in a flat database.

3 FAQ: Frequently asked questions

3.1 Why do I want to use it?

Because you have the possibility to find distribution independent information about any software package in the Internet.

4 Miscellaneous

4.1 TODO

- publish this document
- publish the decr-f-tools
- create decr-f web interface
- start begin integration in distributions / package management

4.2 Updates, Changes, Copying, Contact

Updates of this document can be found at <http://linux.schottelius.org/decr-f/>. If you want to submit changes, simply contact me with a *diff -u* to the original L^AT_EX document. Copying the entire document without changes is allowed. You can contact me via e-mail at "nico-decr-f@schottelius.org".