

OPAM: a Package Management Systems for OCaml

Version 1.0.0 Roadmap

THIS DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT

Thomas GAZAGNAIRE
thomas.gazagnaire@ocamlpro.com

April 24, 2012

Contents

1	Milestone 1: Foundations	3
1.1	Client state	3
1.2	File Syntax	4
1.2.1	Installed packages	4
1.2.2	General Syntax	4
1.2.3	Configuration files	5
1.2.4	OPAM files	5
1.2.5	Configuration files	6
1.2.6	Install files	7
1.2.7	Substitution files	7
1.3	Server state	8
1.4	Client commands	8
1.4.1	Creating a fresh client state	8
1.4.2	Listing packages	8
1.4.3	Installing a package	9
1.4.4	Updating index files	10
1.4.5	Upgrading installed packages	10
1.4.6	Getting package configuration	10
1.4.7	Uploading packages	11
1.5	Removing packages	11
1.6	Dependency solver	11
1.7	Getting package options	12
1.8	Getting package recursive configuration	12

2	Milestone 2: Custom Client-Server Protocol	12
2.0.1	Getting the list of packages	12
2.0.2	Getting OPAM files	12
2.0.3	Getting description files	13
2.0.4	Getting package archive	13
2.0.5	Uploading new archives	13
2.0.6	Binary Protocol	13
3	Milestone 3: Link Information	14
4	Milestone 4: Server Authentication	14
4.1	RPC protocol	14
4.2	Server authentication	14
5	Milestones 6: Pre-Processors Information	14
5.1	Getting package preprocessor options	15
6	Milestones 7: Support of Multiple Compiler Versions	15
6.1	Compiler Description Files	15
6.2	Milestone 8: Version Pinning	16
6.3	Milestones 9: Parallel Build	16
6.4	Milestone 10: Version Comparison Scheme	16
6.5	Milestone 11: Database of Installed Files	16

Overview

This document specifies the design of a package management system for OCaml (OPAM). For the first version of OPAM, we have tried to consider the simplest design choices, even if these choices restrict user possibilities (but we hope not too much). Our goal is to propose a system that we can build in a few months. Some of the design choices might evolve to more complex tasks later, if needed.

A package management system has typically two kinds of users: *end-users* who install and use packages for their own projects; and *packagers*, who create and upload packages. End-users want to install on their machine a consistent collection of *packages* – a package being a collection of OCaml libraries and/or programs. Packagers want to take a collection of their own libraries and programs and make them available to other developers.

This document describes the functional requirements for both kinds of users.

Conventions

In this document, `$home`, `$opam`, `$opamserver` and `$package` are assumed to be defined as follows:

- `$home` refers to the end-user home path, typically `/home/thomas/` on linux, `/Users/thomas/` on OSX `C:\Documents and Settings\thomas\` on Windows.
- `$opam` refers to the filesystem subtree containing the client state. Default directory is `$home/.opam`.

- `$opamserver` refers to the filesystem subtree containing the server state. Default directory is `$home/.opam-server`.
- `$package` refers to a path in the packager filesystem, where lives the collection of libraries and programs he wants to package.

User variables are written in capital letters, prefixed by `$`. For instance package names will be written `$NAME`, package versions `$VERSION`, and the version of the ocaml compiler currently installed `$OVERSION`.

1 Milestone 1: Foundations

The first milestone of OPAM focuses on providing a limited set of features, dedicated to package management of OCaml packages. OPAM rely on external tools to compile and provide full configuration options to the build tools. The goal for this first milestone is to be compatible with `ocamlfind` and `oasis`.

1.1 Client state

The client state is stored on the filesystem, under `$opam`:

- `$opam/config` is the main configuration file. It defines the OPAM version, the repository addresses and the current compiler version. The file format is described in §1.2.3.
- `$opam/index/$NAME.$VERSION.opam` is the OPAM specification for the package `$NAME` with version `$VERSION` (which might not be installed). The format of OPAM files is described in §1.2.4.
- `$opam/descr/$NAME.$VERSION` is the textual description of the version `$VERSION` of package `$NAME` (which might not be installed). The first line of this file is the package synopsis.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/installed` is the list of installed packages for the compiler version `$OVERSION`. The file format is described in §1.2.1.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/config/$NAME.config` is a platform-specific configuration file of for the installed package `$NAME` with the compiler version `$OVERSION`. The file format is described in §1.2.5. `$opam/$OVERSION/config/` can be shortened to `$config/` for more readability.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/install/$NAME.install` is a platform-specific package installation file for the installed package `$NAME` with the compiler version `$OVERSION`. The file format is described in §1.2.6. `$opam/$OVERSION/install` can be shortened to `$install/` for more readability.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/lib/$NAME/` contains the libraries associated to the installed package `$NAME` with the compiler version `$OVERSION`. `$opam/$OVERSION/lib/` can be shortened to `$lib/` for more readability.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/doc/$NAME/` contains the documentation associated to the installed package `NAME` with the compiler version `$OVERSION`. `/$opam/OVERSION/doc/` can be shortened to `$doc/` for more readability.

- `$opam/$OVERSION/bin/` contains the program files for all installed packages with the compiler version `$OVERSION`. `$opam/$OVERSION/bin/` can be shortened to `$bin/` for more readability.
- `$opam/archives/$NAME.$VERSION.tar.gz` contains the archive of source files for the version `$VERSION` of package `$NAME`.
- `$opam/$OVERSION/build/$NAME.$VERSION/` is a temporary folder used to build package `$NAME` with version `$VERSION`, with compiler version `$OVERSION`. `$opam/$OVERSION/build/` can be shortened to `$build/` for more readability.

1.2 File Syntax

1.2.1 Installed packages

`$opam/$OVERSION/installed` follows a very simple syntax: the file is a list of lines which each has a name and a version, separated by a single space. Each line `$NAME $VERSION` means that the version `$VERSION` of package `$NAME` has been compiled with OCaml version `$OVERSION` and has been installed on the system in `$lib/$NAME` and `$bin/`.

1.2.2 General Syntax

Most of the files in the client and server states share the same syntax defined in this section.

Base types The base types are:

- **BOOL** either `true` or `false`
- **STRING** a doubly-quoted OCaml string, for instance: `"foo"`
- **SYMBOL** a symbol contains only non-letter and non-digit characters, for instance: `<=`
- **IDENT** an ident starts by a letter and is followed by any number of letters, digit and symbols, for instance: `foo-bar`

Compound types Values of base types can be composed together to build complex types:

- `[X]` a space-separated list of values of type `X`
- `(X)` a space-separated optional list of values of type `X`
- `{ X }` a space-separated collection of values of types `X` (whose order is thus not meaningful).

Files All structured OPAM files share the same syntax:

- A file is a space-separated list of `items`
- An `item` is either:
 - `IDENT = value`
 - `IDENT STRING { item }`
- a `value` is either:
 - `BOOL`
 - `STRING`
 - `SYMBOL`
 - `[VALUE]`
 - `VALUE (VALUE)`

1.2.3 Configuration files

`$opam/config` has the following format:

```
opam-version = "1.0"
sources = [ STRING ]
ocaml-version = STRING
```

The field `sources` contains the list of OPAM repositories (default is `"http://opam.ocamlpro.com/pub/"`). Initially, the field `ocaml-version` corresponds to the output of `'ocamlc -version'`.

1.2.4 OPAM files

`$opam/index/$NAME.$VERSION.opam` follows the syntax defined in §1.2.2, restricted to the following subset:

```
opam-version = 1.0

package NAME {
  version      = STRING
  maintainer   = STRING
  build        = [ STRING ]
  depends      = VALUE
  conflicts    = VALUE
  libraries    = [ STRING ]
  syntax       = [ STRING ]
}
```

- The first line specifies the OPAM version.
- The contents of `version` is `VERSION`. `maintainer` contains the contact address of the package maintainer.
- The content of `build` is the command to run in order to build the package libraries. The build script should build all the libraries and syntax extensions exported by the package, but it should also build and run the tests (if any) and build the documentation (if any).
- The `depends` and `conflicts` fields contain expressions over package names, optionally parametrized by version constraints. An expression is either:
 - A package name: `"foo"`;
 - A package name with version constraints: `"foo" (>= "1.2" & <= "3.4")`
 - A disjunction of expressions: `E | F`
 - A conjunction of expressions: `E & F`
 - An expression with parenthesis: `(E)`

For instance `"foo" (<= "1.2") & ("bar" | "gna" (= "3.14"))` is a valid formula whose semantic is: *a version of package "foo" lesser or equal to 1.2 and either any version of package "bar" or the version 3.14 of package "gna"*.

- The `libraries` and `syntax` fields contain the libraries and syntax extensions defined by the package.

1.2.5 Configuration files

`$opam/VERSION/config/NAME.config` follows the syntax defined in §1.2.2, restricted to the following subset:

```
library STRING {
  include  = [ STRING ]
  asmlink  = [ STRING ]
  bytelink = [ STRING ]
  requires = [ STRING ( STRING ) ]
  pp       = [ STRING ( STRING ) ]
  IDENT = BOOL
  IDENT = STRING
  IDENT = [ STRING ]
  ...
}
```

```
syntax STRING {
  include  = [ STRING ]
  asmlink  = [ STRING ]
  bytelink = [ STRING ]
  requires = [ STRING ( STRING ) ]
  pp       = [ STRING ( STRING ) ]
  IDENT = BOOL
  IDENT = STRING
  IDENT = [ STRING ]
  ...
}
```

```
IDENT = BOOL
IDENT = STRING
IDENT = [ STRING ]
...
```

Each `library` block defines the compilation options to use when linking with this library. Options associated to library dependencies are dynamically computed using the `requires` field.

Each `syntax` block defines the pre-processing options to use when using this syntax extension. Options associated to pre-processor dependencies are dynamically computed using the `pp` field. The full pre-processor command line is then passed to the compiler with `-pp`.

More details on the semantic of each field:

- `include` is the list of directory to open when compiling a project using the library (or the syntax extension). It should at least contain [`"-I" "/full/path/to/NAME"]`.
- `asmlink` is either the list of libraries to use when linking a project in native code with the library. It should at least contain [`"-I" "/full/path/to/NAME" "NAME.cmxa"]`
- `asmlink` is either the list of libraries to use when linking a project in byte code with the library. It should at least contain [`"-I" "/full/path/to/NAME" "NAME.cma"]`

- **requires** is the list of libraries which needs to be linked with the current one. The syntax "foo" ("bar" "gna") means only libraries "bar" and "gna" in package "foo" will be considered. The syntax "foo" means *all* libraries in package "foo" will be considered.
- **pp** is the list of syntax extension to use when compiling a program using the library. The syntax is similar to **requires**. Once expended, the list of arguments is used with the **-pp** command-line option of the chosen compiler.

The remaining fields **IDENT = BOOL**, **IDENT = STRING** or **IDENT = [STRING]**, where **IDENT** are in *capitalized letters*, are used to defined global variables associated to this package, and are used to substitute variables in template files:

- **%{\$NAME}\$VAR%** will refer to the variable **\$VAR** defined the file **\$config/NAME.config**
- **%{\$NAME.\$LIB}\$VAR%** will refer to the variable **\$VAR** defined in the library or syntax section **\$LIB** in the file **\$config/\$NAME.config**.

1.2.6 Install files

\$opam/OVERSION/install/NAME.install follows the syntax defined in §1.2.2, but restricted to the following subset:

```
lib = [ STRING ]
bin = [ STRING ( STRING ) ]
doc = [ STRING ]
misc = [ [ STRING STRING ] ]
```

Files listed under **lib** are copied to **\$lib/\$NAME/**. File listed under **bin** are copied to **\$bin/**. Files listed under **doc** are copied to **\$doc/\$NAME/**. Files listed under **misc** should be processed as follows: for each pair **\$FILE \$DST**, the tool should ask the user if he wants to install **\$FILE** to the absolute path **\$DST**.

1.2.7 Substitution files

All of the previous files can be generated using a special mode of **opam** which can perform tests and substitution variables (see §1.4.6). The syntax defined in §1.2.2 is extended as follows:

- A value can also be of the form **%{IDENT}IDENT%**. The semantic of **%{PACKAGE}VAR%** is the value of the variable **VAR** defined in **\$config/PACKAGE.config**
- A value can also be of the form **%{IDENT}-{IDENT}IDENT%**. The semantic of **%{PACKAGE}-{LIB}VAR%** is the value of the variable **VAR** defined in the **LIB** section in **\$config/PACKAGE.config**
- An item can also be of the form **IF test { item }** or **IF test { item } THEN { item }** where **test** is:
 - either a value of type **BOOL**
 - or a variable whose value is a boolean
 - or an expression **VALUE = VALUE** where the contents of both values is compared structurally

1.3 Server state

The filesystem of OPAM repositories are mirrored on the client filesystem under `opamserver/HOSTNAME+` for each remote repository named `$HOSTNAME`. This filesystem contains:

- `$opamserver/$HOSTNAME/index/$NAME.$VERSION.opam`, which are OPAM files for all available versions of all available packages. The format of specification files is described in §1.2.4.
- `$opamserver/$HOSTNAME/descr/$NAME.$VERSION`, which are textual description files for all available versions of all available packages.
- `$opamserver/update` is the script which will be run each time the repository is updated. It should return a list of lines following the same format as described in §1.2.1 and containing the new packages.
- `$opamserver/getArchive` is a script which will be run to get an the archive corresponding to a package. It takes as argument a package name and a package version and it returns the downloaded filename.
- `$opamserver/setArchive` is a script which will be run to upload a new archive. It takes as argument a package name, a package version and the archive to upload.

1.4 Client commands

1.4.1 Creating a fresh client state

When an end-user starts OPAM for the first time, he needs to initialize `$opam/` in a consistent state. In order to do so, he should run:

```
$ opam init HOSTNAMES
```

Where `HOSTNAMES` is a (possibly empty) list of OPAM repositories. If no OPAM repository is specified, default is `"opam://opam.ocamlpro.com"`.

This command will:

1. create the file `$opam/config` (as specified in §1.2.5)
2. create an empty `$opam/$OVERSION/installed` file.
3. ask all the server in sequence for all available packages using `getList` (§2.0.1) and get all the corresponding spec files using `getOPAM` (§2.0.3).
4. dump all the spec files into `$opam/index/$NAME.$VERSION.opam`.
5. create empty directories `$opam/archives`; and create `$lib/` and `$bin/` if they do not exist.

1.4.2 Listing packages

When an end-user wants to have information on all available packages, he should run:

```
$ opam list
```


This command will parse `$opam/OVERSION/installed` to know the installed packages, and `$opam/index/*.opam` to get all the available packages. It will then build a summary of each packages. For instance, if `batteries` version `1.1.3` is installed, `ounit` version `2.3+dev` is installed and `camomille` is not installed, then running the previous command should display:

```
batteries  1.1.3  Batteries is a standard library replacement
ounit      2.3+dev Test framework
camomille   --    Unicode support
```

In case the end-user wants a more details view of a specific package, he should run:

```
$ opam info NAME
```

This command will parse `$opam/$OVERSION/installed` to get the installed version of `$NAME` and will look for `$opam/index/$NAME/*.opam` to get available versions of `$NAME`. It can then display:

```
package:  $NAME
version:  $VERSION          # '--' if not installed
versions: $VERSION1, $VERSION2, ...
libraries: $LIB1, $LIB2, ...
syntax:  $SYNTAX1, $SYNTAX2, ...
description:
  $SYNOPSIS

  $LINE1
  $LINE2
  $LINE3
```

1.4.3 Installing a package

When an end-user wants to install a new package, he should run:

```
$ opam install NAME
```

This command will:

1. look into `$opam/index/$NAME/*.opam` to find the latest version of the package.
2. compute the transitive closure of dependencies and conflicts of packages using the dependency solver (see §1.6). If the dependency solver returns more than one answer, the tool will ask the user to pick one, otherwise it will proceed directly.
3. the dependency solver should have sorted the collections of packages in topological order. Them, for each of them do:
 - (a) check whether the package archive is installed by looking for the line `$NAME $VERSION` in `$opam/$OVERSION/installed`. If not, then:
 - i. look into the archive cache to see whether it has already been downloaded. The cache location is: `$opam/archives/NAME.VERSION.tar.gz`.
 - ii. if not, then download the archive and store it in the cache.

- iii. decompress the archive into `$build/`. By convention, we assume that this should create `$build/$NAME.$VERSION/`.
- iv. run `$build/$NAME.$VERSION/build.sh`. By convention, package archives should contains such a file.
- v. process `$build/NAME.VERSION/NAME.install`. The file format is described in §1.2.6.

Remark This installation scheme is not always correct, as installing a new package should uninstall all packages depending on that one. For instance, let us consider 3 packages **A**, **B** and **C**; **B** and **C** depend on **A**; **C** depends on **B**. **A** and **B** are installed, and the user request **C** to be installed. If the version of **A** is not correct one but the version of **B** is, the tool should: install the latest version of **A**, recompile **B**, compile **C**. It is understood that, with this first milestone, **B** will not be recompiled. This issue will be fixed in next milestones of OPAM.

1.4.4 Updating index files

When an end-user wants to know what are the latest packages available, he will write:

```
$ opam update
```

This command will ask the server the list of available packages using `getList` (see §2.0.1); then ask for the missing OPAM files using `getOPAM` (see §2.0.3). Finally it will dump the missing OPAM files into `$opam/index/$NAME.$VERSION.opam`.

1.4.5 Upgrading installed packages

When an end-user wants to upgrade the packages installed on his host, he will write:

```
$ opam upgrade
```

This command will call the dependency solver (see §1.6) to find a consistent state where *most* of the installed packages are upgraded to their latest version. It will install each non-installed packages in topological order, similar to what it is done during the install step, See §1.2.6.

1.4.6 Getting package configuration

The first version of OPAM contains the minimal information to be able to use installed libraries. In order to do so, the end-user (or the packager) should run:

```
$ opam config -list-vars
$ opam config -var {$NAME}$VAR+
$ opam config -var {$NAME.$LIB}$VAR+
$ opam config -subst $FILENAME+
```

- `-list-vars` will return the list of all variables defined in installed packages (see §1.2.5)
- `-var {$NAME}$VAR` will return the value of the variable `$VAR` defined in `$config/NAME.config`
- `-var {$NAME.$LIB}$VAR` will return the value of the variable `$VAR` defined in the section `$LIB` in `$config/NAME.config`
- `-subst $FILENAME` replace any occurrence of `%{$NAME}$VAR%` and `%{$NAME.$LIB}$VAR%` from `$FILENAME.in` to create `$FILENAME`.

1.4.7 Uploading packages

When a packager wants to create a package, he should:

1. create `$package/$NAME.$VERSION.opam` containing in the format specified in §1.2.4.
2. create `$package/$NAME.install` containing the list of files to install. File format is described in 3(a)v); filenames should be relative to `$package`.
3. create the script `./build.sh` which will be called by the end-user installer. This script should configure and build the package on the end-user host.
4. create an archive `$NAME.$VERSION.tar.gz` of the sources he wants to distribute.
5. run the following command:

```
$ opam upload $FILENAME $ARCHIVE
```

This command looks into the current directory for a file named `$FILE`, and it will parse it to get the package name and version number. Then it checks that `$ARCHIVE$` corresponds to `$NAME.$VERSION.tar.gz`. It will then use the server API 2 to upload the package on the server.

This command will work only for READ-WRITE repositories.

1.5 Removing packages

When the user wants to remove a package, he should write:

```
$ opam-remove $NAME
```

This command will check whether the package `$NAME` is installed, and if yes, it will display to the user the list packages that will be uninstalled (ie. the transitive closure of all forward-dependencies). If the user accepts the list, all the packages should be uninstalled, and the client state should be let in a consistent state.

1.6 Dependency solver

Dependency solving is a hard problem and we do not plan to start from scratch implementing a new SAT solver. Thus our plan to integrate (as a library) the Debian dependency solver for CUDF files, which is written in OCaml.

- the dependency solver should run on the client; and
- the dependency solver should take as input a list of packages (with some optional version information) the user wants to install, upgrade and remove and it should return a consistent list of packages (with version numbers) to install, upgrade, recompile and remove.

1.7 Getting package options

The user should be able to run:

```
XXX
```

This command will return the list of link options to pass to `ocamlc` when linking with libraries exported by `NAME`.

In order to be able to do so, packagers should provide a file `NAME.descr` which gives link information such as:

```
library foo {
  requires: bar, gni
  link: -linkall
  asmlink: -cclib -lfoo
}
```

1.8 Getting package recursive configuration

The user should be able to run:

```
$ opam-config -r -dir NAME
$ opam-config -r -bytelink NAME
$ opam-config -r -asmlink NAME
```

This command will return the good options to use for package `NAME` and all its dependencies, in a form suitable to be used by OCaml compilers.

2 Milestone 2: Custom Client-Server Protocol

All the kinds of OPAM repositories should be available using the same API (however, some functions will not be available for some backends).

2.0.1 Getting the list of packages

```
val getList    : repo -> (name * version) list
val updateList : repo -> (name * version) list
```

`getList $HOSTNAME` returns the full list of available packages. This command is intended to be run only once, when the repository `$HOSTNAME` is initialized.

`updateList $HOSTNAME` updates the given repository and returns the list of newly available packages. For repositories not using the custom OPAM protocol (eg. not starting by `opam://`) this means running the script `$opamserver/$HOSTNAME/update` which should return a list of lines of (package name, version) pairs using the same format as described in §1.2.1.

2.0.2 Getting OPAM files

```
val getOPAM: repo -> (name * version) -> opam
```

`getOPAM repo (name,version)` returns the corresponding OPAM filename as an absolute location in the filesystem (which should be `.`).

2.0.3 Getting description files

```
val getDescr: repo -> (name * version) -> descr
```

`getDescr repo (name,version)` returns the corresponding description file.

2.0.4 Getting package archive

```
val getArchive: repo -> (name * version) -> archive
```

`getArchive repo (name,version)` returns the corresponding package archive.

2.0.5 Uploading new archives

```
val newArchive: repo -> (opam * archive) -> unit
```

`newArchive(opam,archive)` takes as input an OPAM file and the corresponding package archive, and upload the server state. This function works only for READ-WRITE repository. In case of a READ-ONLY one, a suitable error message is returned to the user.

2.0.6 Binary Protocol

In case of READ-WRITE repositories, the server state can be queried and modified by any OPAM clients, using the following binary protocol

- Communication between clients and servers always start by an hand-shake to agree on the protocol version.
- All the basic values (names, versions and binary data) are represented as OCaml strings.
- More complex values are marshaled using a simple binary protocol: the first byte represents the message number, and then each message argument is stacked in the message with its size as prefix. The list of messages *from the client to server* is:

Client-to-Server Message	Arguments	Description
GetList	–	Ask for the list of all OPAM files
GetOPAM	name : string version: string	Ask for the binary representation of a given OPAM file
GetArchive	name : string version: string	Ask for the binary representation of a given archive file
NewArchive	name : string version: string opam : string archive: string	Create a new package on the server. The client should provide the OPAM file and the source archive.
UpdateArchive	name : string version: string opam : string archive: string key : string	Update a new version of a given package on the server. The client should also provide a security key

- Answers from the server are encoded in the same way (ie, a byte for the message number, followed by optional arguments prefixed by their size). List arguments are encoded by stacking first the lenght, and then all the elements of the list in sequential order. The list of messages *from servers to clients* is:

Server-to-Client Message	Arguments	Description
<code>GetList</code>	<code>list : (string*string) list</code>	Return the list of available package names and versions
<code>GetOPAM</code>	<code>opam : string</code>	Return an OPAM file
<code>GetArchive</code>	<code>archive: string</code>	Return an archive file
<code>NewArchive</code>	<code>key : string</code>	Return a security key
<code>UpdateArchive</code>	–	The update went OK
<code>Error</code>	<code>error : string</code>	An error occurred

Note that when an error is raised by an arbitrary function at server side, the client receives `Error _`.

3 Milestone 3: Link Information

This milestone focuses on adding the right level of linking information, in order to be able to use packages more easily.

4 Milestone 4: Server Authentication

This version focuses on server authentication.

4.1 RPC protocol

The protocol should be specified (using either a binary format or a JSON format).

4.2 Server authentication

The server should be able to ask for basic credential proofs. The protocol can be sketched as follows:

- packagers store keys in `$opam/keys/NAME`. These keys are random strings of size 128.
- the server stores key hashes in `$opamserver/hashes/NAME`.
- when a packager wants to upload a fresh package, he still uses `newArchive`. However, the return type of this function is changed in order to return a random key. OPAM clients then stores that key in `$opam/keys/NAME`.
- when a packager wants to upload a new version of an existing package, he uses the function `val updateArchive: (opam * string * string) -> bool`. `updateArchive` takes as argument an OCaml value representing the OPAM file contents, the archive file as a binary string and the key as a string. The server then checks whether the hash of the key is equal to the one stored in `$opamserver/hashes/NAME`; if yes, it updates the package and return `true`, if no if it returns `false`.
- packager email should be specified in `NAME.opam`:

5 Milestones 6: Pre-Processors Information

This milestone focus on the support of pre-processors.

5.1 Getting package preprocessor options

The user should be able to run:

```
$ opam-config -bytepp NAME
$ opam-config -asmpp NAME
```

This command will return the command line option to build the preprocessor exported by package NAME.

In order to do so, packagers should describe exported preprocessors in the corresponding NAME.descr:

```
syntax foo {
  requires: bar, gni          // list of syntax dependencies
  pp: -parser o -printer p    // common options to asmpp and bytepp
  bytepp: ...
}
```

6 Milestones 7: Support of Multiple Compiler Versions

This milestone focus on the support of multiple compiler versions.

6.1 Compiler Description Files

For each compiler version OVERSION, the client and server states will be extended with the following files:

- \$opam/compilers/OVERSION.comp
- \$opamserver/compilers/OVERSION.comp

Each .comp file contains:

- the location where this version can be downloaded. It can be an archive available via **http** or using CVS such as **svn** or **git**.
- eventual options to pass to the configure script. **-prefix=\$opam/OVERSION/** will be automatically added to these options.
- options to pass to **make**.
- eventual patch address, available via **http** or locally on the filesystem

For instance, `3.12.1+memprof.comp` (OCaml version 3.12.1 with the memory profiling patch) looks like:

```
src:      http://caml.inria.fr/pub/distrib/ocaml-3.12/ocaml-3.12.1.tar.gz
build:    world world.opt
patches:  http://bozman.cagdas.free.fr/documents/ocamlmemprof-3.12.0.patch
```

And `trunk-tk-byte.comp` (OCaml from SVN trunk, with no *tk* support and only in byte-code) looks like:

```
src:      http://caml.inria.fr/pub/distrib/ocaml-3.12/ocaml-3.12.1.tar.gz
configure: -no-tk
build:    world
```

6.2 Milestone 8: Version Pinning

6.3 Milestones 9: Parallel Build

6.4 Milestone 10: Version Comparison Scheme

6.5 Milestone 11: Database of Installed Files