

Documentation - ROS Wiki

wiki.ros.org

ROS.org

About | Support | Discussion Forum | Service Status | Q&A answers.ros.org

Search:

Documentation Browse Software News Download

Documentation

ROS (Robot Operating System) provides libraries and tools to help software developers create robot applications. It provides hardware abstraction, device drivers, libraries, visualizers, message-passing, package management, and more. ROS is licensed under an open source, BSD license.

Available Translations: [German](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Italian](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Brazilian Portuguese](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Русский \(Russian\)](#) | [Thai](#) | [Turkish](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

ROS:

- Install**
Install ROS on your machine.
- Getting Started**
Learn about various concepts, client libraries, and technical overview of ROS.
- Tutorials**
Step-by-step instructions for learning ROS hands-on
- Contribute**
How to get involved with the ROS community, such as submitting your own repository.
- Support**
What to do if something doesn't work as expected.
- Quality Assurance**
How to ensure that your ROS-based systems and your contributions to ROS are of high quality

Wiki

- [Distributions](#)
- [ROS/Installation](#)
- [ROS/Tutorials](#)
- [RecentChanges](#)
- [Documentation](#)

Page

- [Immutable Page](#)
- [Info](#)
- [Attachments](#)
- [More Actions:](#)

User

- [Login](#)

ROS INTRODUCTION

What is ROS?

ROS = Robot Operating System



Plumbing

- Process management
- Inter-process communication
- Device drivers

+



Tools

- Simulation
- Visualization
- Graphical user interface
- Data logging

+



Capabilities

- Control
- Planning
- Perception
- Mapping
- Manipulation

+



ros.org

Ecosystem

- Package organization
- Software distribution
- Documentation
- Tutorials

ROS Architecture & Philosophy

- **Peer to peer**
Individual programs communicate over defined API (ROS *messages*, *services*, etc.).
- **Distributed**
Programs can be run on multiple computers and communicate over the network.
- **Multi-lingual**
ROS modules can be written in any language for which a client library exists (C++, Python, MATLAB, Java, etc.).
- **Light-weight**
Stand-alone libraries are wrapped around with a thin ROS layer.
- **Free and open-source**
Most ROS software is open-source and free to use.

ROS Master, Nodes, and Topics

ROS Master

- Manages the communication between nodes
- Every node registers at startup with the master

ROS Master

Start a master with

```
> roscore
```

More info
<http://wiki.ros.org/Master>

ROS Master, Nodes, and Topics

ROS Nodes

- Single-purpose, executable program
- Individually compiled, executed, and managed
- Organized in *packages*

Run a node with

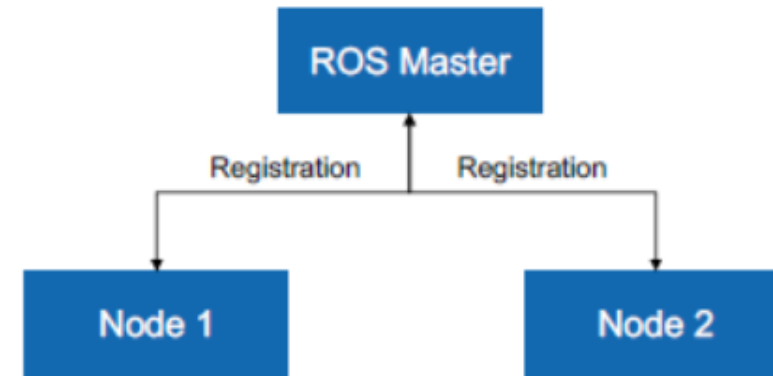
```
> rosrun package_name node_name
```

See active nodes with

```
> rosnodetool list
```

Retrieve information about a node with

```
> rosnodetool info node_name
```



More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/rosnode>

ROS Master, Nodes, and Topics

ROS Topics

- Nodes communicate over *topics*
 - Nodes can *publish* or *subscribe* to a topic
 - Typically, 1 publisher and n subscribers
- Topic is a name for a stream of *messages*

List active topics with

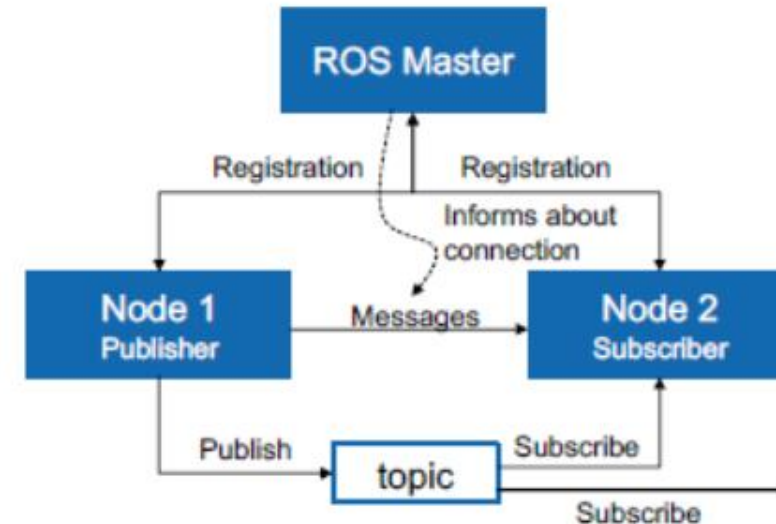
```
> rostopic list
```

Subscribe and print the contents of a topic with

```
> rostopic echo /topic
```

Show information about a topic with

```
> rostopic info /topic
```



More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/rostopic>

ROS Master, Nodes, and Topics

ROS Messages

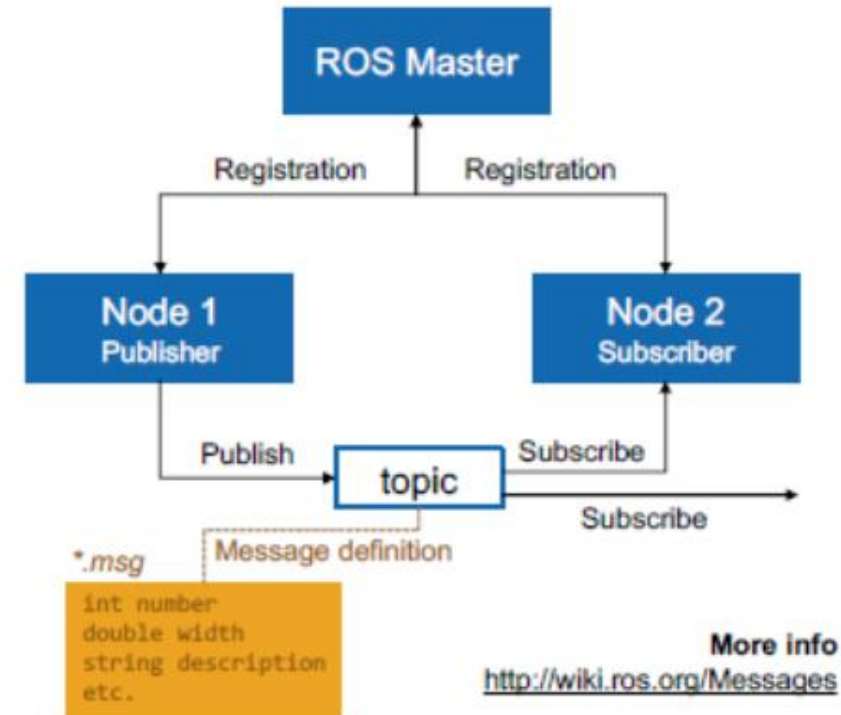
- Data structure defining the *type* of a topic
- Comprised of a nested structure of integers, floats, booleans, strings etc. and arrays of objects
- Defined in *.msg files

See the type of a topic

```
> rostopic type /topic
```

Publish a message to a topic

```
> rostopic pub /topic type args
```



ROS Master, Nodes, and Topics

ROS Messages

Pose Stamped Example

geometry_msgs/Point.msg

```
float64 x
float64 y
float64 z
```

sensor_msgs/Image.msg

```
std_msgs/Header header
uint32 seq
time stamp
string frame_id
uint32 height
uint32 width
string encoding
uint8 is_bigendian
uint32 step
uint8[] data
```

geometry_msgs/PoseStamped.msg

```
std_msgs/Header header
uint32 seq
time stamp
string frame_id
geometry_msgs/Pose pose
  geometry_msgs/Point position
    float64 x
    float64 y
    float64 z
  geometry_msgs/Quaternion orientation
    float64 x
    float64 y
    float64 z
    float64 w
```


Launch-Files

ROS Launch

- *launch* is a tool for launching multiple nodes (as well as setting parameters)
- Are written in XML as **.launch* files
- If not yet running, launch automatically starts a roscore

Browse to the folder and start a launch file with

```
> roslaunch file_name.launch
```

Start a launch file from a package with

```
> roslaunch package_name file_name.launch
```

More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch>

Example console output for

`roslaunch roscpp_tutorials talker_listener.launch`

```
student@ubuntu:~/catkin_ws$ roslaunch roscpp_tutorials talker_listener.launch
... logging to /home/student/.ros/log/794321aa-e950-11e6-95db-000c297bd368/rosl
Checking log directory for disk usage. This may take awhile.
Press Ctrl-C to interrupt
Done checking log file disk usage. Usage is <1GB.

started roslaunch server http://ubuntu:37592/

SUMMARY
=====

PARAMETERS
 * /rostdistro: indigo
 * /rosversion: 1.11.20

NODES
 /
   listener (roscpp_tutorials/listener)
   talker (roscpp_tutorials/talker)

auto-starting new master
process[master]: started with pid [5772]
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://localhost:11311

setting /run_id to 794321aa-e950-11e6-95db-000c297bd368
process[rosout-1]: started with pid [5785]
started core service [/rosout]
process[listener-2]: started with pid [5788]
process[talker-3]: started with pid [5795]
[ INFO] [1486044252.537801350]: hello world 0
[ INFO] [1486044252.638886504]: hello world 1
[ INFO] [1486044252.738279674]: hello world 2
[ INFO] [1486044252.838357245]: hello world 3
```

Launch-Files

ROS Launch File Structure

talker_listener.launch

```
<launch>
  <node name="listener" pkg="roscpp_tutorials" type="listener" output="screen"/>
  <node name="talker" pkg="roscpp_tutorials" type="talker" output="screen"/>
</launch>
```

! Attention when copy & pasting code from the internet

! Notice the syntax difference
for self-closing tags:
<tag></tag> and <tag/>

- **launch:** Root element of the launch file
- **node:** Each <node> tag specifies a node to be launched
- **name:** Name of the node (free to choose)
- **pkg:** Package containing the node
- **type:** Type of the node, there must be a corresponding executable with the same name
- **output:** Specifies where to output log messages (screen: console, log: log file)

More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/XML>

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/Tutorials/Roslaunch%20tips%20for%20larger%20projects>

Launch-Files

ROS Launch Arguments

- Create re-usable launch files with `<arg>` tag, which works like a parameter (default optional)

```
<arg name="arg_name" default="default_value"/>
```

- Use arguments in launch file with

```
$(arg arg_name)
```

- When launching, arguments can be set with

```
> roslaunch launch_file.launch arg_name:=value
```

range_world.launch (simplified)

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<launch>
  <arg name="use_sim_time" default="true"/>
  <arg name="world" default="gazebo_ros_range"/>
  <arg name="debug" default="false"/>
  <arg name="physics" default="ode"/>

  <group if="$(arg use_sim_time)">
    <param name="/use_sim_time" value="true" />
  </group>

  <include file="$(find gazebo_ros)
              /launch/empty_world.launch">
    <arg name="world_name" value="$(find gazebo_plugins)/
                                test/test_worlds/$(arg world).world"/>
    <arg name="debug" value="$(arg debug)"/>
    <arg name="physics" value="$(arg physics)"/>
  </include>
</launch>
```

More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/XML/arg>

Launch-Files

ROS Launch

Including Other Launch Files

- Include other launch files with `<include>` tag to organize large projects

```
<include file="package_name"/>
```

- Find the system path to other packages with

```
$(find package_name)
```

- Pass arguments to the included file

```
<arg name="arg_name" value="value"/>
```

range_world.launch (simplified)

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<launch>
  <arg name="use_sim_time" default="true"/>
  <arg name="world" default="gazebo_ros_range"/>
  <arg name="debug" default="false"/>
  <arg name="physics" default="ode"/>

  <group if="$(arg use_sim_time)">
    <param name="/use_sim_time" value="true" />
  </group>

  <include file="$(find gazebo_ros)
    /launch/empty_world.launch">
    <arg name="world_name" value="$(find gazebo_plugins)/
      test/test_worlds/$(arg world).world"/>
    <arg name="debug" value="$(arg debug)"/>
    <arg name="physics" value="$(arg physics)"/>
  </include>
</launch>
```

More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/XML/include>

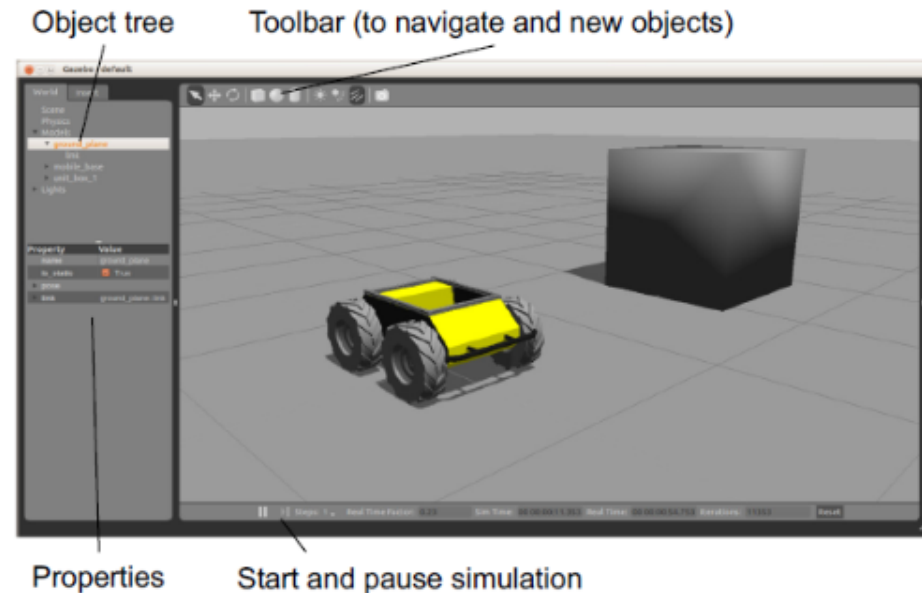
Gazebo Simulator

Gazebo Simulator

- Simulate 3d rigid-body dynamics
- Simulate a variety of sensors including noise
- 3d visualization and user interaction
- Includes a database of many robots and environments (*Gazebo worlds*)
- Provides a ROS interface
- Extensible with plugins

Run Gazebo with

```
> rosrn gazebo_ros gazebo
```



More info

<http://gazebosim.org/>

<http://gazebosim.org/tutorials>

ROS Introduction

- ROS package structure
- ROS C++ client library (roscpp)
- RViz visualization
- TF Transformation System
- rqt User Interface
- Robot models (URDF)
- Simulation descriptions (SDF)
- ROS time
- ROS bags

ROS Introduction

- ROS publishers and subscribers
- ROS parameter server
- ROS services
- ROS actions (actionlib)