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### Reference

* [Groovy DSL Reference](http://docs.google.com/dsl/)
* [Gradle API Javadoc](http://docs.google.com/javadoc/)
* [Core Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/plugin_reference.html)
* [Gradle & Third-party Tools](http://docs.google.com/userguide/third_party_integration.html)

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# The Distribution Plugin

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| **✨** | The Distribution Plugin is currently [incubating](http://docs.google.com/feature_lifecycle.html#feature_lifecycle). Please be aware that the DSL and other configuration may change in later Gradle versions. |
| --- | --- |

The Distribution Plugin facilitates building archives that serve as distributions of the project. Distribution archives typically contain the executable application and other supporting files, such as documentation.

[Usage](#4d34og8)

To use the Distribution Plugin, include the following in your build script:

[Example: Using the Distribution Plugin](#26in1rg)

**build.gradle**

apply plugin: 'distribution'

The plugin adds an extension named distributions of type [DistributionContainer](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.distribution.DistributionContainer.html) to the project. It also creates a single distribution in the distributions container extension named main. If your build only produces one distribution you only need to configure this distribution (or use the defaults).

You can run gradle distZip to package the main distribution as a ZIP, or gradle distTar to create a TAR file. To build both types of archives just run gradle assembleDist. The files will be created at *$buildDir*/distributions/*${project.name}*-*${project.version}*.*«ext»*.

You can run gradle installDist to assemble the uncompressed distribution into *$buildDir*/install/*${project.name}*.

[Tasks](#2s8eyo1)

The Distribution Plugin adds a number of tasks to your project, as shown below.

distZip — [Zip](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.tasks.bundling.Zip.html)

Creates a ZIP archive of the distribution contents.

distTar — [Task](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.Task.html)

Creates a TAR archive of the distribution contents.

assembleDist — [Task](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.Task.html)

*Depends on*: distTar, distZip

Creates ZIP and TAR archives of the distribution contents.

installDist — [Sync](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.tasks.Sync.html)

Assembles the distribution content and installs it on the current machine.

For each additional distribution you add to the project, the Distribution Plugin adds the following tasks, where *distributionName* comes from [Distribution.getName()](http://docs.google.com/javadoc/org/gradle/api/distribution/Distribution.html#getName--):

*distributionName*DistZip — [Zip](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.tasks.bundling.Zip.html)

Creates a ZIP archive of the distribution contents.

*distributionName*DistTar — [Tar](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.tasks.bundling.Tar.html)

Creates a TAR archive of the distribution contents.

assemble*DistributionName*Dist — [Task](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.Task.html)

*Depends on*: *distributionName*DistTar, *distributionName*DistZip

Creates ZIP and TAR archives of the distribution contents.

install*DistributionName*Dist — [Sync](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.tasks.Sync.html)

Assembles the distribution content and installs it on the current machine.

The following sample creates a custom distribution that will cause four additional tasks to be added to the project: customDistZip, customDistTar, assembleCustomDist, and installCustomDist:

[Example: Adding extra distributions](#lnxbz9)

**build.gradle**

distributions {  
 custom {}  
}

Given that the project name is myproject and version 1.2, running gradle customDistZip will produce a ZIP file named myproject-custom-1.2.zip.

Running gradle installCustomDist will install the distribution contents into *$buildDir*/install/custom.

[Distribution contents](#17dp8vu)

All of the files in the src/*$distribution.name*/dist directory will automatically be included in the distribution. You can add additional files by configuring the [Distribution](http://docs.google.com/javadoc/org/gradle/api/distribution/Distribution.html) object that is part of the container.

[Example: Configuring the main distribution](#35nkun2)

**build.gradle**

distributions {  
 main {  
 baseName = 'someName'  
 contents {  
 from { 'src/readme' }  
 }  
 }  
}

In the example above, the content of the src/readme directory will be included in the distribution (along with the files in the src/main/dist directory which are added by default).

The baseName property has also been changed. This will cause the distribution archives to be created with a different name.

[Publishing](#3rdcrjn)

A distribution can be published using the [Ivy Publish Plugin](http://docs.google.com/publishing_ivy.html#publishing_ivy) or [Maven Publish Plugin](http://docs.google.com/publishing_maven.html#publishing_maven), or via the *original* publishing mechanism using the uploadArchives task.

[Using the Ivy/Maven Publish Plugins](#1ksv4uv)

To publish a distribution to an Ivy repository with the [Ivy Publish Plugin](http://docs.google.com/publishing_ivy.html#publishing_ivy), simply add one or both of its archive tasks to an [IvyPublication](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.publish.ivy.IvyPublication.html). The following sample demonstrates how to add the ZIP archive of the main distribution and the TAR archive of the custom distribution to the myDistribution publication:

[Example: Adding distribution archives to an Ivy publication](#44sinio)

**build.gradle**

apply plugin: 'ivy-publish'  
  
publishing {  
 publications {  
 myDistribution(IvyPublication) {  
 artifact distZip  
 artifact customDistTar  
 }  
 }  
}

Similarly, to publish a distribution to a Maven repository using the [Maven Publish Plugin](http://docs.google.com/publishing_maven.html#publishing_maven), add one or both of its archive tasks to a [MavenPublication](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.publish.maven.MavenPublication.html) as follows:

[Example: Adding distribution archives to a Maven publication](#2jxsxqh)

**build.gradle**

apply plugin: 'maven-publish'  
  
publishing {  
 publications {  
 myDistribution(MavenPublication) {  
 artifact distZip  
 artifact customDistTar  
 }  
 }  
}

[Using the uploadArchives task](#z337ya)

The Distribution Plugin adds the distribution archives as default publishing artifact candidates. With the [Maven Plugin](http://docs.google.com/maven_plugin.html#maven_plugin) applied, the distribution ZIP file will be published when running uploadArchives if no other default artifact is configured.

[Example: Publishing the distribution ZIP with the Maven Plugin](#3j2qqm3)

**build.gradle**

apply plugin:'maven'  
  
uploadArchives {  
 repositories {  
 mavenDeployer {  
 repository(url: "file://some/repo")  
 }  
 }  
}

Docs

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