

**NAME**

deb-reversion – simple script to change the version of a .deb file

**SYNOPSIS**

**deb-reversion** [*options*] *.deb-file* [*log message...*]

**DESCRIPTION**

**deb-reversion** unpacks the specified .deb file, changes the version number in the relevant locations, appends a Debian changelog entry with the specified contents, and creates a new .deb file with the updated version.

By default, the tool creates a new version number suitable for local changes, such that the new package will be greater than the current one, but lesser than any future, official Debian packages. With **-v** *version*, the version number can be specified directly. On the other hand, the **-c** simply calculates the new version number but does not generate a new package.

When building a .deb file, root privileges are required in order to have the correct permissions and ownerships in the resulting .deb file. This can be achieved either by running **deb-reversion** as root or running under **fakeroot**(1), as 'fakeroot deb-reversion foo.deb'.

With **-k** *hook*, a hook script may be specified, which is run on the unpacked binary packages just before it is repacked. If you want to write changelog entries from within the hook, use '**dch -a --** *your message*'. (Alternatively, do not give a changelog entry on the **deb-reversion** command line and **dch** will be called automatically.) The hook command must be placed in quotes if it has more than one word; it is called via **sh -c**.

**OPTIONS**

**-v** *new-version*, **--new-version** *new-version*

Specifies the version number to be used for the new version. Passed to **dch**(1).

**-o** *old-version*, **--old-version** *old-version*

Specifies the version number to be used as the old version instead of the version stored in the .deb's control file.

**-c**, **--calculate-only**

Only calculate and display the new version number which would be used; do not build a new .deb file. Cannot be used in conjunction with **-v**.

**-s** *string*, **--string** *string*

Instead of using 'LOCAL.' as the version string to append to the old version number, use *string* instead.

**-k** *hook-command*, **--hook** *hook-command*

A hook command to run after unpacking the old .deb file and modifying the changelog, and before packing up the new .deb file. Must be in quotes if it is more than one (shell) word. Only one hook command may be specified; if you want to perform more than this, you could specify 'bash' as the hook command, and you will then be given a shell to work in.

**-D**, **--debug**

Pass **--debug** to **dpkg-deb**(1).

**-b**, **--force-bad-version**

Pass **--force-bad-version** to **dch**(1)

**-h**, **--help**

Display usage information.

**-V**, **--version**

Display version information.

**SEE ALSO**

**dch**(1), **dpkg-deb**(1), **fakeroot**(1)

## DISCLAIMER

deb-reversion is a tool intended to help porters with modifying packages for other architectures, and to augment deb-repack, which creates modified packages with identical version numbers as the official packages. Chaos will ensue! With deb-reversion, a proper version number can be selected, which does not obstruct the next official release but can be specifically pinned with APT or held with dpkg.

Please take note that deb-reversion does not come without problems. While it works fine in most cases, it may just not in yours. Especially, please consider that it changes binary packages (only!) and hence can break strict versioned dependencies between binary packages generated from the same source.

You are using this tool at your own risk and I shall not shed a tear if your gerbil goes up in flames, your microwave attacks the stereo, or the angry slamming of your fist spills your coffee into the keyboard, which sets off a chain reaction resulting in a vast amount of money transferred from your account to mine.

## AUTHOR

deb-reversion is Copyright 2004–5 by martin f. krafft <madduck@debian.org> and modifications are Copyright 2006 by Julian Gilbey <jdg@debian.org>.

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## NOTES

1. <http://www.opensource.org/licenses/artistic-license.php>