

Dependency Management & Versioning

Michael Hilton and **Rohan Padhye**

Left-pad (March 22, 2016)

The image shows three separate news articles from different sources, all reporting on the same event: a developer's mistake in the Node.js library left-pad that caused significant disruptions across the internet.

- Top Article (Quartz):** A white box with a dark header containing the word "OBSESSIONS". Below it, a blue button says "NPM ERR!". The main title is "How one programmer broke the internet by deleting a tiny piece of". Below the title is a red banner with "The Register" logo.
- Middle Article (The Verge):** A black box with a white header containing "THE VERGE" logo and navigation links for TECH, REVIEWS, SCIENCE, CREATORS, ENTERTAINMENT, VIDEO, and MORE. Below the header, the main title is "How one developer just broke Node, BabelLand, thousands of projects".
- Bottom Article (The Verge):** A white box with a black header containing "REPORT \ TECH". Below the header, the main title is "How an irate developer briefly broke JavaScript". Subtext below the title reads "Unpublishing 11 lines of code brought down an open source house of cards".

Code pulled from NPM – which every

Left-pad (March 22, 2016)

npmjs.org tells me that left-pad is not available (404 page) #4

(Closed) silkentrance opened this issue on Mar 22, 2016 · 193 comments

 **silkentrance** commented on Mar 22, 2016

When building projects on travis, or when searching for left-pad on npmjs.com, both will report that the package cannot be found.

Here is an excerpt from the travis build log

```
npm ERR! Linux 3.13.0-40-generic
npm ERR! argv "/home/travis/.nvm/versions/node/v4.2.2/bin/node" "/home/travis/.nvm/versions/node/v4.2.2/bin/npm"
npm ERR! node v4.2.2
npm ERR! npm  v2.14.7
npm ERR! code E404
npm ERR! 404 Registry returned 404 for GET on https://registry.npmjs.org/left-pad
npm ERR! 404
npm ERR! 404 'left-pad' is not in the npm registry.
npm ERR! 404 You should bug the author to publish it (or use the name yourself!)
npm ERR! 404 It was specified as a dependency of 'line-numbers'
npm ERR! 404
npm ERR! 404 Note that you can also install from a
npm ERR! 404 tarball, folder, http url, or git url.
npm ERR! Please include the following file with any support request:
npm ERR!   /home/travis/build/coldrye-es/pingo/npm-debug.log
make: *** [deps] Error 1
```

And here is the standard npmjs.com error page <https://www.npmjs.com/package/left-pad>

However, if I remove left-pad from my local npm cache and then reinstall it using npm it will happily install left-pad@0.0.4.

 88  3

Left-pad (Docs)

left-pad

String left pad

build unknown

Install

```
$ npm install left-pad
```

Usage

```
const leftPad = require('left-pad')

leftPad('foo', 5)
// => " foo"

leftPad('foobar', 6)
// => "foobar"

leftPad(1, 2, '0')
// => "01"

leftPad(17, 5, 0)
// => "00017"
```

Install

```
> npm i left-pad
```

Repository

⚡ github.com/stevemao/left-pad

Homepage

🔗 github.com/stevemao/left-pad#readme

Weekly Downloads

2,962,641 

Version	License
1.3.0	WTFPL

Unpacked Size	Total Files
9.75 kB	10

Issues	Pull Requests
3	7

Last publish

4 years ago

Left-pad (Source Code)

```
17 lines (11 sloc) | 222 Bytes

1 module.exports = leftpad;
2
3 function leftpad (str, len, ch) {
4     str = String(str);
5
6     var i = -1;
7
8     if (!ch && ch !== 0) ch = ' ';
9
10    len = len - str.length;
11
12    while (++i < len) {
13        str = ch + str;
14    }
15
16    return str;
17 }
```

5 lines (4 sloc) | 133 Bytes

```
1 var toString = {}.toString;
2
3 module.exports = Array.isArray || function (arr) {
4     return toString.call(arr) === '[object Array]';
5 }
```

See also: isArray

isarray

Array#isArray for older browsers and deprecated Node.js versions.

build passing downloads 227M/month



Just use `Array.isArray` directly, unless you need to support those older versions.

Usage

```
var isArray = require('isarray');

console.log(isArray([])); // => true
console.log(isArray({})); // => false
```

Install

```
> npm i isarray
```

Repository

[◆ github.com/juliangruber/isarray](https://github.com/juliangruber/isarray)

Homepage

[🔗 github.com/juliangruber/isarray](https://github.com/juliangruber/isarray)

Weekly Downloads

50,913,317



Version

2.0.5

License

MIT

Unpacked Size

3.43 kB

Total Files

4

Issues

Pull Requests

4

3

Dependency Management

- It's hard
- It's mostly a mess (everywhere)
- But it's critical to modern software development

What is a Dependency?

- Core of what most build systems do
 - “Compile” and “Run Tests” is just a fraction of their job
- Examples: Maven, Gradle, NPM, Bazel, ...
- **Foo->Bar:** To build Foo, you may need to have a built version of Bar
- Dependency Scopes:
 - **Compile:** Foo uses classes, functions, etc. defined by Bar
 - **Runtime:** Foo uses an abstract API whose implementation is provided by Bar (e.g. logging, database, network or other I/O)
 - **Test:** Foo needs Bar only for tests (e.g. JUnit, mocks)
- Internal vs. External Dependencies
 - Is Bar also built/maintained by your org or is it pulled from elsewhere using a package manager?

Dependencies: Example

master Mayan-EDMS / requirements / base.txt

Roberto Rosario Workaround swagger-spec-validator bug ...

1 contributor

45 lines (45 sloc) | 893 Bytes

```
1 Pillow==8.3.1
2 PyPDF2==1.26.0
3 PyYAML==5.4.1
4 Whoosh==2.7.4
5 bleach==4.0.0
6 celery==5.1.2
7 django-activity-stream==0.10.0
8 django-celery-beat==2.2.1
9 django-colorful==1.3
10 django-cors-headers==3.8.0
11 django-formtools==2.2
12 django-mathfilters==1.0.0
13 django-model-utils==4.1.1
14 django-mptt==0.12.0
15 django-pure-pagination==0.3.0
16 django-qssstats-magic==1.1.0
17 django-solo==1.1.5
18 django-stronghold==0.4.0
19 django-widget-tweaks==1.4.8
20 djangorestframework==3.12.4
21 djangorestframework-recursivve==0.1.2
22 drf-yasg==1.20.0
23 extract-msg==0.28.7
24 flanker==0.9.11
25 flex==6.14.1
26 furl==2.1.2
27 fusepy==3.0.1
28 gevent==21.8.0
29 graphviz==0.17
30 gunicorn==20.1.0
31 jsonschema==3.2.0
32 mock==4.0.3
33 node-semver==0.8.0
34 packaging==21.0
```

Package: git (1:2.17.1-1ubuntu0.9 and others) [security]

fast, scalable, distributed revision control system

Other Packages Related to git

depends recommends suggests enhances

- git-man (<< 1:2.17.0-) [not amd64, i386]
fast, scalable, distributed revision control system (manual pages)
- git-man (<< 1:2.17.1-) [amd64, i386]
- git-man (>> 1:2.17.0) [not amd64, i386]
- git-man (>> 1:2.17.1) [amd64, i386]
- libc6 (>= 2.16) [not arm64, ppc64el]
GNU C Library: Shared libraries
also a virtual package provided by libc6-udeb
- libc6 (>= 2.17) [arm64, ppc64el]
- libcurl3-gnutls (>= 7.16.2)
easy-to-use client-side URL transfer library (GnuTLS flavour)
- liberror-perl
Perl module for error/exception handling in an OO-ish way
- libexpat1 (>= 2.0.1)
XML parsing C library - runtime library
- libpcre3
Old Perl 5 Compatible Regular Expression Library - runtime files
- perl
Larry Wall's Practical Extraction and Report Language
- zlib1g (>= 1:1.2.0)
compression library - runtime
- less
pager program similar to more
- patch
Apply a diff file to an original
- ssh-client
virtual package provided by openssh-client

Links for git

Ubuntu Resources:

- Bug Reports
- Ubuntu Changelog
- Copyright File

Download Source Package git:

- [git_2.17.1-1ubuntu0.9.dsc]
- [git_2.17.1.orig.tar.xz]
- [git_2.17.1-1ubuntu0.9.debian.tar.xz]

Maintainer:

- Ubuntu Developers (Mail Archive)

Please consider [filing a bug](#) or [asking a question](#) via Launchpad before contacting the maintainer directly.

Original Maintainers (usually from Debian):

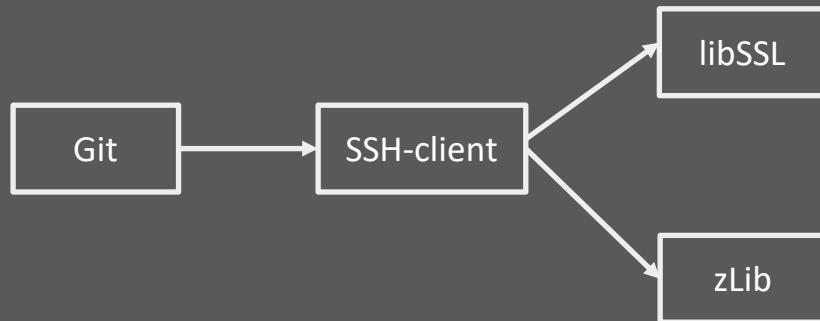
- Gerrit Pape
- Jonathan Nieder
- Anders Kaseorg

It should generally not be necessary for users to contact the original maintainer.

External Resources:

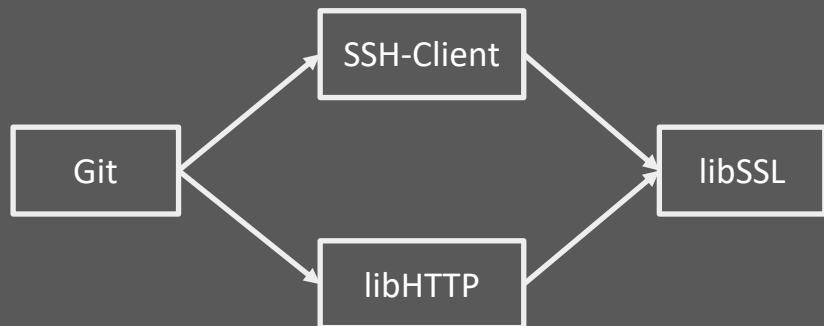
Transitive Dependencies

- Should Git be able to use exports of libSSL (e.g. certificate management) or zLib (e.g. gzip compression)?

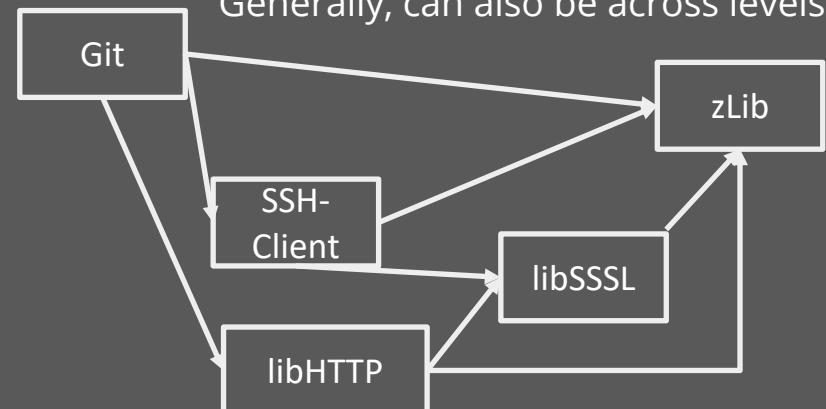


Diamond Dependencies

- What are some problems when multiple intermediate dependencies have the same transitive dependency?

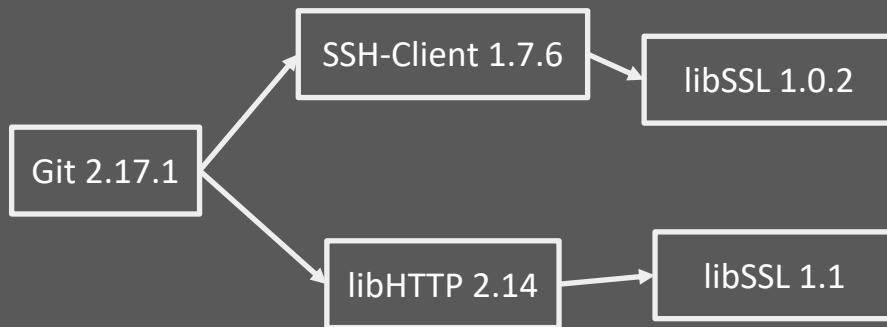


Generally, can also be across levels



Diamond Dependencies

- What are some problems when multiple intermediate dependencies have the same transitive dependency?



Resolutions to the Diamond Problem

1. Duplicate it!
 - Doesn't work with static linking (e.g. C/C++), but may be doable with Java (e.g. using ClassLoader hacking or package renaming)
 - Values of types defined by duplicated libraries cannot be exchanged across
2. Ban transitive dependencies; just use a global list with one version for each
 - Challenge: Keeping things in sync with latest
 - Challenge: Deciding which version of transitive deps to keep
3. Newest version (keep everything at latest)
 - Requires ordering semantics
 - Intermediate dependency may break with update to transitive
4. Oldest version (lowest denominator)
 - Also requires ordering semantics
 - Sacrifices new functionality
5. Oldest non-breaking version / Newest non-breaking version
 - Requires faith in tests or semantic versioning contract

Semantic Versioning

- Widely used convention for versioning releases
 - E.g. 1.2.1, 3.1.0-alpha-1, 3.1.0-alpha-2, 3.1.0-beta-1, 3.1.0-rc1
- Format: {MAJOR} . {MINOR} . {PATCH}
- Each component is ordered (numerically, then lexicographically; release-aware)
 - 1.2.1 < 1.10.1
 - 3.1.0-alpha-1 < 3.1.0-alpha-2 < 3.1.0-beta-1 < 3.1.0-rc1 < 3.1.0
- Contracts:
 - MAJOR updated to indicate breaking changes
 - Same MAJOR version => backward compatibility
 - MINOR updated for additive changes
 - Same MINOR version => API compatibility (important for linking)
 - PATCH updates functionality without new API
 - Ninja edit; usually for bug fixes

<https://semver.org/>

[2.0.0](#) [2.0.0-rc.2](#) [2.0.0-rc.1](#) [1.0.0](#) [1.0.0-beta](#)

Semantic Versioning 2.0.0

Summary

Given a version number MAJOR.MINOR.PATCH, increment the:

1. MAJOR version when you make incompatible API changes,
2. MINOR version when you add functionality in a backwards compatible manner, and
3. PATCH version when you make backwards compatible bug fixes.

Additional labels for pre-release and build metadata are available as extensions to the MAJOR.MINOR.PATCH format.

People rely on SemVer contracts

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'rohanpadhye / JQF'. The 'Issues' tab is selected, showing 10 open issues. The main issue, '#150 Clarify versioning schema', is open and was created by sdruskat on Aug 18. A comment from sdruskat on Aug 18 asks about the versioning schema, mentioning SemVer and changes in API constructor arguments. Another comment from sdruskat on Aug 18 expresses support for semantic versioning.

rohanpadhye / JQF Public

Code Issues 10 Pull requests 3 Discussions Actions Wiki Security Insights Settings

Clarify versioning schema #150

Open sdruskat opened this issue on Aug 18 · 3 comments

sdruskat commented on Aug 18

Hi, and thanks for a great project.

I'm wondering what the versioning schema for this project is. Seeing the tags (containing 1.8, etc.), I was assuming SemVer, but I see that the API has changed between minor increments (e.g., the newly added constructor arguments in ZestGuidance)? Or am I mixing up things?

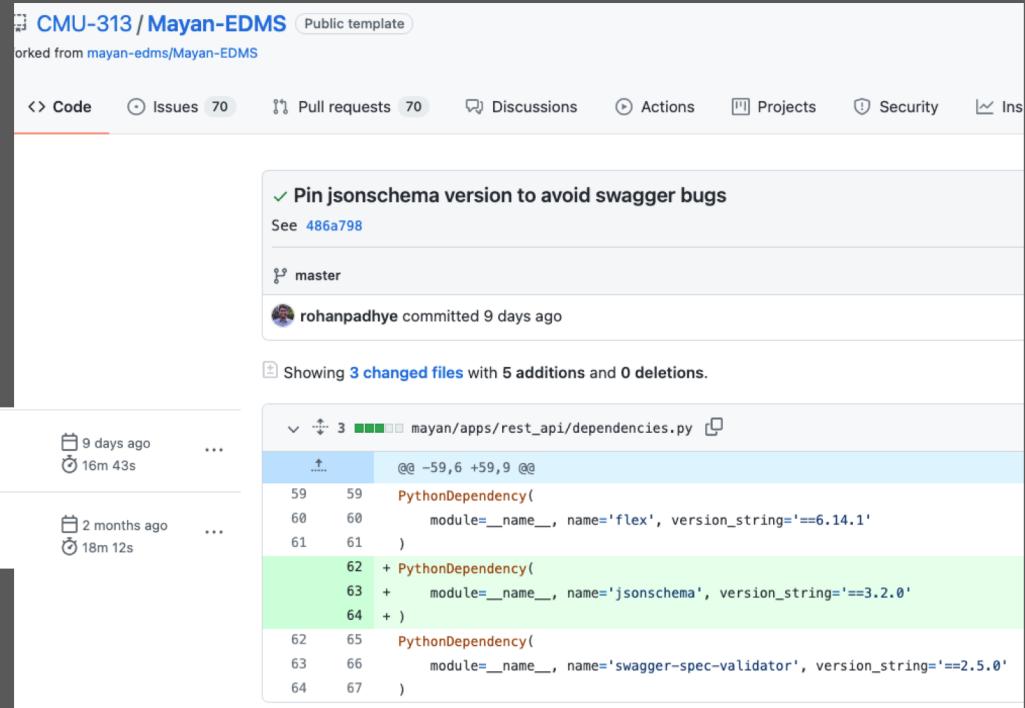
FWIW, I think that following semantic versioning would be great, and make it easier for forks to contribute back to the upstream.

Dependency Constraints

- E.g. Declare dependency on "Bar > 2.1"
 - Bar 2.1.0, 2.1.1, 2.2.0, 2.9.0, etc. all match
 - 2.0.x does NOT match
 - 3.0.x does NOT match
- Diamond dependency problem can be resolved using SAT solvers
 - E.g. Foo 1.0.0 depends on "Bar \geq 2.1" and "Baz 1.8.x"
 - Bar 2.1.0 depends on "Qux [1.6, 1.7]"
 - Bar 2.1.1 depends on "Qux 1.7.0"
 - Baz 1.8.0 depends on "Qux 1.5.x"
 - Baz 1.8.1 depends on "Qux 1.6.x"
 - Find an assignment such that all dependencies are satisfied
 - Solution: Use Bar 2.1.0, Baz 1.8.1, and Qux 1.6.{latest}

Semantic Versioning Contracts

- Largely trusting developers to maintain them
- Constrained/range dependencies can cause unexpected build failures
- Automatic validation of SemVer is hard



The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request for the repository 'CMU-313 / Mayan-EDMS'. The pull request has been merged and is now part of the 'master' branch. It includes a commit from 'rohanpadhye' that pins the 'jsonschema' version to avoid swagger bugs. The commit message is: 'Pin jsonschema version to avoid swagger bugs'. The commit was pushed 9 days ago. The pull request also shows 3 changed files with 5 additions and 0 deletions, specifically in the file 'mayan/apps/rest_api/dependencies.py'.

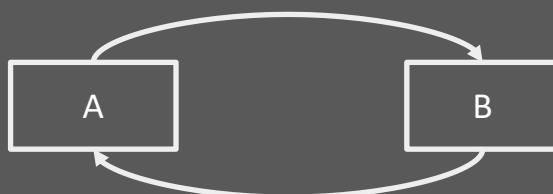
```
diff --git a/mayan/apps/rest_api/dependencies.py b/mayan/apps/rest_api/dependencies.py
@@ -59,6 +59,9 @@
     PythonDependency(
         module=__name__, name='flex', version_string='==6.14.1'
     )
+    PythonDependency(
+        module=__name__, name='jsonschema', version_string='==3.2.0'
+    )
     PythonDependency(
         module=__name__, name='swagger-spec-validator', version_string='==2.5.0'
     )

```

 Build	Build #5: Manually run by rohanpadhye	9 days ago	...
 README: Add build badge	Build #4: Commit f656b2a pushed by rohanpadhye	2 months ago	...

Cyclic Dependencies

- A very bad thing
- Avoid at all costs
- Sometimes unavoidable or intentional
 - E.g. GCC is written in C (needs a C compiler)
 - E.g. Apache Maven uses the Maven build system
 - E.g. JDK tested using JUnit, which requires the JDK to compile



Cyclic Dependencies

- Bootstrapping: Break cycles over time
- Assume older version exists in binary (pre-built form)
- Step 1: Build A using an older version of B
- Step 2: Build B using new (just built) version of A
- Step 3: Rebuild A using new (just built) version of B
- Now, both A and B have been built with new versions of their dependencies
- Doesn't work if both A and B need new features of each other at the same time (otherwise Step 1 won't work)
 - Assumes incremental dependence on new features
- How was the old version built in the first place? (it's turtles all the way down)
 - Assumption: cycles did not exist in the past
 - Successfully applied in compilers (e.g. GCC is written in C)

Dependency Reliability

- Availability
 - Remember left-pad?
 - Many orgs will mirror package repositories
- Security
 - Will you let strangers execute arbitrary code on your laptop?
 - Think about this every time you do “pip install” or “npm install” or “apt-get upgrade” or “brew upgrade” or whatever (esp. with sudo)
 - Scary, right? Who are you trusting? Why?
 - Typo squatting
 - “pip install numpi”

Takeaways

- Dependency management is hard.