Creating your own 'zppy' repository

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What is zppy?

Pronounced 'zz-ei-p' (zippy) is a command line utility developed by Bobby Allen to enable ZPanel administrators to install, upgrade and remove modules (Zpanel *.zpp* packages).

The zppy client is based upon various Linux package manager command line tools like *aptitude* and *yum*. The commands are kept similar so that new users with Linux knowledge should find it familiar.

The benefits of creating your own 'zppy' repository

As a developer, the benefits of running your own zppy repository is mainly that you can keep all your module packages in one place and that by using .zpp files to distribute your modules and upgrades you can ensure that your modules automated installation should be flawless.
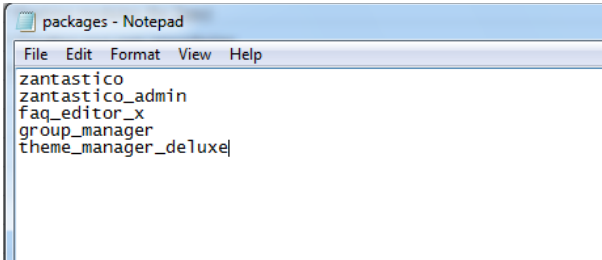
As a user of your modules having a zppy repository that your customers or users can configure to use, means they have an easy and automated way of installing your modules and performing upgrades.

How to create your own 'zppy' repository

To create your own zppy repository you need to do is to create a domain or sub-domain (for example, packages.mycompany.com), this domain or sub-domain is what your users will add to their local repository list using the `zppy repo add {fqdn}` command (eg. `zppy repo add packages.mycompany.com`).

Now you have the domain or sub-domain created and a web server is configured at the address the only other thing you need is a file on the root of that website called '*packages.txt*' this file should contain a list (line separated list) of all the packages that the server will serve to a `zppy install` or `zppy upgrade` request.

Here is an example:-

So (using the example *packages.txt* file above) on the server (the root of the http://packages.mycompany.com/ directory) the following Zpanel packages (files) should exist:-

- zantastico.zpp
- zantastico_admin.zpp
- faq_editor_x.zpp
- group_manager.zpp
- theme_manager_deluxe.zpp

You can also have other *.zpp* files exist on in your packages repository however if they are not included in the *packages.txt* file as a security feature the user will not be able to install them using the zppy client.

The *.zpp* files and the *package.txt* file must be in the root of the domain or sub-domain for the repository to be setup and work correctly.

Keeping your packages.txt file up to date

You can either keep this up to date manually (edit the package file by hand every time you add a new package to your server) or you could create a script to create the file on the fly (using PHP, ASP, JSP or another dynamic scripting language or even a scheduled batch or shell script!)

How to connect and use your repository for installing and upgrading modules.

A user simply has the run the zppy client with the following command:-

```
zppy repo add packages.mycompany.com
```

Then the user needs to obtain the package list from your server, they do this by refreshing their zppy-cache package list, they do this by running the following command:-

```
zppy update
```

The finally they can then install any of your module packages using the install command like so:-

```
zppy install your-module-name
```

and just as easy as they installed your module, they can upgrade it too using this command:-

```
zppy upgrade your-module-name
```

Although the following command doesn't require communication with your repository, its good for users to know that they can also remove your module from their server using this command:-

```
zppy remove your-module-name
```

Have more questions or need help?

If you need more help please visit the official ZPanel support forums at: http://forums.zpanelcp.com/.