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## Documentation Status

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## Package Links

- **Code API** (<http://docs.ros.org/melodic/api/urdf/html>)
- Tutorials ([/urdf/Tutorials](#))
- Troubleshooting ([/urdf/Troubleshooting](#))
- FAQ (<http://answers.ros.org/questions/scope:all/sort:activity-desc/tags:urdf/page:1/>)
- Changelog (<http://docs.ros.org/melodic/changelogs/urdf/changelog.html>)
- Change List ([/urdf/ChangeList](#))
- Reviews ([/urdf/Reviews](#))

## Dependencies (6)

## Used by (25)

## Jenkins jobs (11)

# Package Summary

✓ Released   ✓ Continuous Integration   ✓ Documented

This package contains a C++ parser for the Unified Robot Description Format (URDF), which is an XML format for representing a robot model. The code API of the parser has been through our review process and will remain backwards compatible in future releases.

- Maintainer status: maintained
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- License: BSD
- Bug / feature tracker: <https://github.com/ros/urdf/issues> (<https://github.com/ros/urdf/issues>)
- Source: git <https://github.com/ros/urdf.git> (<https://github.com/ros/urdf>) (branch: melodic-devel)



English ([/urdf](#))   简体中文 ([/cn/urdf](#))

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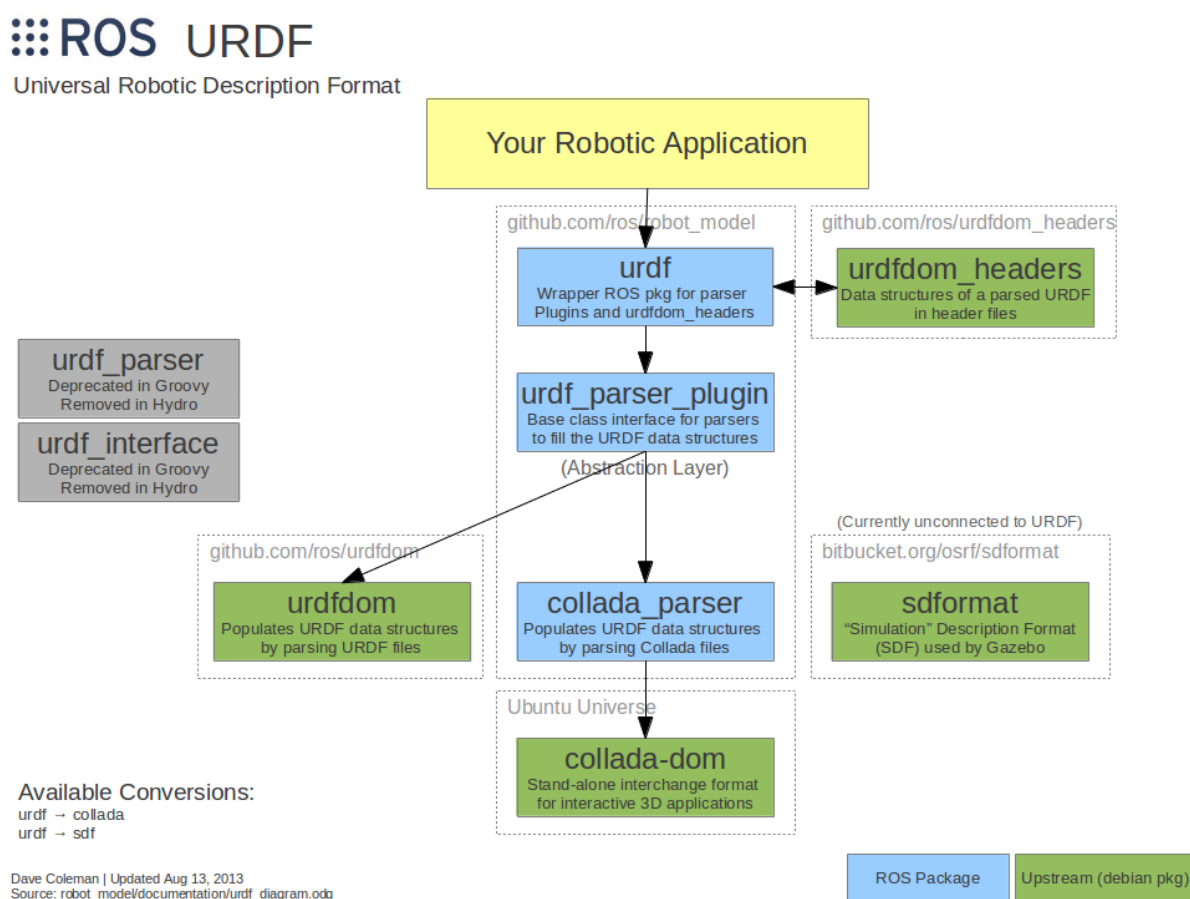
## 1. Overview

This package contains a number of XML specifications (/urdf/XML) for robot models, sensors, scenes, etc. Each XML specification has a corresponding parser in one or more languages.

	XML Description	C++	Python
Model	model (/urdf/XML/model)	 Parser API ( <a href="http://www.ros.org/doc/api/urdf/html/">http://www.ros.org/doc/api/urdf/html/</a> )  Model API ( <a href="https://github.com/ros/urdfdom_headers/tree/master/urdf_model/include/urdf_model">https://github.com/ros/urdfdom_headers/tree/master/urdf_model/include/urdf_model</a> )	
Sensor	sensor (/urdf/XML/sensor)		

## 2. Components

**New in Hydro** A number of different packages and components make up urdf. The following diagram attempts to explain the relationship between these components:



## 2.1 Current Status of URDF Components in Hydro:

- The core URDF parser and data structures (`urdfdom`, `urdfdom_headers`) have been pushed upstream into stand alone (no ROS-dependencies) software packages that will in the future be released into Ubuntu completely separate from ROS.
- There is now a distinction between a URDF file and a URDF data structure. A URDF file follows the XML format as described on the [ros.org](http://ros.org/wiki) wiki. A URDF data structure is a set of generic classes that various formats (currently URDF and Collada) can be parsed into.
- A new plugin abstraction layer (`urdf_parser_plugin`) allows the URDF data structures to be populated with various file formats (currently URDF and Collada)

- The ROS packages `urdf_parser` and `urdf_interface` have been deprecated in Groovy and removed in Hydro.

## 3. Getting Started

There is large set of **tutorials** on how to build up your own robot models using the URDF specification. Check out the `urdf/Tutorials (/urdf/Tutorials)` page.

We also developed a macro language called `xacro (/xacro)` to make it easier to maintain the robot description files, increase their readability, and to avoid duplication in the robot description files.

## 4. Examples

See this page (`/urdf/Examples`) for a list of robots described by a URDF model.

## 5. Tools

### 5.1 Verification

A command line tool `check_urdf` attempts to parse a file as a URDF description, and either prints a description of the resulting kinematic chain, or an error message.

For example, to run this tool on the `pr2 urdf`, first create the `urdf` file by running:

```
roslaunch xacro xacro.py `rospack find pr2_description`/robots/pr2.urdf.xacro -o /tmp/pr2.urdf
```

#### New in Indigo

Then run the check by running:

Note: You may need to run `sudo apt-get install liburdfdom-tools`.

```
check_urdf pr2.urdf
```

#### New in Hydro

Then run the check by running:

```
roslaunch urdfdom check_urdf /tmp/pr2.urdf
```

and you should see something resembling:

```

robot name is: pr2
----- Successfully Parsed XML -----
root Link: base_footprint has 1 child(ren)
  child(1): base_link
    child(1): base_laser_link
    child(2): bl_caster_rotation_link
      child(1): bl_caster_l_wheel_link
      child(2): bl_caster_r_wheel_link
    child(3): br_caster_rotation_link
      child(1): br_caster_l_wheel_link
      child(2): br_caster_r_wheel_link
    child(4): fl_caster_rotation_link
      child(1): fl_caster_l_wheel_link
      child(2): fl_caster_r_wheel_link
    child(5): fr_caster_rotation_link
      child(1): fr_caster_l_wheel_link
      child(2): fr_caster_r_wheel_link
    child(6): torso_lift_link
      child(1): head_pan_link
        child(1): head_tilt_link
          child(1): head_plate_frame
            child(1): sensor_mount_link
              child(1): double_stereo_link
                child(1): narrow_stereo_link
      ...

```

## 5.2 Visualization

To get a graphviz diagram of your urdf file, do the following:

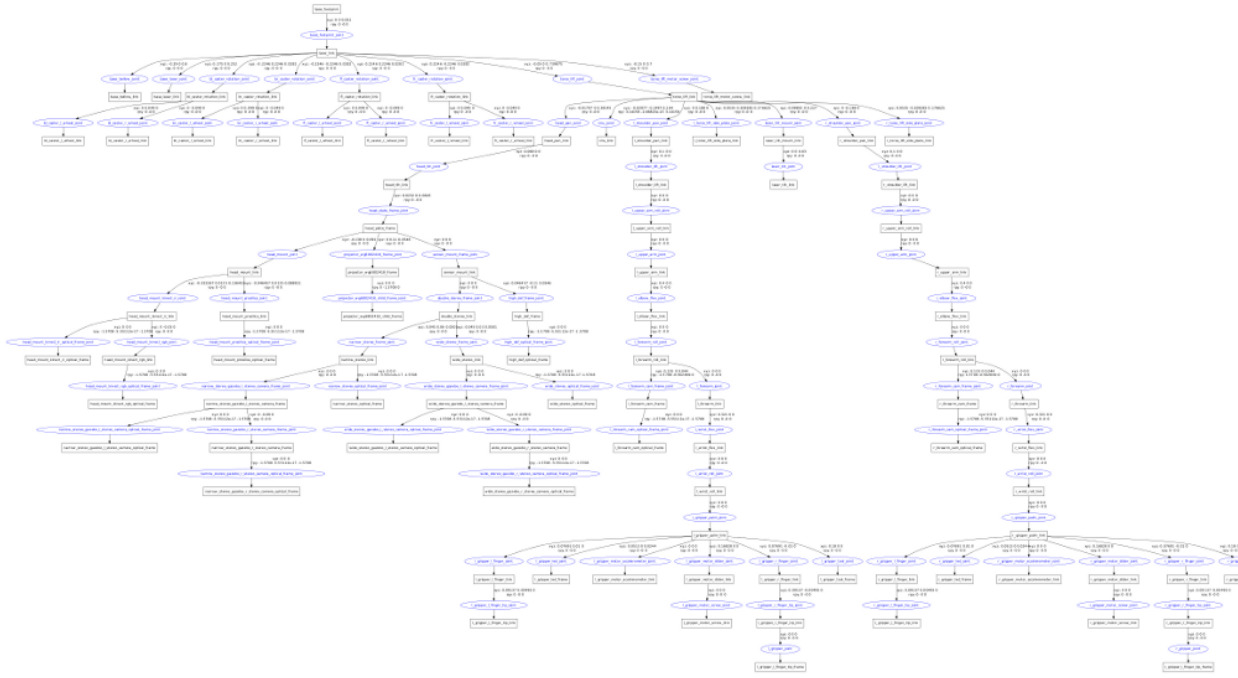
**New in Indigo** In Indigo, the `urdf_to_graphviz` tool has moved to the `liburdfdom-tools` package. You may need to run `sudo apt-get install liburdfdom-tools` if you can't use `urdf_to_graphviz`

```
urdf_to_graphviz pr2.urdf
```

### New in Hydro

```
urdf_to_graphviz pr2.urdf
```

The result is a file called `pr2.pdf` that looks something like this:



## 6. Known Issues

- Sensor model information is not included (except in gazebo extensions for simulated sensors).

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