

Introduction to Firefox Extensions

Section 5: Packaging Your Extension

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This final section shows you how to package your finished extension. Extensions are distributed as `.xpi` files and installed by dragging and dropping them into Firefox's extension manager (located at `Tools > Add-ons` or `Tools > Extensions`). A `.xpi` file is identical to a `.zip` file, but with a different file extension to let Firefox know what it should do with it.

Note that you need to zip up the *contents* of the extension's folder (*not* the extension folder itself). If your code is stored in a folder `example`, you want to enter `example` and zip together `chrome`, `chrome.manifest`, and `install.rdf`.

Windows XP

Select these files and subfolders, right click, and choose "Send to > Compressed (Zipped) Folder." Rename the `.zip` file to be `.xpi`.

Linux

```
cd example
zip -r example.zip ./*
mv example.zip example.xpi
```

Mac OS X

Do *not* right-click on the contents of the folder and choose "Create Archive of..." to make your `.zip` file. Mac OS X adds hidden files to folders that you don't want to include, so you'll need to make your extension package from the command line (Terminal). You can see the hidden files with `ls -la`. Go through all of your extension folders and run the command `rm .DS_Store` in each directory to delete the hidden files. (At the moment, you will need to delete three `.DS_Store` files – one in `example`, one in `content`, and one in `chrome`.) Once you've deleted the hidden files, zip up the folders using the Linux commands.

```
cd example
rm .DS_Store
rm chrome/.DS_Store
rm chrome/content/.DS_Store
zip -r example.zip ./*
mv example.zip example.xpi
```