

Intro To Releases

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Release the Kraken...er Elixir - Part 1

Part 1.

- What is a release?
- Why would you do this to yourself?
- How do we set it up?
- What could go wrong?

What is a Release?

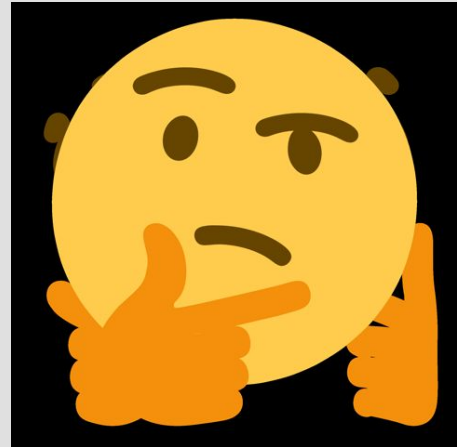


It's not magic!

A specially arranged group of directories:



Y tho?



Benefits include:

- Self contained / Portable
- Initial load times (Embedded vs Interactive mode)
- Repeatability
- Separation of concerns (deployment vs development)

How tho?

- Create: `mix release --path output_dir`
- Configure: `mix release.init`
- Use: `./output_dir/bin/app_name start`

Special commands.

start	Starts the system
start_iex	Starts the system with IEx attached
daemon	Starts the system as a daemon (Unix-like only)
daemon_iex	Starts the system as a daemon with IEx attached (Unix-like only)
install	Installs this system as a Windows service (Windows only)
eval "EXPR"	Executes the given expression on a new, non-booted system
rpc "EXPR"	Executes the given expression remotely on the running system
remote	Connects to the running system via a remote shell
restart	Restarts the running system via a remote command
stop	Stops the running system via a remote command
pid	Prints the OS PID of the running system via a remote command
version	Prints the release name and version to be booted

Side Effects May Include...

Gotchas.

- The /priv dir
- The dreaded build server
- Compile time cf. Runtime
- Environment Variables

Objectives:

- Play with the app
- Create a release and explore the results
- Start the release w/iex - send and read messages
- Attach to your running release and read the messages
- Implement the server's MOTD feature
- Read MOTD via RPC

Resources:

- Mix release documentation:
<https://hexdocs.pm/mix/1.9.0-rc.0/Mix.Tasks.Release.html>
- Updating hex to use releases:
<http://blog.plataformatec.com.br/2019/05/updating-hex-pm-to-use-elixir-releases/>
- 1.9 Announcement post:
<https://elixir-lang.org/blog/2019/06/24/elixir-v1-9-0-released/>
- A quick overview blog:
<https://medium.com/@blackode/quick-glance-elixir-1-9-releases-feature-b6dfce233e71>