# ROS Workshop - Tutorial 4 - Create Package ME 4140 - Introduction to Robotics - Fall 2020

## Overview:

After completing *Tutorial 3 - Turtlesim*, You have begun learning ROS and you can are ready to create a custom C++ package. You can read more here on the wiki.

## System Requirements:

- ROS+OS: This tutorial is intended for a system with ROS Melodic installed on the Ubuntu 18.04 LTS operating system. Alternate versions of ROS (i.e. Kinetic, Noetic, etc.) may work but have not been tested. Versions of ROS are tied to versions of Ubuntu.
- **ROS**: Your computer must be connected to the internet to proceed. Update the system before you begin.

#### Disclaimer:

- Backup the System: If you are using a virtual machine, it is recommend to make a snaphot of your virtual machine before you start each module. In the event of an untraceable error, you can restore to a previous snapshot.
- Workspace Setup: In Part I you will setup a Catkin Workspace as your working directory for creating packages. This only needs to be done once.

## Important Note on Naming:

In this tutorial you will replace several <fields> with names of your choice. These are general guidlines for naming in ROS.

- use descriptive names, very long or very short names are hard to read
- do not include the < > symbols
- do not use spaces, UPPER CASE letters, or special characters (@, \$, \*, etc.)
- ullet the underscore  $\_$  character is allowed

```
<workspace_name> - name of your workspace
<package_name> - name of your package
<node_name> - name of your node
<user name> - ubuntu user name
```

Part I - Setup the Workspace: (Part I only needs to be done once Fall2020.)

Before building a custom ROS package you need to setup a *catkin workspace* as the working directory. Catkin is the program that manages the file system behind the scenes and compiles your .cpp code.

**Step 1:** Source the installation files needed to create a workspace. This requires ROS to be previously installed.

source /opt/ros/melodic/setup.bash

Step 2: Open a new terminal and navigate to the future location of your workspace.

cd ~ OR cd /<user\_name>/home

**Step 3:** Choose a workspace name and create a workspace and source directory with *mkdir*. This step determines the location of your new workspace.

mkdir -p ~/<workspace\_name>/src

Step 4: Navigate to the top of your workspace directory and build your workspace.

cd ~/<workspace\_name>

catkin\_make

**Step 5:** Now add your workspace directory to .bashrc and source the script.

echo "source ~/<workspace\_name>/devel/setup.bash" >> ~/.bashrc

source ~/.bashrc

Open the .bashrc file with the gedit text editor. You can see the lines you have added with echo » at the bottom of the file. Close the file.

gedit ~/.bashrc

## Part II - Create A Publisher Node:

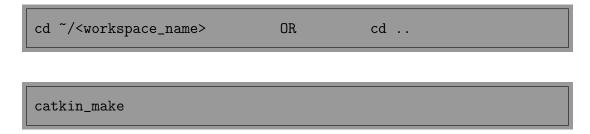
You can write custom nodes for your ROS system in C++, Python, or Lisp. These documents will support C++.

**Step 1:** Create a new package in your workspace for your new node to belong to. Make sure to do this in the correct parent directory .

cd ~/<workspace\_name>/src

catkin\_create\_pkg <package\_name> std\_msgs rospy roscpp

Step 2: Back out to the workspace directory then compile your package with catkin\_make



If you get here with no errors, your workspace is setup, and you are ready to write some code and test your new package!

**Step 3:** Create a new file for your C++ **publisher node** from the command line. The text editor *gedit* will create and open a new file named <node\_name>in the current directory.

```
gedit ~/<workspace_name>/src/<package_name>/src/<node_name>.cpp
```

Copy the code below into the source file. .

```
#include "ros/ros.h"
#include "geometry_msgs/Twist.h"
#include <sstream>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
   ros::init(argc, argv, "replace_with_your_node_name");
   ros::NodeHandle n;
   ros::Publisher ttu_publisher =
       n.advertise<geometry_msgs::Twist>("/turtle1/cmd_vel", 1000);
   ros::Rate loop_rate(10);
   int count = 0;
   while (ros::ok())
       geometry_msgs::Twist msg;
       msg.linear.x = 2+0.01*count;
       msg.angular.z = 2;
       ttu_publisher.publish(msg);
       ros::spinOnce();
       loop_rate.sleep();
       count++;
   }
}
```

Save and close the file. It must be saved as a <node\_name>.cpp in the src directory of the package your created in previously in **Part I** 

**Step 4:** Before we can compile the node we have to modify the file below.

```
gedit ~/<workspace_name>/src/<package_name>/CMakeLists.txt
```

Add the following lines to the bottom of the file and save.

```
add_executable(<node_name> src/<node_name>.cpp)
target_link_libraries(<node_name> ${catkin_LIBRARIES})
```

**Step 5:** Compile and test the new publisher node. This will compile and build your source code as well as check for errors in your entire workspace.

cd ~/<workspace\_name>

catkin\_make

Start a core

roscore

Turn on a turtle.

rosrun turtlesim turtlesim\_node

Start your new node

rosrun <package\_name> <node\_name>

Use rostopic to view current topics.

rostopic list

Close your node and start it again with the cmd\_vel topic mapped to the turtle like we did previously.

rosrun <package\_name> <node\_name> /cmd\_vel:=/turtle1/cmd\_vel

## Part III - Create A Subscriber Node:

Now create a **subscriber node** in the same package as the previous node.

Step 1: Use the code below called turtlesim subscriber.cpp to start.

**Step 2:** Modify the appropriate CMakeLists.txt file as you did previously.

**Step 3:** Compile the new subscriber node using catkin.

**Step 4:** Test the new node. Does it work? How do you know?

## **Tutorial Complete:**

After completing *Tutorial* 4 - *Create Package*, you are finally ready for a more advanced robot simulator.

Bonus Excercise: Install the JoyStick Teleop Node to drive the turtle with a USB joystick.