

Mozilla Addon Builder Package Building System

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Download this document from

<http://github.com/zalun/FlightDeck/raw/master/Docs/Package%20Building%20System.pdf>

If in doubts, please take a look at the accompanied slides at

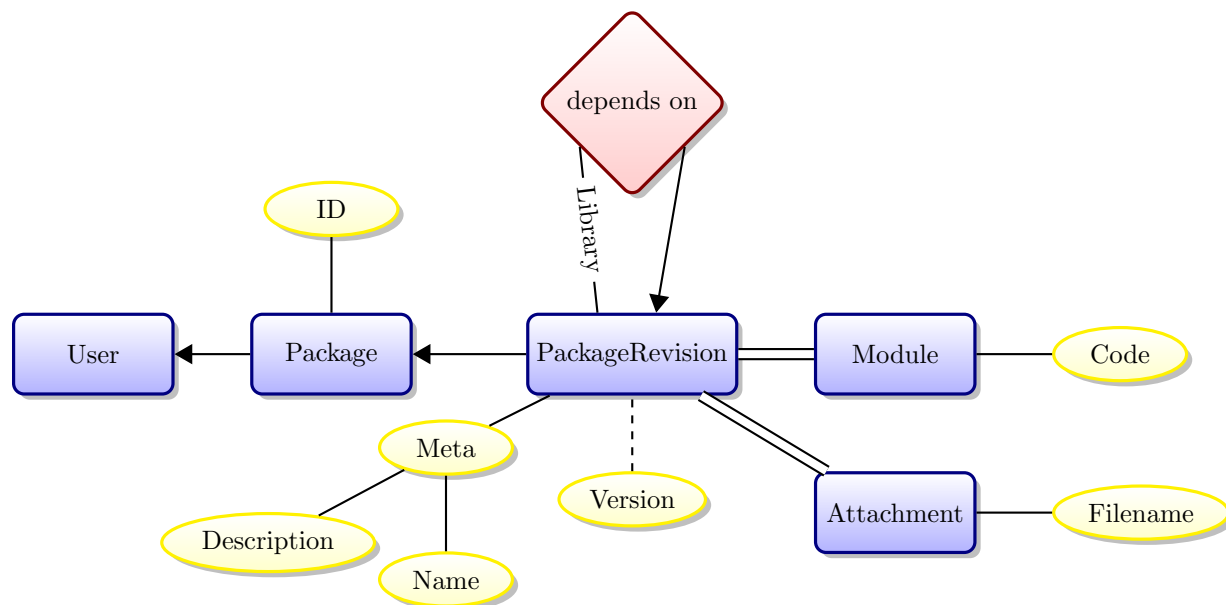
<http://github.com/zalun/FlightDeck/raw/master/Docs/Addon%20Builder%20-%20Build%20System.pdf>

1 Assumptions for the current iteration

1. Name of the Package is not unique anymore.
Packages are identified by it's *unique ID*. There may and probably often will be many Packages with the same name¹.
`/library/123456/`
2. Version is a tag.
Version is important. It is used to tag major *Revisions*. If a package is called without any Version specified, the latest versioned Revision will be used.
`/library/123456/version/0.1/`
3. Revision Number is used to precisely identify a Revision.
It is completely parallel to the Package Version
`/library/123456/revision/654/`
4. No collaborative editing.
That means there is no connection between Packages owned by different Users.
5. Package remembers wich SDK version was used to build it.
This is very complicated also on the front-end side. It will be created during the next iteration.

¹Check if it will not make any problem with Addons and uploading to AMO

2 Logical structure



3 Exporting XPI

Be aware that it is possible and common to export XPI² from partially unsaved data. This happens when User will use the "Try in browser" functionality. In this case XPI may not be send to AMO³.

3.1 Creating directory structure

Directory structure should be as close as standard Jetpack SDK as possible.

Copy Jetpack SDK to a temporary dir

```
/tmp/jetpack-sdk-
|-- bin
|   |-- activate
|   |-- bin
|   '-- [...]
|-- packages
|   |-- development-mode
|   |-- jetpack-core
|   |-- nsjetpack
|   '-- test-harness
|-- python-lib
|-- static-files
'-- [...]
```

²An XPI (pronounced "zippy" and derived from XPInstall) installer module is a ZIP file that contains an install script or a manifest at the root of the file, and a number of data files.

³<http://addons.mozilla.org/>

3.2 Exporting Packages with Modules

1. Create Package and its Modules directories
`/tmp/packages_{hash}/{Package:name}/`
`/tmp/packages_{hash}/{Package:name}/lib/`
2. Use collected data to create the Manifest.
`/tmp/packages_{hash}/{Package:name}/package.json`
3. Create Module files
 Iterate over the assigned Modules and create a ".js" file with its content inside Package's lib/ directory.
4. Export dependencies
 Iterate over Libraries on which a Package depends and repeat this section (*Export the Package with Modules*) for every Library.

3.3 Building XPI

System is already in a virtual environment knowing about Jetpack SDK. It is enough to change directory to `/tmp/packages_{hash}/{Package:name}/` and call `cfx xpi`. The `{Package:name}.xpi` file will be created in current directory. Its location is then send to the front-end to be used in further actions, usually calling the *FlightDeck Addon*⁴ to download and install the XPI.

3.4 Uploading to AMO

Create XPI from the database object. Use `mechanize` lib to login to AMO and upload the file faking it was done directly from the browser.

4 Editing Package and its Modules

How database evolves by changing the Packages and Modules. This description will be used later to design structure and functionalities of the system.

4.1 Starting point

All next scenarios start from the `Ua:La.1` defined as below.

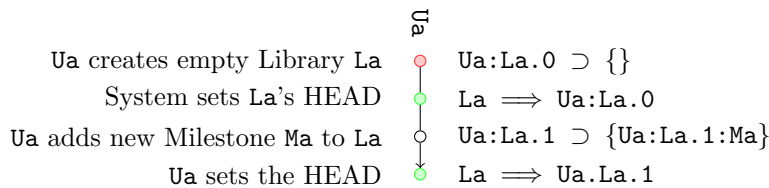
$$La \implies Ua:La.1 \supset \{Ua:La.1:Ma\}$$

Package `La` is created by User `Ua`.

`La`'s HEAD is PackageRevision identified as `Ua:La.1`

It contains only one module - `Ma`

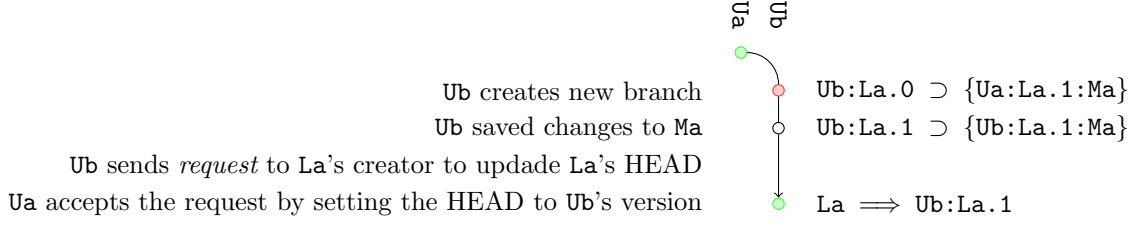
Following steps had to happen to achieve above status:



⁴FlightDeck Addon is a Jetpack extension allowing to temporary installation of the XPI. It needs to be called with an URL of the XPI.

4.2 Scenario (1 Module, 2 Users, no dependencies)

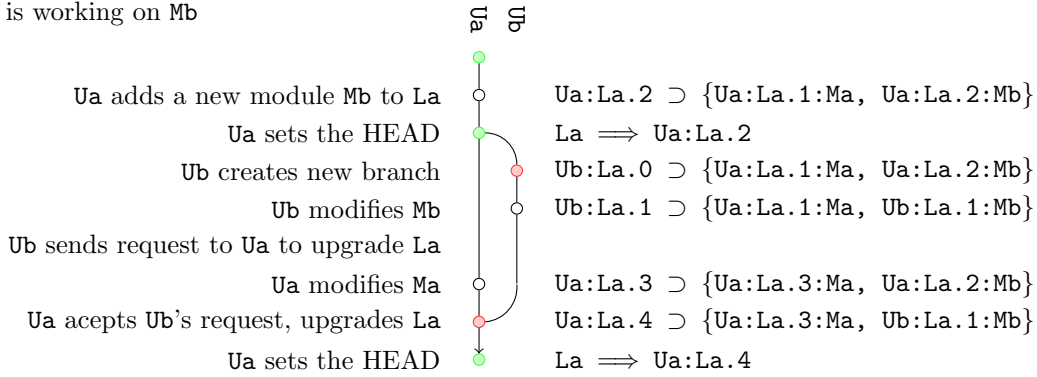
Ua and Ub are working on La
Ub modified one module



Result: La $\Rightarrow Ub:La.1 \supset \{Ub:La.1:Ma\}$

4.3 Scenario (2 Modules, 2 Users, no dependencies)

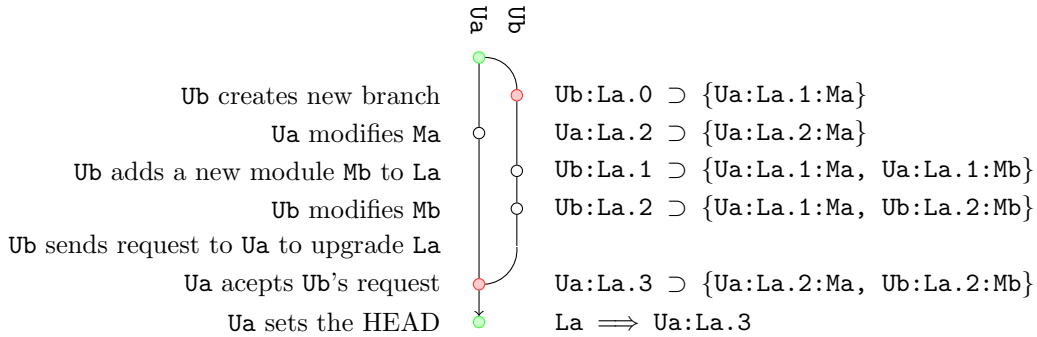
Ua and Ub are working on La
Ua created module Mb
Ub is working on Mb



Result: La $\Rightarrow Ua:La.4 \supset \{Ua:La.3:Ma, Ub:La.1:Mb\}$

4.4 Scenario (2 Modules, 2 Users, no dependencies)

Ua and Ub are working on La
Ub created module Mb

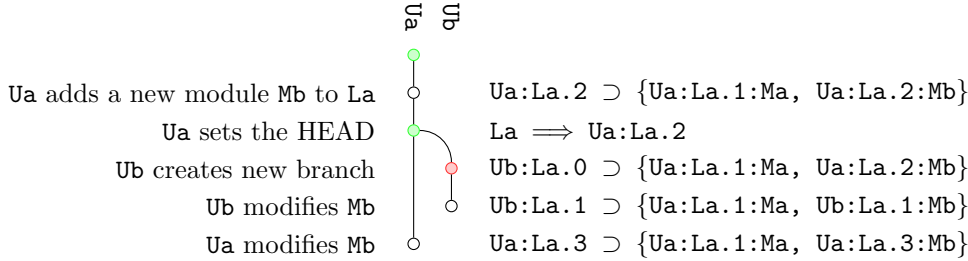


Result: La $\Rightarrow Ua:La.3 \supset \{Ua:La.2:Ma, Ub:La.2:Mb\}$

4.5 Scenario with conflict (2 Modules, 2 Users, no dependencies)

Ua and Ub are working on La
 Ua created module Mb
 Ua and Ub are working on Mb
 Conflict arises...

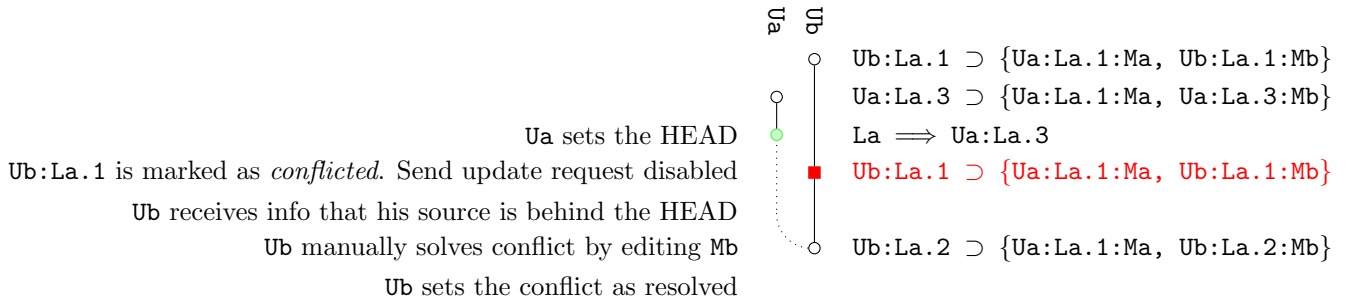
Steps leading to the conflict:



Libraries Ub:La.1 and Ua:La.3 are **conflicted** because Ub:La.1:Mb and Ua:La.3:Mb are both an evolution of the Ua:La.2:Mb. From that moment many scenarios may happen. Just a few of them will follow.

4.5.1 Ua sets HEAD and Ub's revision is outdated

La's manager — Ua has chosen the HEAD. At that moment he doesn't know about Ub's changes to Mb.

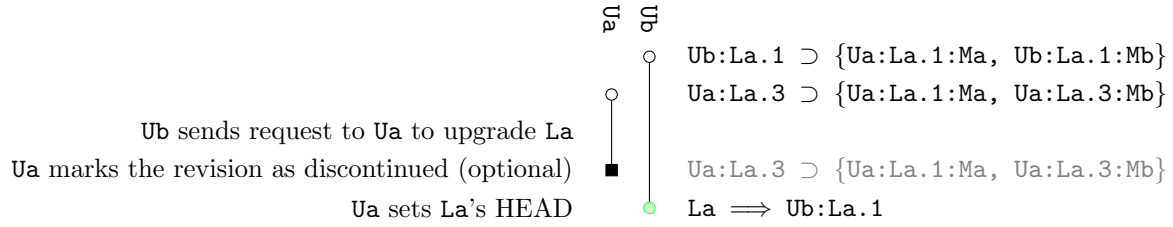


From that moment Ub:La.2 becomes a normal (not conflicted) PackageRevision. Ub may send Package manager an upgrade request which could end by switching La's HEAD to Ub:La.2. It is important to note, that the Ub:La.2 is not an evolution of Ua:La.3, it will not be originated from it.⁵

4.5.2 Ub sends update request, Ua decides to drop his changes

Ub thinks his change to Mb is finished and requests update of the Library from its manager — Ua. He accepts the request and marks his version of this module as discontinued. This mark prevents from the automatic set to conflicted revision.

⁵Decide if this is the right thing to do.



Draft/Ideas

update Library if Library HEAD has been changed something should tell the User that an update is possible. It should then (on request) change the versions of all Modules which are not in conflict with updating Library. In essence, if

$Ua:La.1 \supset \{Ua:La.1:Ma, Ub:La.2:Mb\}$ is a Library to be updated and

$La \Rightarrow Uc:La.3 \supset \{Ub:La.1:Ma, Uc:La.3:Mb, Uc:La.1:Mc\}$ is current HEAD, then

$Ub:La.2:Mb$ should be updated to $Uc:La.3:Mb$ and $Uc:La.1:Mc$ should be added.

User should receive a notification that $Ua:La.1:Ma$ is not in sync with HEAD.

To be continued...