Video – PT File Types

Hello everyone. This is our Cisco Packet Tracer File Type walkthrough video. In this video, we're going to walk through three different types of Packet Tracer file extensions that you may see inside of your Cisco Academy courses. So let's get started.

Right now it's a blank activity. I just opened Packet Tracer. I can just grab a router, that's cool. I can grab a switch. Why not? That's awesome. And I'll grab a PC, and that's even better. I'll grab my lightning bolt connector, the orange one, and I will just interconnect by clicking on lightning bolt, device to device. Lightning bolt device to device. So here's my network. Right now there's no file extension, there's no saved file, so I'm going to go ahead and click on File, and Save. Let's take a look at the default extension. The default extension, if I click on my desktop, we'll see is Packet Tracer Activity File, PKT. I'll just name this thing "Initial." This is where we're going to start. I save it initial, there it is. It's awesome, we're good to go. It says initial.pkt.

But what is neat about PKTs? What we can do is we can embed graphics into our Packet Tracer, and then we can have those graphics retained within the Packet Tracer file. For example, I can minimize, and here's my initial file. The initial file size is 43 kilobytes. Awesome, and also I have an estate graphic, which is huge, 160 kilobytes. So check this out. In my Packet Tracer, I can embed a graphic in the background. I'll click on the background button that we've used in the past, and then I'll browse to the graphic that's on my desktop, and here we'll find that estate graphic. I can click Open, and here is the estate graphic. I'll click Apply, and now I have it embedded in the background. I can move my devices around, just for fun, so it makes a little more sense in my house here. Put that in the top upstairs room. Awesome, and now I will click File, and I'll click Save As, and I'll name this Final. I'll hit Enter. And again, I'm going to close my Packet Tracer, completely close it this time. We'll save our work. So I have the Initial file, which had the topology, which is 43 kilobytes. The Final, if I hover over it, which is 377 kilobytes. The difference? An embedded graphic. To further prove it, I can take that graphic that's on my desktop, and I can delete it from my computer. Gone. And now I can open that Final file again, which is still 377 kilobytes, and check this out. It opens, and the file is still embedded within the Packet Tracer. So imagine the uses. You can build your own beautiful custom network with your own graphics inside of it, and those graphics are then part of the Packet Tracer. You can then send the Packet Tracer file to friends that you're working with, or upload it to the Facebook Packet Tracer community, and be able to share your work with everyone, including the embedded graphic inside. So keep that in mind. It's all maintained within the Packet Tracer file.

So let's continue onwards. File, Save As, PKZ. If I use PKZ, you can first give it a name, such as PKZ Test, and you'll see a difference here. When you go to save it, you can actually add in files. So files that in the same directory as your PKT file, you can click Add, and you can bring in multiple graphics. You can bring in other files that are related to your topology. You can select them all and click Open, and they'll be added to this list. Think of it almost as doing a combined folder of compressed files. That's what PKZ really is. We don't use it as much though, but you can give it a try. If you want a review of the PKZ, in Packet Tracer Help, you can actually go to the section known as Interface Overview. In Packet Tracer Help, Interface Overview, you can scroll down, and you'll find some info on some of the file types, including PKZ, which shows that same window we were just on.

Now besides that, let's take a look at PKA. This file type is heavily used in the Cisco Networking Academy. I'm going to head into one of my Cisco Academy courses, this is known as IT Essentials. If you've ever done any course reading, inside of any Cisco Academy course, you'll find that the reading is intuitive, awesome, and interactive. One of the items that you'll get to in some of our Cisco Academy courses are Packet Tracer labs. And they're activity files. Here's an example. In the IT Essentials course, chapter eight, there's a lab about connecting wireless computers to a wireless router. When you click on the activity link here, you'll get a download. And I can go ahead and click Open, with Packet Tracer. When this opens up, we're going to see some awesome features with interactive instructions, as well as grading. I'll resize my window, just use the guest profile, and here we go. So here's my Packet Tracer activity topology. But with the topology, comes an instruction file. And this instruction file here, you can scroll through it. Not only does it provide you with the default instructions of what to do for this lab, but when you scroll down to the bottom, you'll see that there's built-in command line inside of here, of what you need to work on, as well as we even have questions that we can think about and answer. Even better than that, we can go down here and see the completion. We're at zero, but that's okay. As we follow the instructions

and do what we're supposed to do with our configuration, this instruction activity window will auto-grade our completion. If you want to see what you're getting wrong, or what you need to work on, you can click this Check Results button here, and now it changes your topology into an area to see feedback. They tell you your lab is incomplete, but if you click on the Assessment Items tab, look at that. It'll show you the name of your devices that you need to work on, as well as what you're getting wrong in that device that you have to fix. This is phenomenal. I love the Packet Tracer PKA files. These are commonly homework assignments inside of the Cisco Networking Academy, and also they're great ways to practice your skills, and excel at your Cisco certification exams.

So take the time to play around with some of the PKA files you may find in one of your Cisco Academy courses. Also building your own Packet Tracer PKT files, or building bundles of files using those PKZs. Enjoy your Cisco Academy courses, and all that Packet Tracer has to offer.