Managing Software Installation Using Cloudera Manager

A major function of Cloudera Manager is to install CDH and managed service software. Cloudera Manager installs software for new deployments and to upgrade existing deployments. Cloudera Manager supports two software distribution formats: packages and parcels.

A *package* is a binary distribution format that contains compiled code and meta-information such as a package description, version, and dependencies. Package management systems evaluate this meta-information to allow package searches, perform upgrades to a newer version, and ensure that all dependencies of a package are fulfilled. Cloudera Manager uses the native system package manager for each supported OS.

A *parcel* is a binary distribution format containing the program files, along with additional metadata used by Cloudera Manager. The important differences between parcels and packages are:

- Parcels are self-contained and installed in a versioned directory, which means that multiple versions of a given parcel can be installed side-by-side. You can then designate one of these installed versions as the active one. With packages, only one package can be installed at a time so there's no distinction between what's installed and what's active.

- Parcels can be installed at any location in the filesystem and by default are installed in `/opt/cloudera/parcels`. In contrast, packages are installed in `/usr/lib`.

- Parcel handling automatically downloads, distributes, and activates the correct parcel for the operating system running on each host in the cluster. Mixed operating system type and version clusters are supported, however using the same version of the same operating system on all cluster hosts is strongly recommended.

Important: You cannot install software using both parcels and packages in the same cluster.

Continue reading:

- **Parcels**

- **Migrating from Packages to Parcels**

- **Migrating from Parcels to Packages**

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