

PHP – PEAR

PEAR is an acronym for **PHP Extension and Application Repository**. It is a repository of PHP packages or extensions. You can freely incorporate any of these extensions from PEAR in your code. The PEAR project was established by Stig S. Bakken in 1999.

Most of the precompiled distributions of PHP such as XAMPP already have PEAR bundled with it. If not, you can install PEAR by downloading go-pear.phar file from <https://pear.php.net/go-pear.phar> and run

```
php go-pear.phar
```

In a Windows Command Prompt to start the installation.

Based on your responses to the setup steps, the PEAR Package Manager will be installed in the path, specified during installation.

You can then add that installation path to your PATH environment. Either do this manually (Start > Control Panel > System > Environment) or run (double-click) the newly generated PEAR_ENV.reg that's now found in the PHP source directory.

You can now access the PEAR Package Manager by running the command –

```
C:\xampp\php>pear
```

In a Windows Command Prompt.

You will get the list of PEAR commands as follows –

```
C:\xampp\php>pear
```

Commands:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| build | Build an Extension From C Source |
| bundle | Unpacks a Pecl Package |
| channel-add | Add a Channel |
| channel-alias | Specify an alias to a channel name |
| channel-delete | Remove a Channel From the List |
| channel-discover | Initialize a Channel from its server |
| channel-info | Retrieve Information on a Channel |
| channel-login | Connects and authenticates to remote channel server |
| channel-logout | Logs out from the remote channel server |
| channel-update | Update an Existing Channel |
| clear-cache | Clear Web Services Cache |



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| config-create | Create a Default configuration file |
| config-get | Show One Setting |
| config-help | Show Information About Setting |
| config-set | Change Setting |
| config-show | Show All Settings |
| convert | Convert a package.xml 1.0 to package.xml 2.0 format |
| cvsdiff | Run a " cv s diff" for all files in a package |
| cvstag | Set CVS Release Tag |
| download | Download Package |
| download-all | Downloads each available package from the default channel |
| info | Display information about a package |
| install | Install Package |
| list | List Installed Packages In The Default Channel |
| list-all | List All Packages |
| list-channels | List Available Channels |
| list-files | List Files In Installed Package |
| list-upgrades | List Available Upgrades |
| login | Connects and authenticates to remote server [Deprecated in |
| logout | Logs out from the remote server [Deprecated in favor of cha |
| makerpm | Builds an RPM spec file from a PEAR package |
| package | Build Package |
| package-dependencies | Show package dependencies |
| package-validate | Validate Package Consistency |
| pickle | Build PECL Package |
| remote-info | Information About Remote Packages |
| remote-list | List Remote Packages |
| run-scripts | Run Post-Install Scripts bundled with a package |
| run-tests | Run Regression Tests |
| search | Search remote package database |
| shell-test | Shell Script Test |
| sign | Sign a package distribution file |
| svntag | Set SVN Release Tag |
| uninstall | Un-install Package |
| update-channels | Update the Channel List |
| upgrade | Upgrade Package |
| upgrade-all | Upgrade All Packages [Deprecated in favor of calling upgrade |

Installing packages with PEAR is so easy. One way to find packages, is using the official PEAR site <https://pear.php.net/packages.php> and then run

```
pear install <package-name>
```



The next step is to use the PEAR package in your code. To do that, you should include the main PHP script of the package in your program with `include`, `require`, `include_once` or `require_once` statements.

```
<?php
    include "PEARPACKAGE.php";

    . . . . .
    // rest of the code
    . . . . .
?>
```

A newer PHP package manager called Composer is an alternative available for managing packages for a PHP project. Composer also supports the installation of PEAR packages. Composer is preferred by many instead of PEAR for PHP package distribution.