Installing and building a ROS package

The ReFlex packages assume that ROS is installed on an Ubuntu 14.04 machine, but should work on other versions as well. The packages also assume you can build it in a catkin_workspace, as opposed to one using rosbuild:
Catkin vs. Rosbuild
How to create a catkin workspace

1) Get the code
It's recommended to put the ROS packages into the /src directory of your catkin workspace. Our catkin workspace is located at ~/catkin_ws, so we clone the code like so

```
cd ~/catkin_ws/src
git clone https://github.com/the-repository-you-want-to-clone.git
```

In the future, if you see "~/catkin_ws" that is our catkin workspace, use the name of your own workspace instead.

2) Add the package path to ROS_PACKAGE_PATH, if it's not already there

```
export ROS_PACKAGE_PATH=$ROS_PACKAGE_PATH:`pwd`
```

Note that the marks around pwd are back-ticks, not apostrophes, so this line will call pwd and insert the result of that into ROS_PACKAGE_PATH. You can check that it worked using

```
echo $ROS_PACKAGE_PATH
```

Adding the catkin workspace to ROS_PACKAGE_PATH in ~/.bashrc will make this action permanent

```
echo "ROS_PACKAGE_PATH=$ROS_PACKAGE_PATH:~/catkin_ws" >> ~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

3) Source the setup.*sh file for your workspace, if you haven't yet

```
source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
```

You can check that this worked with

```
rospack find ros-package-from-the-cloned-repository
```

4) catkin_make the workspace

```
cd ~/catkin_ws
catkin_make
```

Add a New Comment