STACKS Developer Guide: Uploading and Testing Products

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Getting Set Up with a Developer Account

To begin using STACKS authentication and uploading products, follow these steps:

1. **Create an Account**: Sign up on STACKS using the email you want to associate with your developer access.
2. **Request Access**: Email cohagen@stacks.audio and ask to be added to your brand page.

Creating a Product

Once your developer account is set up and linked to your brand, you can create products:

1. **Navigate to Your Brand Page**: Use the search function to find your brand and click on your profile.
2. **Create a New Product**:
   - Select **"New Product"** on your profile page.
   - Fill out the required product details.
   - Click **Publish** to create the product.
3. **Editing Your Product**:
   - After publishing, you can edit product details, including:
     - **Media** (images, videos, descriptions)
     - **Pricing**
     - **Versions** (file uploads and enabling STACKS authentication)
     - **Redemption Codes** (used to distribute licenses via other platforms)
   - **License Keys** are automatically generated for products using STACKS authentication and do not require manual setup.
4. **Product Visibility**:
   - Products are invisible by default.
   - Contact cohagen@stacks.audio to make them active when ready.
5. **Product ID:**

- ○ You will need your Product ID for compiling your product with STACKS Auth. Note your Product ID in the URL for your product. For example: https://www.stacks.audio/products/**prime-delay-md2x**

Finding Your Created Products

Products you have permission to edit can be accessed via the **Edit Products** menu:

- Click the menu under your profile photo.
- Select **Edit Products.**

Note: The menu is only visible if you are logged into an account with edit access for one or more existing products.

Uploading Files

To upload files for your product:

1. Open the **Edit Product** menu
2. G**o to the Versions Tab**:
   - ○ Add an **RSA Key**. (We can provide an RSA key upon request.)
   - ○ Create a NEW VERSION and enter the version number.
3. **Upload binaries** for distribution:
   - ■ Label files with the correct file type.
       - ■ VST3 - mac or windows VST3 file (Must be zipped)
       - ■ AU - mac component file (Must be zipped)
       - ■ AAX - mac or windows AAX file (Must be a .pkg on mac, .zip on windows)
           - a. Example PKG creation command on mac
             ```
             sudo pkgbuild --install-location
             /Library/Application\
             Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/ --sign
             "Developer ID Installer: YOUR CERTIFICATE
             ID" --component PRODUCT.aaxplugin
             ./MacOS_PRODUCT_AAX.pkg
             ```
       - ■ Stand Alone - mac stand alone executable
       - ■ Executable - windows stand alone executable
       - ■ Other, Template, Auth - see next section
   - ■ Assign Windows or macOS compatibility.
       - ■ Note: Windows and macOS versions **must have different file names** (e.g., add "_w" to the file name for Windows versions *before uploading*).
4. **Adding Special Files**:

- - **Template Files** (for pointing your product to sample directories, etc.):
    - Requires a payload (target directory) and installation paths for macOS and Windows.
  - **Sample** (audio sample files):
    - Must be zipped
    - Automatically is downloaded to
      - **Mac:** `~User/Music/Stacks/Samples/STACKS_PRODUCT_ID`
      - **Windows**: `%MUSIC%\Stacks\Samples\STACKS_PRODUCT_ID`
  - **Other** (Preset files, etc):
    - Must be zipped
    - Requires installation paths for macOS and Windows.
  - **Auth Files** (for STACKS authentication):
    - Requires a directory where the plugin will look for the auth file.
      - Recommended paths:
        a. **Windows**: `%ROAMING%\DEVELOPERNAME\PRODUCTNAME\AuthCode.txt`
        b. **Mac**: `~/Library/Application Support/DEVELOPERNAME/PRODUCTNAME/AuthCode.txt`

Windows Directory Shortcodes:

These shortcodes ensure proper installation of files on Windows filesystems despite differences in directory names due to non-english languages, user names, and OneDrive usage.

Shortcode	Directory Equivalent
`%PROGRAMFILES%`	`C:\Program Files`
`%USERPROFILE%`	`C:\Users\USERNAME`
`%COMMONFILES%`	`C:\Program Files\Common Files`
`%MUSIC%`	`C:\Users\USERNAME\Music`
`%ROAMING%`	`C:\Users\USERNAME\AppData\Roaming`
`%DOCUMENTS%`	`C:\Users\Documents`

Testing a Product

Once you have uploaded a version, you can test your product. *Before you do, let Cohagen know you're ready to test and he will activate the license key generation in the backend.*

1. **Visit the Product Page**:
   ○ Click the button next to the product title in the **Edit Product** modal.
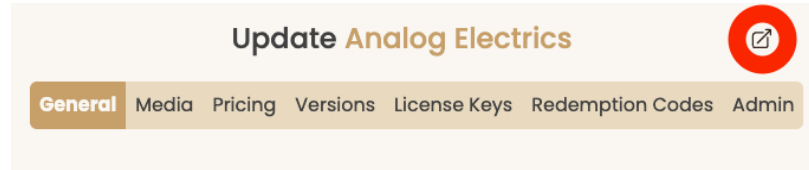
2. **Assign a License**:
   ○ If the product price is set to **$0**, click **"Add Product to My Stack"** to assign yourself a license.
3. **Test Installation**:
   ○ Navigate to the **My Stack** page.
   ○ Install the product as if it were live in the marketplace.