# Introduction

**{name}** is a tool for dependency management in PHP. It allows you to declare the libraries your project depends on and it will manage (install/update) them for you.

## Dependency {head}

*{name}**is not a package manager in the same sense as Yum or Apt are. Yes, it deals with "packages" or libraries, but it manages them on a per-project basis, installing them in a directory (e.g. vendor) inside your project. By default it will never install anything globally. Thus, it is a dependency manager.*

This idea is not new and Composer is strongly inspired by node's npm and ruby's bundler.

Suppose:

a) You have a project that depends on a number { of {library}.

b) Some of those libraries depend on other libraries.

Composer:

|  |
| --- |
| c) Enables you to declare the {library} you depend on. |
| d) Finds out which versions of which packages can and need to be installed, and installs them (meaning it downloads them into your project). |

See the Basic usage chapter for more details on declaring dependencies.