## What is the "module" package.json field for?

Asked 7 years, 9 months ago Modified 2 years, 8 months ago Viewed 132k times



I've seen some npm packages (<u>vue for example</u>) have a module field in their package.json.

215



But <u>module</u> <u>is not included in the package.json</u> <u>documentation</u> - is this a convention of some kind? Is there documentation for this somewhere?





javascript npm package.json

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edited Nov 4, 2021 at 10:16

mikemaccana
122k • 110 • 424 • 528

asked Mar 10, 2017 at 1:20

ryanve

52.4k • 32 • 105 • 142

2 convention for ECMAScript modules - here's a good read on the different approaches to identifying ESM's:

hackernoon.com/... - hackerrdave Mar 10, 2017 at 1:38





## **Update: April 2022**

213



The module field is not officially defined by Node.js and support is not planned. Instead, the Node.js community settled on <u>package exports</u> which they believe is more versatile.







For practical reasons JavaScript bundlers will continue to support the module field. The esbuild docs <u>explain</u> when to use module as well as related fields main and browser.

## **Original Answer**

Is "module" an official npm property or is this a convention of some kind?

It's a <u>proposal</u>, but likely to be supported due to de facto usage.

Is there documentation for this somewhere?

There is, in fact, and it can be found <u>right here</u> and later removed <u>here</u>.

What's it for?

ES6 Module Interoperability in Node. Additional discussion can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. And here's <u>a blog</u> <u>post</u> from Rich Harris talking more about it.

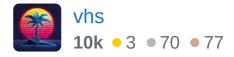
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edited Apr 18, 2022 at 12:05

bernie

10.4k • 7 • 66 • 99

answered Mar 15, 2017 at 17:59



- Does WebPack have documentation on this somewhere, or just Rollup? – tech4him Dec 30, 2017 at 1:17
- Looks like they have added it here:
   webpack.js.org/guides/author-libraries/#final-steps
   tech4him Aug 24, 2018 at 23:29
- This never got implemented. Instead they have the type field that can be set to "module". oligofren May 23, 2021 at 14:53



**79** 

This is used by bundler tools for ESM (ECMAScript Module) detection. The Rollup documentation says it pretty well:



If your package.json file also has a module field, ES6-aware tools like Rollup and webpack 2 will import the ES6 module version directly.

1

This article on Rollup 1.0 says it another way:

The main field makes sure that Node users using require will be served the UMD version. The module field is not an official npm feature but a common convention among bundlers to designate how to import an ESM version of our library.

Further discussion of pkg.module is on the Rollup Github Wiki and the webpack Docs.

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edited Jan 28, 2019 at 21:45

answered Nov 28, 2017 at 17:07



Should main be a minified version of UMD version of the library? Or should it be an unminified one? What about module? I guess that module should not be minified because the user will use its bundler (Webpack, Parcel, etc...) and by using the source file with ES6 module exports the bundler can laverage tree-shaking, correct? — tonix Nov 20, 2019 at 22:11