NAME
    dpkg−scanpackages – create Packages index files

SYNOPSIS
    dpkg-scanpackages [*option...*] *binary-path* [*override-file* [*path-prefix*]] **>** *Packages*

DESCRIPTION
    dpkg-scanpackages sorts through a tree of Debian binary packages and creates a Packages file, used by **apt**(8), **dselect**(1), etc, to tell the user what packages are available for installation. These Packages files are the same as those found on Debian archive sites and CD-ROMs. You might use **dpkg-scanpackages** yourself if making a directory of local packages to install on a cluster of machines.

    Note: If you want to access the generated Packages file with **apt**(8) you will probably need to compress the file with **xz**(1) (generating a Packages.xz file), **bzip2**(1) (generating a Packages.bz2 file) or **gzip**(1) (generating a Packages.gz file). **apt**(8) ignores uncompressed Packages files except on local access (i.e. **file://** sources).

    binary-path is the name of the tree of the binary packages to process (for example, **contrib/binary−i386**). It is best to make this relative to the root of the Debian archive, because every Filename field in the new Packages file will start with this string.

    override-file is the name of a file to read which contains information about how the package fits into the distribution (the file can be compressed since dpkg 1.15.5); see **deb-override**(5).

    path-prefix is an optional string to be prepended to the Filename fields.

    If more than one version of a package is found only the newest one is included in the output. If they have the same version and only differ in architecture only the first one found is used.

OPTIONS
    −t, **−−type** *type*
        Scan for **.type* packages, instead of **.deb*.

    −e, **−−extra−override** *file*
        Scan *file* to find supplementary overrides (the file can be compressed since dpkg 1.15.5). See **deb-extra-override**(5) for more information on its format.

    −a, **−−arch** *arch*
        Use a pattern consisting of **_all.deb* and **_arch.deb* instead of scanning for all debs.

    −h, **−−hash** *hash-list*
        Only generate file hashes for the comma-specified list specified (since dpkg 1.17.14). The default is to generate all currently supported hashes. Supported values: **md5**, **sha1**, **sha256**.

    −m, **−−multiversion**
        Include all found packages in the output.

    −M, **−−medium** *id-string*
        Add an **X−Medium** field containing the value *id-string* (since dpkg 1.15.5). This field is required if you want to generate **Packages.cd** files for use by the multicd access method of dselect.

    −?, **−−help**
        Show the usage message and exit.

    −−version
        Show the version and exit.

ENVIRONMENT
    DPKG_COLORS
        Sets the color mode (since dpkg 1.18.5). The currently accepted values are: **auto** (default), **always** and **never**.

    DPKG_NLS
        If set, it will be used to decide whether to activate Native Language Support, also known as internationalization (or i18n) support (since dpkg 1.19.0). The accepted values are: **0** and **1** (default).

DIAGNOSTICS

dpkg-scanpackages outputs the usual self-explanatory errors. It also warns about packages that are in the wrong subdirectory, are duplicated, have a Filename field in their control file, are missing from the override file, or have maintainer substitutions which do not take effect.

SEE ALSO

dpkg(1), **dselect**(1), **deb-override**(5), **deb-extra-override**(5), **dpkg-scansources**(1).