

## Help on CTAN

### How can I upload a package?

A package can be uploaded to CTAN on the [upload form](#). On this upload form you are requested to fill in some information about you and the package. They are required for the categorization and processing on CTAN. The package itself is uploaded in an archive file which contains all files belonging to the package.

The following list contains some rules how to prepare your package for CTAN.

- Please package your contribution as a [ZIP archive](#) with extension `.zip` or a gzip-ed tar archive with the extension `.tar.gz` or `.tgz`.

The CTAN team has decided that packages on the archive shall remain in a browsing-friendly layout, i.e. the best format is to have all the files inside a directory, as illustrated here.

```
my-package.zip:
my-package/
  README.md
  my-package.dtx
  my-package.ins
  my-package.pdf
```

Here *my-package* should be the CTAN name of your package.

- Very large packages – such as modern font distributions – are improved by a single extra layer of directories:

```
my-package.zip:
my-package/
  README.md
  doc/
    my-package-doc.tex
    my-package-doc.pdf
  tex/
    use-my-package.sty
    t1my-package.fd
    ...
  source/
    my-package.sfd
    my-package-Italic.sfd
    ...
  ...
```

and so on.

- In parallel to the main directory tree, CTAN offers possibility to provide a TDS-structured ZIP file. Such a file will only be accepted as an addition to your upload, not as a replacement.

This file is **not necessary** at all for simple packages. Thus it should be omitted for instance for normal  $\text{\LaTeX}$  packages. This file might be required when the package is complex.

If you want to include such a file in your upload, please check the [TDS guidelines](#).

Call this file *my-package.tds.zip* and include it at the top-level of your upload (alongside

the `my-package` directory).

```
my-package.zip:
  my-package.tds.zip
  my-package/
    README.md
    ...
```

- Even if you are sending us a revision of an existing package, please send all of the files, changed or not. We have tools to handle whole uploads so this leads to the fewest errors on our part.
- CTAN holds thousands of packages, and many more thousand files. Our visitors will be helped, and your work will get the recognition it deserves, only if people can find your package.
  - Include in your upload a plain text file with information that would be useful to a CTAN visitor considering using your package. This information includes a brief description and license information, as well as whether your material requires special fonts or only runs on one kind of platform. Name this file `README.md`, or simply `README` because then it will show up on the CTAN portal [prominently rendered](#) when that user is [browsing](#) your directory. This file should be stored with the encoding UTF-8.

For an international audience it would be best to write the `README` file in English. You can provide another `README` file in another language if you want to.

Include in the `README.md` OR `README` file a statement giving your choice of license. That way people who are browsing can see whether your material is available to them (e.g., if your license choice excludes commercial use). Something like: *This material is subject to the [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Project Public License 1.3c](#).*

- Almost all packages should have documentation beyond the `README.md` OR `README`. It should be in PDF format, since this is what our web visitors can read; in particular, PostScript and DVI formats are not acceptable. Include its source in your upload since free distributions such as T<sub>E</sub>X Live cannot use the document without source.

For many L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package authors, producing the documentation is a matter of running your `.dtx` file through L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:

```
latex <docname>.dtx
```

- The package should not contain files which can be generated from other files in your package – beside the documentation. Thus the intermediary files produced by T<sub>E</sub>X or L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X must not be contained.

For L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X packages which contain a `dtx` file the files which are generated from this `dtx` file must not be contained.



While you are preparing a package the uploading to CTAN you might find a supporting package useful. See the topic [ctan](#) for such packages.

Some additional practical tips can be found in the [Additional Information for CTAN Uploaders](#). You may also find helpful the information at <http://tug.org/texlive/pkgcontrib.html>.

## Communication

- [Where can I get help on T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and friends?](#)
- [Where can I report problems or request features for packages on CTAN?](#)

- [How can I \*\*contact\*\* the authors of a package?](#)
- [Where can I give \*\*feedback\*\* on the CTAN portal?](#)
- [Where can I request features for the \*\*portal\*\*?](#)

## Download

- [How can I \*\*download\*\* a package?](#)
- [How can I \*\*select\*\* a certain mirror to download a package?](#)

## Packages

- [Which \*\*readme file\*\* is displayed in the CTAN browser directly?](#)
- [Which \*\*markdown syntax\*\* is recognized for the readme files?](#)
- [Where can I \*\*preview\*\* readme files?](#)
- [Which \*\*teaser images\*\* for packages or topics are used?](#)
- [How should I \*\*reference\*\* packages on CTAN?](#)

## Contribute

- [How can I \*\*upload\*\* a package?](#)
- [How can I see what has been \*\*uploaded\*\* to CTAN?](#)
- [How can I \*\*submit modifications\*\* to a package?](#)
- [How can I \*\*take authorship\*\* of a package?](#)
- [How can I \*\*donate\*\* to CTAN?](#)

## Browsers

- [Which \*\*browsers\*\* are supported by the CTAN site?](#)

## Skins

- [Do the \*\*share links\*\* impair my privacy?](#)
- [How can I get rid of these HTMLified \*\*T<sub>E</sub>X\*\* logos?](#)
- [How can I get rid of those \*\*strange characters\*\* after cut and paste?](#)
- [How can I get rid of the \*\*varying appearance\*\* of the pages?](#)

## Structured Access by Programs

- [How can I get package data \*\*into a program\*\*?](#)
- [Is there a \*\*API to upload\*\* a package?](#)