The Debian TeX sub-policy

The Debian teTeX mailing List <debian-tetex-maint@lists.debian.org>

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Abstract

This document provides a set of rules for the packaging of applications, fonts and input files related to TeX within the Debian GNU/Linux distribution.

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About this document

This document provides a set of rules for the packaging of applications, fonts and input files related to TeX within the Debian GNU/Linux distribution. It is still a in a draft state – some things might not yet be fully implemented, and others are advisable, but not strictly necessary. If in doubt, please ask on debian-tetex-maint@lists.debian.org.

The latest copy of this document can be found in the Debian-TeX-policy files in the tex-common package.

Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used in this document:

- **TeX-related package** Any Debian package that uses or provides parts of the TeX infrastructure, i.e. the TeX or Metafont program or derivatives thereof, fonts or input files in a *TEXMF* tree, etc.
- **tex-common** This package provides basic infrastructure and some configuration files for all TeX-related packages, including the configuration update programs.
- **Basic TeX packages** A Basic TeX package is a Debian package that provides the basic infrastructure for TeX-related programs. It should provide sufficient functionality for type-setting most generated (La)TeX code, e.g. from docbook, debiandoc, or texinfo sources. Usually, the Basic TeX packages will be divided into an architecture-dependent and an architecture-independent package.
 - The arch-dependent package must provide at least one binary that is fully compatible with Donald E. Knuth's original TeX program, and it should provide the original TeX itself. The output formats <code>dvi</code>, PostScript and Adobe PDF must be available, either directly or by conversion of other output formats. The arch-independent package must provide at least the files necessary to create the formats for plain TeX and LaTeX and the input files required by the LaTeX distribution, as well as the Computer Modern fonts.
- **TDS** The TeX Directory Structure, which describes file placement for TeX input files. The latest version of the TDS is available at http://www.tug.org/twg/tds/.
- **TEXMF tree** One directory tree, arranged according to the TDS
- **TeX input file** A file that is meant to be used by a TeX-related program; technically any file that can be found by the /kpathsea/kpse library. This includes e.g. Type1 font files.
- **configuration update programs** The configuration information from files provided by different TeX-related packages must be merged and made available in appropriate form to the various programs. This is usually done by scripts that write files into the *TEXMFSYSVAR* tree.

Currently, the configuration update programs provided by tex-common are: update-texmf, update-fmtutil, update-language, update-updmap.

File Placement

This chapter describes the placement of TeX input files, so that they can be found by programs. Files that are not TeX input files must not be put in a TEXMF tree (put them into /usr/share /package instead). As an exception, documentation files in plain text may be used inside a TEXMF tree, e.g. to explain the purpose of an otherwise empty directory.

3.1 Path searching and libkpathsea / libkpse

The Basic TeX packages must provide a mechanism for searching through *TEXMF* trees that allows different files to be found depending on the invoking program and the specified file format. The only existing implementation is the <code>libkpathsea</code> library. Unfortunately, it was not originally designed for use as a dynamic shared library. A rewrite is under way to create a <code>libkpse</code> library with proper API specification and ABI compatibility. For the time being, the Basic TeX packages can provide a shared library, and program maintainers can decide to use it, or to link statically against their own copy of the code.

For use in scripts, the Basic TeX packages provide the utilities kpsewhich, kpsepath, kpsexpand, and kpsestat.

3.2 Directory trees

File locations must follow the TeX Directory Structure, TDS. It is a bug if a package only conforms to an outdated TDS version. It is a more severe bug, however, if it conforms to the current TDS version but does not make sure to depend on an appropriately recent version of the Basic TeX packages or tex-common (that support this TDS version).

The following *TEXMF* trees are defined, as outlined below:

- 1 /usr/share/texmf-tetex/, part of TEXMFDIST
- 2 /usr/share/texmf-texlive/, part of TEXMFDIST

- 3 /usr/share/texmf/, referenced as TEXMFMAIN
- 4 /var/lib/texmf/, referenced as TEXMFSYSVAR
- 5 /etc/texmf/, referenced as TEXMFSYSCONFIG
- 6 /usr/share/texmf-site/, referenced as TEXMFSITE
- 7 /usr/local/share/texmf/, referenced as TEXMFLOCAL
- 8 Any directories listed in the *TEXMFHOME* configuration variable in texmf.cnf or as an environment variable,
- 9 optionally user-specific directories for configuration files (*TEXMFCONFIG*) and generated files (*TEXMFVAR*)

The search order is from bottom up (files in *TEXMFHOME* taking precedence over files in *TEXMFMAIN*) etc.

The role of the trees *TEXMFMAIN* and *TEXMFDIST* in Debian differ from upstream's original usage. Upstream uses *TEXMFMAIN* for the files that have to match the binary executables and *TEXMFDIST* for other TeX input files that are replaced when a new texmf tarball appears; this distinction is not necessary on a system with a decent package managment system. Instead, the basic TeX packages install their files into their *TEXMFDIST* directories ¹, while *TEXMFMAIN* is used by TeX add-on packages for their files and allows them to shadow older versions provided by the basic TeX packages. A couple of files from the basic TeX packages still need to be placed in *TEXMFMAIN* ².

The order of basic TeX packages in *TEXMFDIST* may be changed by the user or by the basic TeX packages, and no implementation may rely on a particular order. This implies that for a package that needs a version of a particular file newer than provided by one of the basic TeX packages, it is not sufficient to declare a dependency on the other basic TeX package(s)³.

Debian packages generally install files in *TEXMFMAIN* exclusively, and may ship or create empty directories in the other trees, in accordance with Debian Policy. Configuration file handling is described below in 'Configuration files' on page 9. Packages should take care to ignore *TEXMFHOME* in their maintainer scripts.

3.3 Generated files

Generated font files must be put in subdirectories of /var/cache/fonts, all other generated files should be below /var/lib/texmf (or the user-specific variable directories), with the subdirectory structure conforming to the TDS.

¹This is new, and the basic TeX packages currently transition their files to the new place.

²Reasons include hardcoded paths in executables as well as the need for e.g. pool files to exactly match the binaries' version, so that shadowing must be prevented.

³Of course this is only a problem if the file is needed in the configure phase. If it is needed only at runtime, a README file to instruct the local admin should be sufficient.

An exception is the generated file /etc/texmf/texmf.cnf. It is not intended that local administrators edit that file, but if they do, the configuration update programs must respect these changes. Debian packages must not alter that file.

3.4 Filenames and installation of alternative files

Packages may not install files with the same name as a file already installed in a *TEXMF* tree, unless both files are in subdirectories where they will only be found by different applications, as determined by the <code>--progname</code> or <code>--format</code> switches to kpsewhich.

There are two exception to this rule:

- 1 Basic TeX packages install their files into their *TEXMFDIST* directory and will usually contain files that are also in other basic TeX packages.
- 2 Packages that need newer versions of a file than already supplied by a basic TeX package and installed in *TEXMFDIST* can place them into *TEXMFMAIN*. Thus, the outdated file will be shadowed, and the new one is in effect.

The maintainer of the basic TeX package should be made aware of the problem ⁴ The package maintainer must make sure to follow new releases of the basic TeX packages and not continue shadowing a file that is newer than the version provided by the shadowing package.

The package must make sure that the newer version is backward-compatible, meaning it must not break compilation of any TeX document, and it should not change the output file. A change of the output file may be acceptable if an obviously buggy behavior is corrected, **and** if it had previously not been possible to easily fix this behavior in user's documents (or if the updated package and a possible fix in the document combined lead to a correct document).

Installing more than two versions of a file will most likely lead to confusion. Therefore, the possibility to shadow a file once should be enough, and the usage of dpkg-divert is discouraged.

It is also discouraged to use a file other than from the canonical source for that file, usually the CTAN network.

3.5 Documentation

Packages should make documentation available to texdoc. This can be done be either installing the files below /usr/share/doc/texmf, or by providing symlinks from subdirectories of that location to the actual documentation files.

⁴A wishlist bug on the shadowing package, blocked by an other wishlist bug on the basic TeX package, can help tracking these issues.

A package must not install files into (subdirectories of) / usr/share/texmf/doc, which is a symbolic link to / usr/share/doc/texmf.

The entry points for documentation should have names that indicate what they document. Names like manual.pdf or index.html should be avoided, even if the directory name is unmistakable ⁵.

⁵This allows users to say texdoc packagename directly. Otherwise they will first have to find the right command line (e.g. texdoc packagename/user.dvi) using texdoc -s keyword

Configuration

4.1 Configuration files

In a TeX system, in principle every TeX input file can be changed to change the behavior of the system, and thus be regarded as a configuration file. To prevent inflation of configuration files, packages should not install any TeX input files as conffiles or configuration files. Instead, they should create an empty directory below /etc/texmf/tex and advice users which files are likely places for configuration. It is up to the local admin or individual user to place changed copies in TEXMFSYSCONFIG or TEXMFCONFIG, respectively.

Note that /etc/texmf/ is a usual TDS tree. Files can be put into appropriate TDS-conforming subdirectories (e.g. /etc/texmf/fonts/map/), but directories not specified in TDS (or added Debian-specifically in tex-common's files in /etc/texmf/texmf.d/) are generally not searched for TeX input files and can be used by packages for configuration files that are not TeX input files (e.g. the files in subdirectories fmt.d or updmap.d).

4.2 Configuration update programs

The central configuration file for TeX applications is /etc/texmf/texmf.cnf, the central font configuration file is /var/lib/texmf/web2c/updmap.cfg, the central language/hyphenation configuration /var/lib/texmf/tex/generic/config/language.dat, and format generation is determined by /var/lib/texmf/web2c/fmtutil.cnf. All four files are generated by configuration update programs from configuration files in subdirectories of /etc/texmf. For updmap.cfg, language.dat and fmtutil.cnf, this is the only method of configuration. texmf.cnf can be edited manually by local system administrators, and changes will be handled by ucf. Package installation scripts, however, must not change this file, but use the update-texmf mechanism. Local administrators are encouraged to use the update-texmf mechanism, too.

Packages are free to add configuration items to the common configuration files, but they should not try to override configuration items that are supplied by other packages. Rather, shared

configuration items should be supplied by the Basic TeX packages or any other package on which all involved packages depend, with a setting appropriate for all. If this is impractical, the involved packages must at least agree on the way different packages override other's settings¹.

Maintainer scripts should call update-updmap with the option --quiet. Besides that, the configuration update programs should be called without any options to allow for internal changes, e.g. of the directories where the generated files are placed.

Packages that changed updmap.cfg must call updmap-sys as detailed in 'Font configuration' on the current page. Packages that changed language.dat or fmtutil.cnf must call fmtutil-sys (see below). They must make sure to issue the mktexlsr command before this.

4.2.1 Font configuration

A package that provides PostScript Type 1 fonts for TeX should be usable with any Basic TeX Package. The recommended way to implement the configuration scheme described below is to use the debhelper program dh_installtex provided by tex-common. See dh_installtex(1) for usage details.

For the rest of this section, we'll assume we are dealing with a package named *package* that installs PostScript Type 1 fonts for TeX. *package* should fulfill the following requirements:

- 1 It should depend on tex-common but not on any Basic TeX Package, unless needed for another task than simply installing the fonts for TeX.
- 2 It should install the necessary map files (.map extension) below TEXMFMAIN/fonts /map. The precise location must conform to TDS version 1.1.
- 3 It should also obviously install other needed or useful files provided by upstream to use the fonts with TeX-related programs (.pfb, .tfm, .enc, .fd, .sty, documentation, etc.).
- 4 It should install one or more configuration files with names following the pattern 10 name.cfg into /etc/texmf/updmap.d/. Such files will be later merged by update-updmap to form /var/lib/texmf/web2c/updmap.cfg, the effective configuration file for updmap-sys.

Exactly what to put in these files is documented in update-updmap(1). Basically, they should contain the pseudo-comment:

```
# -_- DebPkgProvidedMaps -_-
```

as well as the usual Map and/or MixedMap lines that package needs to add to /var/lib/texmf/web2c/updmap.cfg.

 $^{^{1}}$ Note that in texmf.cnf, as well as in the sequence of multiple texmf.cnf files that are read, earlier entries override later ones.

5 It should install a file named /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/package.list that contains a reference to every .cfg file from the previous step, one per line. For instance, if package installs 10foo.cfg and 10bar.cfg into /etc/texmf/updmap.d /, the contents of /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/package.list should be:

```
10foo
10bar
```

This package.list file must be shipped in the .deb, so that when package is removed (not necessarily purged), package.list disappears from /var/lib/tex-common /fontmap-cfg/.

6 It should run:

- in package.postinst;
- when package.postrm is called with remove or disappear as its first argument the following commands in this order: update-updmap --quiet, mktexlsr and updmap-sys.

Since mktexlsr and updmap-sys are provided by the Basic TeX Packages, package.postinst has to ensure that they are only called when found in \$PATH (unless package depends on the Basic TeX Packages for some reason). In package.postrm, the same considerations must be taken into account, with the addition that tex-common (that provides update-updmap) can be unconfigured or even uninstalled.

Note that even when tex-common is configured, it cannot be assumed that update-updmap, mktexlsr and updmap-sys can be safely run whenever available, because they internally use kpsewhich which only works after the libkpathsea library in a separate package has been configured properly.² The following check can be used to determine whether libkpathsea is configured:

```
if kpsewhich --version >/dev/null 2>&1; then
    echo "kpsewhich is installed and libkpathsea is configured."
else
    echo "Either kpsewhich is not installed, or libkpathsea is not conf
fi
```

A sample implementation of this scheme can be found in 'Sample code for font packages' on page 17, but don't forget that dh_installtex can do the work for you.

The rest of this section explains the rationale behind the previous recommendations.

• The dependency on tex-common ensures that in *package*.postinst, update-updmap can be run and texmf.cnf is in a sane state, so that mktexlsr and updmap-sys can be run safely (if present and if libkpathsea is configured).

²However, update-updmap uses libkpathsea only in user-specific-mode. In system-wide mode, it doesn't matter whether libkpathsea is configured or not.

- The recommended order for running the programs update-updmap, mktexlsr and updmap-sys ensures that updmap-sys can locate the newly-installed files (in particular, the map files shipped by package), since mktexlsr is run before updmap-sys. It is also run after update-updmap, because /var/lib/texmf/web2c/updmap.cfg might have been created by update-updmap, although it more probably already existed. And since it would be of no use to call mktexlsr before update-updmap, we recommend to run it after, just in case.
- Now, about the "magic comments" in /etc/texmf/updmap.d/*.cfg and the package.list file in /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/. When that package is removed, but not purged, it has to make sure that its update-updmap configuration files in /etc/texmf/updmap.d/ are ignored. Otherwise, any call to updmap-sys by an other package or the local admin would fail because it cannot find package's map files. Besides, we want the /etc/texmf/updmap.d/*.cfg files to be conffiles (unless we really have no other choice), because then dpkg automatically handles upgrades while preserving user modifications for them. As a consequence, moving the .cfg files from package out of the way when it is removed is not an option. Moreover, the user would wonder where his configuration files have gone in such a case.

The solution we chose was to add a little bit of logic into update-updmap, so that whenever it sees a .cfg file (let's call it 10foo.cfg) that has the "magic comment", it actually includes its contents into updmap.cfg if, and only if 10foo appears on a line by itself in one of the .list files in /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/. Additionally, that .list file should be named package.list if 10foo.cfg comes from package, for simple reasons of tidiness.

With this little mechanism in place, all the rest follows as expected:

- When package is removed, but not purged, package.list is first removed by dpkg from /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/, thus disabling the the .cfg files shipped by package as far as update-updmap is concerned. Then, package.postrm calls update-updmap, mktexlsr and updmap-sys, with the result that package's map files aren't listed anymore in the final map files (psfonts.map, pdftex.map...) generated by updmap-sys.
- If package is reinstalled later, package.list first reappears in /var /lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/. Then, package.postinst runs update-updmap, mktexlsr and updmap-sys, and the .cfg files shipped by package aren't ignored by update-updmap this time, since they are referenced in /var/lib/tex-common/fontmap-cfg/package.list. Thus, the map files shipped by package do end up in the final map files generated by updmap-sys.

4.2.2 Language/Hyphenation configuration

A package that provides additional hyphenation patterns for TeX should be usable with any Basic TeX Package. The recommended way to implement the configuration scheme described below is to use the debhelper program dh_installtex provided by tex-common. See dh_installtex(1) for usage details.

These packages should put the actual hyphenation file into the respective places in *TEXMF-MAIN*, and have them registered by putting a configuration file with extension .cnf into /etc/texmf/language.d and calling update-language. The file contents will then be incorporated into /var/lib/texmf/tex/generic/config/language.dat, the effective configuration file for TeX and friends' hyphenations.

Hyphenation patterns present the same problem as described in the previous section for font configuration files: If the package is removed, but not purged, the patterns are deleted, but the configuration information is still in /etc/texmf/language.d/, and the format generation would fail if they would be included in language.dat. Therefore, an analogous mechanism has been implemented as described for update-updmap: If a file in /etc/texmf/language.d/ contains the "magic comment"

```
# -_- DebPkgProvidedMaps -_-
```

it will only be used as long it is listed in a file in /var/lib/tex-common/language-cnf/which should have the name package.list.

Calling update-language is *not* sufficient to be able to use the new hyphenation patterns; instead the formats that use it need to be regenerated. This can be done by running fmtutil-sys --byhyphen 'kpsewhich --progname=latex language.dat'.

If a package that provides additional hyphenation patterns is removed, it must make sure the formats are properly recreated without it. With the "magic comment" mechanism, this means to run update-language and fmtutil-sys --byhyphen 'kpsewhich --progname=latex language.dat' in postrm

There is currently no mechanism (i.e., no update-language) for automatic addition of hyphenation patterns to formats that do not use the same hyphenation configuration file as La-TeX.

Don't forget that dh_installtex can do the work for you.

4.2.3 Format configuration

As with font map configuration and language hyphenation patterns configuration, packages that provide additional formats should be usable with any Basic TeX Package. The recommended way to implement the configuration scheme described below is to use the debhelper program dh_installtex provided by tex-common. See dh_installtex(1) for usage details.

These packages should put a configuration file according to fmtutil.cnf(5) into /etc/texmf/fmt.d/, run update-fmtutil and subsequently create the format with fmtutil-sys --byfmt format. fmtutil-sys will only try to create the format if it can find the corresponding format.ini file (the last argument in an fmtutil.cnf line). Therefore the format.ini file should not be a conffile.

If a package needs to create formats at runtime, it should use a local fmtutil.cnf with the appropriate entries and specifiy its location to fmtutil on the command line, using the --cnffile switch.

Upon package removal, update-fmtutil must be called in postrm, and the created formats and log files should be removed from the directory specified by 'kpsewhich -var-value=TEXMFSYSVAR'/web2c.

Don't forget that dh_installtex can do the work for you.

4.3 Best practices for packages that build-depend on the TeX system:

If packages that build-depend on the TeX system need a changed configuration, they should not try to provide it statically. If settings in any other configuration file are inappropriate for a package to build, this is (usually) a bug in the package that provides the file. It should be fixed in this package, not circumvented by a workaround in the build process. Such workarounds have proven to be problematic, because they might stop working after changes in the depended-on package, and such failure cannot be foreseen by its maintainers. If a change is still necessary, the package should use the configuration update programs with the <code>--outputdir and --add-file options</code>.

4.4 Command execution and format files

If TeX formats need to be generated before execution, this should be done in the post-installation script. Packages that depend on an executable can thus simply declare Depends: on the package providing the executable, and *only* do that. Any additional checks, e.g. for the existence of format files, is unnecessary and harmful, causing internal changes (e.g. of format file extensions) to break the depending package that does this check. Maintainer scripts or programs in Debian packages should always use fmtutil or fmtutil-sys for format generation, and either add a fmtutil.cnf snippet in /etc/texmf/fmt.d/ (with fmtutil-sys, for site-wide formats), or use fmtutil with the --cnffile option and an appropriate local fmtutil.cnf (for runtime programs)

Local administrators can override settings from texmf.cnf with environment variables; this has sometimes lead to errors in postinst scripts. It is recommended that postinst scripts unset relevant variables before format creation or other problematic tasks.

4.5 The Dpkg Post-Invoke Mechanism

This section was intended to deal with a once-planned mechanism that would allow to delay running of mktexlsr, updmap and perhaps even "fmtutil –all" until all TeX-related packages

that want to do this are configured. Thus, it would be unnecessary to call the programs multiple times. Coding this is not hard, however it is unclear how it could be made sure that failures get attributed to the correct package. Therefore this plan has been dropped.

Appendix A

Sample code

This section contains sample code that implements the recommodations of this document.

A.1 Sample code for font packages

Sample postinst script:

```
# postinst-texfonts
# postinst snippet for installing Type 1 fonts for TeX
# Author: Florent Rougon <f.rougon@free.fr>
update_fontmaps()
   update-updmap --quiet
    # All of the following needs an installed and configured
   # basic TeX system, so check this.
   if kpsewhich --version >/dev/null 2>&1; then
        # mktexlsr is recommended now because updmap-sys relies
        # heavily on Kpathsea to locate updmap.cfg and the map files.
        # Also, it is slightly better not to specify a particular
        # directory to refresh because updmap.cfg is typically found
        # in TEXMFSYSVAR while the map files are in TEXMFMAIN or
        # TEXMFDIST.
        if which mktexlsr >/dev/null; then mktexlsr; fi
        if which updmap-sys >/dev/null; then
            printf "Running updmap-sys... "
            updmap-sys --quiet
```

```
echo "done."
fi
fi
fi
return 0
}

case "$1" in
    configure|abort-upgrade|abort-remove|abort-deconfigure)
        update_fontmaps
;;

*)
    echo "postinst called with unknown argument '$1'" >&2
    exit 1
;;
esac
```

Sample postrm script:

```
# postrm-texfonts
# postrm snippet for installing Type 1 fonts for TeX
# Author: Florent Rougon <f.rougon@free.fr>
tell_that_errors_are_ok()
    # Cheap option handling...
    if [ "$1" = -n ]; then
        prog="$2"
        endwith=' '
    else
        prog="$1"
        endwith='\n'
    fi
    printf "\
Trying to run '$prog' (error messages can be ignored if tex-common
is not configured)...$endwith"
    return 0
}
```

```
# The function name is *try_to*_update_fontmaps because the following
# scenario might happen:
     1. this package is deconfigured
     2. tex-common and tetex-bin are removed
     3. this package is removed or purged
# (cf. Policy § 6.5, step 2, about a conflicting package being removed due
# to the installation of the package being discussed).
# In this case, update-updmap, mktexlsr and updmap-sys would all be gone once
# tex-common and tetex-bin are removed, so we must append "|| true" to their
# calls.
try_to_update_fontmaps()
    # Don't print alarming error messages if the programs aren't even
    # available.
    if which update-updmap >/dev/null; then
        tell_that_errors_are_ok -n update-updmap
        update-updmap --quiet || true
        echo "done."
   fi
    # All of the following needs an installed and configured basic TeX system
    # If there is one, register the fonts. Otherwise, that will be done later
    # when the basic TeX system is configured, so we can exit without
    # worrying.
   kpsewhich --version >/dev/null 2>&1 || return 0
    # mktexlsr is recommended now because updmap-sys relies heavily on
    # Kpathsea to locate updmap.cfg and the map files. Also, it is slightly
    # better not to specify a particular directory to refresh because
    # updmap.cfg is typically found in TEXMFSYSVAR while the map files are in
    # TEXMFMAIN.
    if which mktexlsr >/dev/null; then
        tell_that_errors_are_ok mktexlsr
        mktexlsr || true
        echo "done."
   fi
   if which updmap-sys >/dev/null; then
        tell_that_errors_are_ok -n updmap-sys
        updmap-sys --quiet || true
        echo "done."
    fi
   return 0
```

```
}
case "$1" in
   remove|disappear)
       try_to_update_fontmaps
    ;;
    purge)
        # Supposing updmap.cfg & Co are clean (which I think is a reasonable
        # assumption), we don't need to call try_to_update_fontmaps().
        # Calling it on remove _and_ on purge just for hypothetical users
        # who would break their config before purging this package seems to
        \# be more annoying than useful (it takes a lot of time).
    ;;
    upgrade|failed-upgrade|abort-upgrade|abort-install)
    ;;
    *)
        echo "postrm called with unknown argument '$1'" >&2
        exit 1
    ;;
esac
```