

Dist::Zilla

A very brief introduction

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Or

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love CPAN Authoring

Whats coming up...

- (High level stuff only)
- What Dist::Zilla is
- What Dist::Zilla does
- Some links
- Play about on the CLI
- Questions I probably won't be able to answer
- End

So what is it?

"Dist::Zilla is a tool for packaging code to release to the CPAN.

The central notion of Dzil is that no programmer should ever have to waste his or her precious time on boring things like README files, prerequisite accounting, duplicated license statements, or anything else other than solving real problems."

-Ricardo Signes aka rjbs

It's a framework for releasing perl code.

Because functionality is via plugins - people can easily add new features,
making it more increasingly useful.

We know that it scratched an itch well,
because numerous clones have appeared taking
different approaches.

YMMV, but authoring is fun again!

For users of your Perl modules, nothing changes.

They still use Build.PL or Makefile.PL etc.

Dist::Zilla generates all these bits and pieces,
but isn't actually used at the consumer end.

It does stuff like...

- Generates Makefile.PL and/or Build.PL
- Generates all manner of boring meta files
- Generates all sorts of boring test suites
- Inserts version numbers and contact details
- Prunes away cruft
- Runs the aforementioned tests
- Tar's things up
- Uploads to PAUSE
- Plays around with git
- Can even Tweet out the release
- Whatever options you select

PAUSE is sufficiently annoying to justify
a tool that hide's it.

So is keeping up with all the meta files
(META.{yml,json}, cpanfile etc).

Now I barely notice. Thanks rjbs!

Used with git (Github in particular) its very quick to include then publish contributions that kind people might send you.

Tying in perltidy and perlcritic makes it easier still.

Contributors feel welcome and get a sense of satisfaction when a new release includes their work.

You get free bugfix's and features you never thought of!

Heres one I prepared earlier...

NetAddr::MAC on CPAN

```
# cat dist.ini
```

```
name = NetAddr-MAC
```

```
version = 0.84
```

```
author = Dean Hamstead <dean@bytefoundry.com.au>
```

```
license = Perl_5
```

```
copyright_holder = Dean Hamstad
```

```
copyright_year = 2013
```

```
[GatherDir]
```

```
[MetaYAML]
```

```
[MetaJSON]
```

```
[MetaTests]
```

```
[Manifest]
```

```
[ManifestSkip]
```

```
[PruneCruft]
```

```
[License]
```

```
[MakeMaker]
```

```
(cont...)
```

[ExtraTests]
[CPANFile]
[Test::Perl::Critic]
critic_config = t/.perlcriticrc
[Test::Kwalitee]
[Test::EOL]
[PodCoverageTests]
[PodSyntaxTests]
[TestRelease]
[ConfirmRelease]
[UploadToCPAN]
[ExecDir]

[Prereqs]
Carp = 0
List::Util = 0
strict = 0
warnings = 0
constant = 0
vars = 0
base = 0
Exporter = 0
perl = 5.004

[Prereqs / BuildRequires]
Test::Trap = 0

As promised, here are some links:

- <http://dzil.org/>
- Tutorial <http://dzil.org/tutorial/start.html>
- Fork it on GitHub <https://github.com/rjbs/Dist-Zilla>
- Step by Step conversion
<http://www.perl.com/pub/2010/03/more-code-less-cruft-managing-distrib>
- "Why I am using Dist::Zilla"
<http://www.dagolden.com/index.php/752/why-im-using-distzilla/>
- Fair and Balanced, "Why I Hate Dist::Zilla"
http://www.perlmonks.org/?node_id=903657

I'm sold!

How do install Dist::Zilla?

Debian and friends:

```
# apt-get install libdist-zilla-perl
```

(Debian is a little thin on plugins, use dh-make-perl to package more up)

Fedora, RedHat and CentOS:

```
# install debian
```

(Thats my little joke)

Using perlbrew:

```
# cpanm Dist::Zilla
```

dean@cliffjumper:~/git/github/NetAddr-MAC\$ dzil

Available commands:

commands: list the application's commands

help: display a command's help screen

add: add modules to an existing dist

authordeps: list your distribution's author dependencies

build: build your dist

clean: clean up after build, test, or install

install: install your dist

listdeps: print your distribution's prerequisites

new: mint a new dist

nop: do nothing: initialize dzil, then exit

release: release your dist

run: run stuff in a dir where your dist is built

setup: set up a basic global config file

smoke: smoke your dist

test: test your dist

Questions?

Ende