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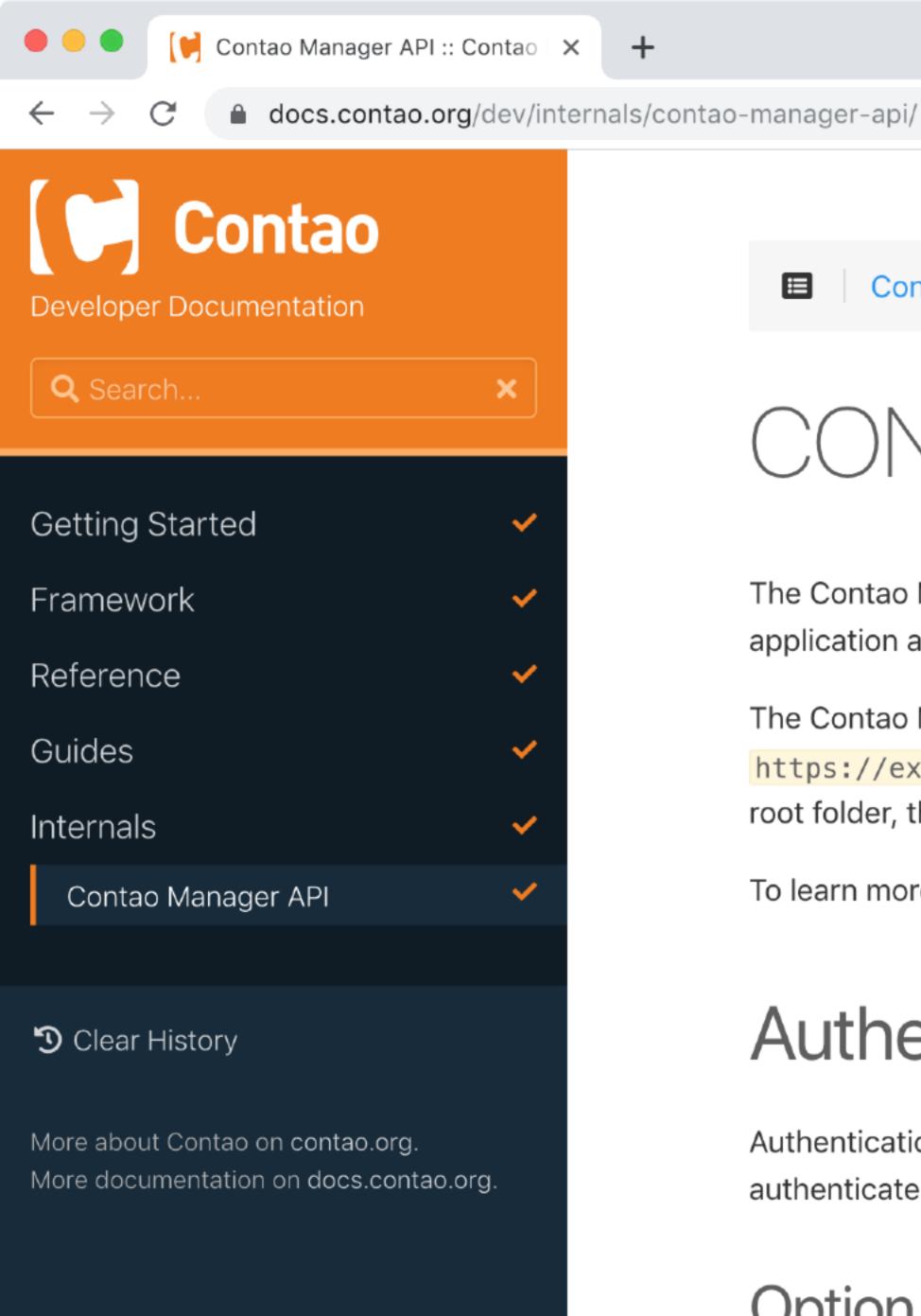
Private and commercial packages

If users need to pay for your package or you created it just for a single client, you might not want to publish it on [packagist.org](). There are still various ways to install it with Composer, for example by following what [Private Packagist]() has to offer. Unfortunately, bypassing [packagist.org]() means users will have to manually adjust their `composer.json` to add repositories and requirements, which is cumbersome and error-prone for non-developers.
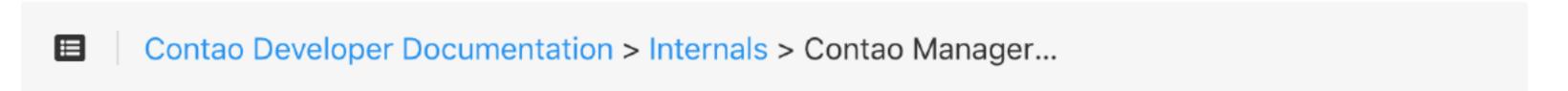
Composer has always allowed to install packages from ZIP archives, which are called *Artifacts*. Using this feature, the Contao Manager allows users to upload ZIP archives and install packages without a need to manually adjust the `composer.json`. We are distinguishing between two types of *artifacts* in the Contao Manager.

1. a *regular* artifact is any Composer package packed into a ZIP archive.
2. a `contao-provider` is a special type of artifact, which adds private repositories to require additional packages into a Contao installation.

Creating an Artifact Package

Creating an artifact package for the Contao Manager is no difference from a regular Composer artifact. Its a ZIP archive of all package files, including a `composer.json` in the root of the ZIP archive. There is one significant additional requirement: You **must** add a `version` property to your `composer.json`.

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More about Contao on contao.org.
More documentation on docs.contao.org.

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CONTAO MANAGER API

The Contao Manager is distributed as a Phar application. Appart from the graphical user interface, the application also provides a REST API to interact with the webserver and Contao application.

The Contao Manager API is available under `/api` wherever you installed the Phar. If your website runs on `https://example.com`, and the Contao Manager has been uploaded as `contao-manager.phar.php` to the root folder, the API will be available at `https://example.com/contao-manager.phar.php/api/`.

To learn more about the available REST features, please consult our OpenAPI documentation.

Authentication

Authentication is necessary to interact with any API endpoint of the Contao Manager. There are two ways to authenticate, depending on your use case.

Option 1: Temporary authentication using an HTTP-only