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Yak / Step By Step

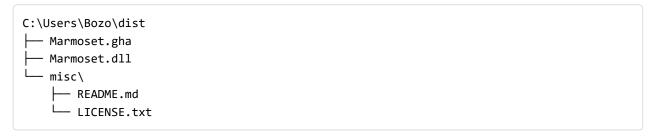
Creating a Grasshopper Plug-In Package

by Will Pearson (Last modified: 12 May 2020)

This is a step by step guide to creating a package for a Grasshopper plug-in.

Note: Yak is cross-platform. The examples below are for Windows. For Mac, replace the path to the Yak CLI tool with <code>/Applications/Rhinoceros.app/Contents/Resources/bin/yak</code>.

First, let's assume you have a folder on your computer which contains all the files that you would like to distribute in your package. Something like this...



We're going to use the Yak CLI tool to create the package, so open up a Command Prompt and navigate to the directory above.

```
> cd C:\Users\Bozo\dist
```

Now, we need a manifest.yml file! You can easily create your own by studying the Manifest Reference Guide. Alternatively, you can use the spec command to generate a skeleton file. We'll do the latter here.

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```
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Inspecting content: Plankton.gha

---
name: marmoset
version: 1.0.0
authors:
- <author>
description: <description>
url: <url>
secret:
id: c9beedb9-07ec-4974-a0a2-44670ddb17e4

Saved to C:\Users\Bozo\dist\manifest.yml
```

The spec command takes a look at the current directory and, if present, will glean useful information from the spha assembly and use it generate a manifest.yml with name, version, authors, etc. pre-populated. If you haven't added this information, then placeholders will be used.

Note: You might notice your plug-in's GUID lurking in the secret/id key. More information on how this is used can be found in the "Package Restore in Grasshopper" guide.

Open the manifest file with your favourite editor and fill in the gaps.

Afterwards, you should have something that looks a little like this...

```
name: marmoset
version: 1.0.0
authors:
- Will Pearson
description: >
   This plug-in does something. I'm not really sure exactly what it's supposed to
   do, but it does it better than any other plug-in.
url: example.com
secret:
   id: c9beedb9-07ec-4974-a0a2-44670ddb17e4
```

Now that we have a manifest file, we can build the package!

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```
> Welvernow to the Rhino 6 ressistent fithis energe duli booking for the newer Rhino 7 WIP version?
Building package from contents of C:\Users\Bozo\dist
Found manifest.yml for package: marmoset (1.0.0)
Inspecting content: Marmoset.gha
Creating marmoset-1.0.0.yak
name: marmoset
version: 1.0.0
authors:
- Will Pearson
description: >
  This plug-in does something. I'm not really sure exactly what it's supposed to
  do, but it does it better than any other plug-in.
url: example.com
secret:
  id: c9beedb9-07ec-4974-a0a2-44670ddb17e4
C:\Users\Bozo\dist\marmoset-1.0.0.yak
-- Marmoset.dll
 Marmoset.gha
├─ manifest.yml
  — misc\LICENSE.txt
└─ misc\README.md
```

Congratulations! 🙌 You've just created a Yak package for your Grasshopper plug-in.

Next Steps

Now that you've created a package, why not push it to the Yak server to make it available to everyone else!

Related Topics

- Yak Guides and Tutorials
- Creating a Rhino Plug-in Package
- Installing and Managing Packages
- Package Restore in Grasshopper

Author: Will Pearson

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♥ Contributions welcome

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