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Rhino Developer Docs

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 `/Applications/Rhinoceros.app/Contents/Resources/bin/yak`.

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...

```
C:\Users\Bozo\dist
├─ Marmoset.gha
├─ Marmoset.dll
├─ misc\
│   ├── README.md
│   └─ LICENSE.txt
```

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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```

```
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 `.gha` 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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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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