

Rev 0.5

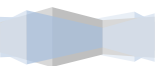
Extensions Meta-Data File Specification

phpBB 3.1.x

phpBB Extensions and Development Teams



phpBB



Preface

The Manifest for Extensions that is used to describe in detail the meta-data for extensions.

The manifest was not designed for easy human consumption but instead to be read for use to shown in the Customisations Database (Titania) and the extensions admin.

It was realised that some information other than the contribution clean name would need to be in the package to be viewed and make it more identifiable. Hence the reason the manifest was created.

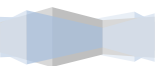
The file name should be contained within the extensions directory and be called `extension.json`

It is based on `composer.json` from composer, used to show meta-data about packages. You find appropriate links on the latter pages. This was done in order to allow easier integration and transition later on to using composer for packages including Extensions, Styles and Language Packages and to use an existing library rather than create our own from scratch.

In order to assist the extensions team and MOD authors two new tools were added. Before `extension.json` with MODX the MPV tool checked for any errors for example an incorrect phpBB Version. Now, a new `extension.json` validator has been built which will check for any errors with the formatting (based on JSON Lint), check against the schema for required data (using JSON Schema Validator) and a tool that checks the phpBB version is correct, all merged into one JSON Validator that will work alongside the MPV, not inside it.

The schema is a simplified version of the elements section of this specification and is written in JSON and can be used to validate it for required values and value types (e.g. string or int or URI etc.).

A `extension.json` creator was also made in order to create a nice UI for creating `extension.json` files and it includes a copy of the validator which will validate your `extension.json` after you have finished creating it.



Elements:

Opening { and Closing }

Syntax { and }

Occurs: 1

Children: All

Required: Yes

Content Type: object

These need to be included as the first and last character respectively in the whole meta-data file. All other elements will therefore be their children.

Name

Syntax: name

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

This is used to show the name of the extension in the form of vendor/cleanname.

Type

Syntax: type

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

For extensions this should always be phpbb3-extension. It should never be anything else.

Description

Syntax: description

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: No

Content Type: String

This should be a description of your extension that describes it in a sentence or two.



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Homepage

Syntax: homepage

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: No

Content Type: String

This should be a URI linking to a site of your choice whether it be the development topic, contribution details page, your website or a page about this Extension.

Version

Syntax: version

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

This simply details the extension version. It should consist of a major version number, a minor version number and a maintenance number. It should not have anything like RC or beta version numbers in it. 1.0.0 is allowed. 1.0.0.1 is not, 1.0.0 RC1 is not, 1.0.0-beta1 is not.

Time

Syntax: time

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: No

Content Type: String

It should be the release date of the current version. It should be in YYYY-MM-DD or YY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS format

Licence

Syntax: licence

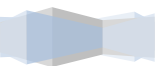
Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String/Array

Either a string as a licence name or an array of licence names.



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Authors

Syntax: authors

Occurs: 1

Children: name, email, homepage, type

Required: Yes

Content Type: Array

This holds the array of authors of the project. All present and previous authors should be listed. Only main maintainers should be listed, not all contributors.

(Author) Name

Syntax: name

Occurs: 1 per Author

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

This should be the real name of the author of the Extension.

(Author) Username

Syntax: username

Occurs: 1 per Author

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

This should be the username of the author of the Extension.

(Author) Email

Syntax: email

Occurs: 1 per Author

Children: 0

Required: No

Content Type: String

This should be the email for the Author.

(Author) Homepage

Syntax: homepage

Occurs: 1 per Author

Children: 0

Required: No

Content Type: String

This should be a homepage for the Author, whether it be a user profile link or a personal website. It should be a URI.



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(Author) Role

Syntax: role
Occurs: 1 per Author
Children: 0
Required: Yes
Content Type: String

This shows their position/role. If it is a previous role you may wish to prefix it with past or previous. This should generally only be core developers and not an exhaustive list of contributors.

Require

Syntax: require
Occurs: 1
Children: php, phpBB
Required: Yes
Content Type: object

This contains all the things required to run your extension, currently the only dependencies supported are a certain phpBB and a certain PHP version.

(Require) phpBB

Syntax: phpbb
Occurs: 1
Children: 0
Required: Yes
Content Type: String

It should detail which phpBB Version it requires. It should be a singular phpBB Version (3.0.10).

(Require) PHP

Syntax: php
Occurs: 1
Children: 0
Required: No
Content Type: N/A

This should be set as a version more than or equal too, not a set version. For example `>=5.4`

Extra

Syntax: extra
Occurs: 1
Children: 0
Required: Yes
Content Type: object

This is an object which contains all of the extra data that is used in extensions but not necessarily in all packages.



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(Extra) Display Name

Syntax: display-name

Occurs: 1

Children: 0

Required: Yes

Content Type: String

This is the human display name for your extension



References

- The Composer.json scheme
<https://github.com/composer/composer/blob/master/doc/composer-schema.json>
- A sample meta-data
<https://gist.github.com/1835060>
- Composer & Packagist
<http://packagist.org/>



Changelog

0.1 to 0.2

- Add author username and change name to be for real name.
- Changing file name from package.json to extension.json

0.2 to 0.3

- Add information about schema
- Update what is required and what is not
- Updated descriptions to be more similar to schema
- Corrected some spelling or grammar
- Allow author type to be free-form
- Remove (Extra) Author Notes

0.3 to 0.4

- Rename (author) type to (author) role.
- Update time description

0.4 to 0.5

- Remove MIT from licences in footer