The Puppet Forge - Community Modules:

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# Introduction

The [Puppet Forge](https://forge.puppet.com/) is a repository of modules for Puppet written by both Puppet and the Puppet community. These modules can help you extend Puppet across your infrastructure and help you get your work done faster. Modules are self-contained bundles of code and data with a specific directory structure. These reusable, shareable units of Puppet code are a basic building block for Puppet. Modules must have a [valid name](https://puppet.com/docs/puppet/5.5/modules_fundamentals.html#allowed-module-names) and be located in [modulepath](https://puppet.com/docs/puppet/5.5/dirs_modulepath.html). Puppet automatically loads all content from every module in the modulepath, making classes, defined types, and plug-ins (such as custom types or facts) available. To learn more about how to classes, defined types, and plug-ins, see the related topics.

You can download and install modules written by Puppet or the Puppet community from the Puppet Forge. You should also expect to write at least some of your own modules.

You will find three classes of modules on Puppet Forge:

* Puppet Approved modules
* Puppet Supported modules
* Puppet Enterprise modules

## Puppet Approved modules:

Puppet Approved modules are recommended by Puppet for use with [Puppet Enterprise](https://puppet.com/puppet/puppet-enterprise) and meet our expectations for quality and usability. Puppet Approved modules meet Puppet's standards for quality composition, reliable operation, and active development.

## Puppet Supported modules:

Puppet guarantees that each supported module

* Has been [tested](https://forge.puppet.com/supported#testing-section) with Puppet Enterprise
* Is subject to official Puppet [Puppet Enterprise support](http://puppet.com/services/customer-support)
* Will be maintained over the [lifecycle](http://puppet.com/misc/puppet-enterprise-lifecycle), with bug or security patches as necessary
* Is tested on and ensured compatible with [multiple platforms](https://forge.puppet.com/supported#compat-matrix)

## Puppet Enterprise modules:

Puppet Enterprise modules are modules built by Puppet specifically for use with Puppet Enterprise (PE). These modules were launched with PE 3.7, and quickly and give PE users expanded functionality.

# Find a Module on Puppet Forge:

To find a module on Puppet Forge, simply go to website: <https://forge.puppet.com/> and search for the functionality you need. Before selecting a module, make sure that it has been tested on the latest version of Puppet, has support and has a high rating. The ratings are 0 to 5 with 5 being a perfect score. You should look first for Supported or Approved,, then Supported and finally Any. Make sure to check the rating and comments before you decided to use a module.

The Forge houses thousands of modules, including Puppet **supported** or **approved** modules. Puppet [approved](https://forge.puppet.com/approved) modules pass our specific quality and usability requirements. These modules are recommended by Puppet, but are not supported as part of a Puppet Enterprise license agreement. Puppet [supported](https://forge.puppet.com/supported) modules have been tested with Puppet Enterprise and are fully supported by Puppet. If there are no supported or approved modules for what you want to do, evaluate available modules by [score](https://docs.puppet.com/forge/assessingmodulequality.html), compatibility, documentation, last release date, and number of downloads.

# Using a Puppet Forge Module:

There are two options for using Puppet Modules from Puppet Forge:

## Managing Modules with Puppetfile:

I have not done this. It requires configuring Code Manager or r10k to manage puppet module using a Puppetfile. Directions for getting started with Puppetfile Management can be found at:

<https://puppet.com/docs/pe/2017.3/code_management/puppetfile.html>

Once you have Puppetfile Management configured, the instructions associated with the module will be of the form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To use this module, add this declaration to your Puppetfile:   |  | | --- | | mod 'puppetlabs-stdlib', '4.25.1' | |

## Install the Module Source Code Locally:

This is my preferred choice. The instructions will be of the form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To manually install this module with puppet module tool:   |  | | --- | | puppet module install puppetlabs-stdlib --version 4.25.1 | |

Issuing the above command will install the module into your production area.

# Three Useful Community Puppet Modules:

There are two useful community Puppet modules that both provide useful functionality for your person modules as well are often needed by other community modules:

## concat

Standard library of resources for Puppet modules.   
<https://forge.puppet.com/puppetlabs/stdlib>

|  |
| --- |
| puppet module install puppetlabs-stdlib --version 4.25.1 |

## stdlib

Construct files from multiple fragments.   
<https://forge.puppet.com/puppetlabs/concat>

|  |
| --- |
| puppet module install puppetlabs-concat --version 4.2.1 |

## yum

YUM utilities   
In particular: Install or remove yum package groups   
This is very useful for doing the GUI installation  
[https://forge.puppet.com/puppetlabs/yum](https://forge.puppet.com/puppet/yum)

|  |
| --- |
| puppet module install puppet-yum --version 2.2.1 |