The convention for naming RPM packages is as follows:  
packagename-a.b.c-x.arch.rpm

Each of the filename components has a specific meaning:  
**Package Name** The first component (packagename) is the name of the package, such as  
samba or samba-server for the Samba file and print server. Note that the same program  
may be given different package names by different distribution maintainers.

**Version Number** The second component (a.b.c) is the package version number, such as  
3.6.5. The version number doesn’t have to be three numbers separated by periods, but  
that’s the most common form. The program author assigns the version number.

**Build Number** The number following the version number (x) is the *build number* (also  
known as the *release number*). This number represents minor changes made by the package  
maintainer, not by the program author. These changes may represent altered startup scripts  
or configuration files, changed file locations, added documentation, or patches appended to  
the original program to fix bugs or to make the program more compatible with the target  
Linux distribution. Many distribution maintainers add a letter code to the build number to  
distinguish their packages from those of others. Note that these numbers are *not* comparable across package maintainers—George’s build number 5 of a package is *not* necessarily  
an improvement on Susan’s build number 4 of the same package.

**Architecture** The final component preceding the .rpm extension (arch) is a code for the  
package’s architecture. The i386 architecture code is common; it represents a file compiled for any *x*86 CPU from the 80386 onward. Some packages include optimizations for  
Pentiums or newer (i586 or i686), and non-*x*86 binary packages use codes for their CPUs,  
such as ppc for PowerPC CPUs or x86\_64 for the *x*86-64 platform. Scripts, documentation,  
and other CPU-independent packages generally use the noarch architecture code. The main  
exception to this rule is source RPMs, which use the src architecture code.

As an example of RPM version numbering, the Fedora 20 distribution for *x*86-64 ships  
with a Samba package called samba-4.1.9-4.fc20.x86\_64.rpm, indicating that this is build  
4.fc20 of Samba 4.1.9, compiled with *x*86-64 optimizations. These naming conventions are  
just that, though—conventions. It’s possible to rename a package however you like, and it  
will still install and work. The information in the filename is retained within the package.  
This fact can be useful if you’re ever forced to transfer RPMs using a medium that doesn’t  
allow for long filenames.

In fact, early versions of SUSE eschewed long filenames, preferring  
short filenames such as samba.rpm.