

# RPM and Yum

## How to manage your packages without UPS

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## What is RPM?

What is a Package?  
Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?  
Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries  
Install  
Update  
Freshen  
Erasing  
Verfying  
Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?  
What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?  
How to update  
Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras  
Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What is RPM?

- ▶ RPM stands for The RPM Package Manager.
  - ▶ It used to stand for Red Hat Package Manager
- ▶ It is used to manage *packages*.
  - ▶ "Oh, I *see*."
  - ▶ ... no I don't...

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

## RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

## Updates

The "repos": repositories

## Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What is RPM?

- ▶ RPM stands for The RPM Package Manager.
  - ▶ It used to stand for Red Hat Package Manager
- ▶ It is used to manage *packages*.
  - ▶ "Oh, I see."
  - ▶ ... no I don't...

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

## RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

## Updates

The "repos": repositories

## Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What is RPM?

- ▶ RPM stands for The RPM Package Manager.
  - ▶ It used to stand for Red Hat Package Manager
- ▶ It is used to manage *packages*.
  - ▶ “Oh, I *see*.”
  - ▶ ... no I don't...

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

### RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

### Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

### Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What is RPM?

- ▶ RPM stands for The RPM Package Manager.
  - ▶ It used to stand for Red Hat Package Manager
- ▶ It is used to manage *packages*.
  - ▶ “Oh, I *see*.”
  - ▶ ... no I don't...

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

### RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What is RPM?

- ▶ RPM stands for The RPM Package Manager.
  - ▶ It used to stand for Red Hat Package Manager
- ▶ It is used to manage *packages*.
  - ▶ “Oh, I *see*.”
  - ▶ ... no I don't...

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

## RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

## Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

## Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

### What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

### What is RPM?

#### What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

### RPM Commands

#### RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

### Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

### Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document



# What is an RPM Package?

- ▶ It's a piece of software, all put in one RPM file
- ▶ For example, I am using the... let's see...  
\$ **rpm -q evince** ↵  
evince-0.5.1-3  
... software package to display these notes.
- ▶ The *name* of the package is `evince`.
- ▶ The *version* of the package is `0.5.1`
- ▶ The *release* is `3`.

What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The "repos": repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# An RPM Package usually contains files

- ▶ My `evince` package has files inside:

```
$ rpm -ql evince ↵  
/etc/gconf/schemas/evince-thumbnailer.schemas  
/etc/gconf/schemas/evince.schemas  
/usr/bin/evince  
  
...  
/usr/share/omf/evince/evince-sr.omf  
/usr/share/omf/evince/evince-uk.omf
```

What is RPM?

**What is a Package?**

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The "repos": repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

### What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

### RPM Commands

### RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

### Updates

The “repos”: repositories

### Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

- ▶ We could just have zip files, or tar balls, or something like that, with just the files inside?
- ▶ It could work.
- ▶ So why have RPM packages?

What is RPM?

What is a Package?

**Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?**

Advantages of RPM packages

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The "repos": repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

**Advantages of RPM packages**

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

**Advantages of RPM packages**

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Advantages of RPM packages

- ▶ You can install a new package easily with one operation
- ▶ You can uninstall a package just as easily
- ▶ the package can contain information about what else it needs to work properly
- ▶ RPM won't clobber configuration files, and does sensible things with them
- ▶ The RPM system includes a database with lots of information about how the files should be installed, their size, owner, type, . . .

[What is RPM?](#)

[What is a Package?](#)

[Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?](#)

[Advantages of RPM packages](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# RPM Commands

There are seven main RPM operations:

- ▶ For installing software packages:
  - ▶ *update, install, freshen*
- ▶ For making *queries*
- ▶ for *erasing* packages
- ▶ for *verifying* that a software package is correctly installed
- ▶ for *checking signatures* — verifying that an RPM package file is really from the people you trust, and not from Joe Trojan Cracker

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

### Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

### Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document



# Queries

- ▶ You saw above that I can list the files with  
`$ rpm -ql evince` ↩
- ▶ I can also see information about the package with  
`$ rpm -qi evince` ↩
- ▶ Try it now!

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

**Queries**

[Install](#)

[Update](#)

[Freshen](#)

[Erasing](#)

[Verifying](#)

[Checking Digital Signatures](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

**Install**

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

**Install**

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Install

- ▶ This will install a software package, regardless of whether there is a previous version installed
- ▶ This is always the right thing to do for kernels.

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

**Install**

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command

Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

**Update**

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

**Update**

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Update

- ▶ Install a package if it is not installed, or
- ▶ install a newer version if there is a newer version available...
- ▶ ... otherwise, do nothing.
- ▶ Let's use this command to install the wonderful Planet Penguin Racer game:
  - ▶ `$ cd ~/mnt ↵`
  - ▶ `$ ls -l ↵`
  - ▶ `$ sudo rpm -Uhv $(ls|grep -v kernel) ↵`

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

**Update**

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The "repos": repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

**Freshen**

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

**Freshen**

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Freshen

- ▶ Install a new version of a package only if an older one is already installed, otherwise do nothing.

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

**Freshen**

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

**Erasing**

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

**Erasing**

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document



# Erasing

- ▶ Remove a package:

```
$ sudo rpm -e ppracer ↵
```

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

**Erasing**

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command

Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

**Verifying**

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

**Verifying**

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Verifying

- ▶ Checking the files in a package all match the original data
- ▶ If it doesn't match, then flags show this:

<i>flag</i>	<i>what it means</i>
S	file <b>S</b> ize differs
M	<b>M</b> ode differs (includes permissions and file type)
5	MD <b>5</b> sum differs
D	<b>D</b> evice major/minor number mismatch
L	symbolic <b>L</b> ink points to wrong place
U	<b>U</b> ser ownership differs
G	<b>G</b> roup ownership differs
T	m <b>T</b> ime differs
C	selinux security <b>C</b> ontext differs

```
$ $ rpm -V setup ↵
S.5....T. c /etc/aliases
S.5....TC c /etc/bashrc
.....C c /etc/exports
S.5....T. c /etc/printcap
S.5....TC c /etc/profile
S.?....T. c /etc/securetty
```

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command

Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Checking Digital Signatures

- ▶ First, you need to *import* the public keys that are provided by Fedora:

```
$ sudo rpm --import  
/etc/pki/rpm-gpg/RPM-GPG-KEY* ↔
```

- ▶ \$ rpm -K *<package-file.rpm>* ↔

# RPM Command Examples

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command	effect
<code>rpm -qa   less</code>	list all installed software packages
<code>rpm -q httpd</code>	show the version of the <code>httpd</code> package, if it is installed
<code>rpm -qa   grep httpd</code>	show all installed packages that have <i>httpd</i> in their name
<code>rpm -ql httpd</code>	<i>list</i> all files in the <code>httpd</code> package
<code>rpm -qd httpd</code>	list all <b>d</b> ocumentation files in the <code>httpd</code> package
<code>rpm -qc httpd</code>	list all <b>c</b> onfiguration files in the <code>httpd</code> package
<code>rpm -qi httpd</code>	display <i>i</i> nformation about the package
<code>rpm -V httpd</code>	<b>v</b> erify that the <code>httpd</code> package is correctly installed
<code>rpm -qf /etc/passwd</code>	determine which package the <code>/etc/passwd</code> <b>f</b> ile belongs to

---

[What is RPM?](#)[RPM Commands](#)[RPM Command Examples](#)[A quick comparison with dpkg](#)[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)[Updates](#)[The "repos": repositories](#)[Some Things to Read](#)[License Of This Document](#)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

- What is a Package?
- Why should I have packages?
- Why not just zip files or something?
- Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

- Queries
- Install
- Update
- Freshen
- Erasing
- Verifying
- Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

A quick comparison with  
`dpkg`

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# A quick comparison with `dpkg`

command	effect
<code>dpkg -list   less</code>	list all installed software packages
<code>dpkg -l httpd</code>	show the version of the <code>httpd</code> package, if it is installed
<code>dpkg -list   grep httpd</code>	show all installed packages that have <code>httpd</code> in their name
<code>dpkg -getfiles httpd</code>	list all files in the <code>httpd</code> package
<code>dpkg -get-avail httpd</code>	display information about the package
<code>dpkg -S /etc/passwd</code>	determine which package the <code>/etc/passwd</code> file belongs to

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[A quick comparison with dpkg](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)



- ▶ Yum is a high level wrapper for RPM
- ▶ Uses the information in the RPM packages to figure out what things to install
- ▶ downloads the files you need, and installs them, lovingly taking care of which packages depend on what.

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Why not stick with RPM?](#)

[What's all this primitive text stuff?](#)

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Why not stick with RPM?

- ▶ RPM is good, but it's too low level to easily manage all the packages on the system
- ▶ Yum uses the information in the RPM database, and the RPM files themselves to make sure that each software package has everything it needs.

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# What's all this primitive text stuff?

- ▶ There are many GUI programs that use yum as their backend
- ▶ I have never used any of them, so your exercise is to Google for them!

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Why not stick with RPM?](#)

**[What's all this primitive text stuff?](#)**

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# Updates

- ▶ Software has bugs
- ▶ Fedora particularly has many new versions of software that are being made available, since it aims to provide the current version of most pieces of software.
- ▶ Fedora has more updates than any other stable distribution I know of.
- ▶ Only a few are for security reasons, most are for updates.

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

**Updates**

[Why update? Why not update?](#)

[How to update](#)

[Setting `http\_proxy`](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

**Why update? Why not update?**

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

**Why update? Why not update?**

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

[What is RPM?](#)[RPM Commands](#)[RPM Command Examples](#)[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)[Updates](#)[Why update? Why not update?](#)[How to update](#)[Setting `http\_proxy`](#)[The "repos": repositories](#)[Some Things to Read](#)[License Of This Document](#)

# Why update? Why not update?

## Why update?

- ▶ The easiest systems to crack have no updates.

## Why not update?

- ▶ Updating can break a working system
- ▶ But that doesn't stop me from keeping my systems updated!
- ▶ ... but not good if your business loses thousands of dollars per second of downtime.
  - ▶ In such cases, you have a test system where you test the updates first, check they don't stop your applications from working



# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

### How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

Why update? Why not update?

**How to update**

Setting `http_proxy`

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# How to update

## Do this once only:

- ▶ Ensure your own account is in the `sudoers` file
  - ▶ see the `sudo` handout
- ▶ set your `http_proxy` environment variable
  - ▶ See the next section: 39 on page 44

## Do this for each update:

- ▶ then do:  
`$ sudo yum -y update ↵`
- ▶ and watch it go.

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

**Setting** `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

**Setting** `http_proxy`

The “repos”: repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Setting `http_proxy`

If access to web servers on the Internet is blocked by a firewall, and a proxy server is required, such as here in the TAFE:

- ▶ You need to set the `http_proxy` environment variable.
- ▶ The proxy server here has the DNS name “gw”, and listens on port 5865 ...

- ▶ ... so set the `http_proxy` like this:

```
export http_proxy=http://gw:5865/
```

- ▶ The best thing to do is to edit your login script `~/.bash_profile` and add it at the end:  
`emacs ~/.bash_profile &`

- ▶ Then log out and log in...

- ▶ You should be able to see the value now:

```
$ echo $http_proxy ↵  
http://gw:5865/
```

# The “repos”: repositories

- ▶ In the `/etc/yum.repos.d` directory are some files that end with “.repo”
- ▶ You can change these, add other repos (such as dag, freshrpms, atrpms, livna)
- ▶ You can also change the `baseurl` to a local Australian mirror (see `http://fedora.redhat.com/Download/mirrors.html` for a list of Australian mirrors)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

**Adding extras**

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

**Adding extras**

Digital signatures

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Adding extras

- ▶ Well, the fedora extras repository is already enabled, so nothing to do here.

[What is RPM?](#)

[RPM Commands](#)

[RPM Command Examples](#)

[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)

[Updates](#)

[The "repos": repositories](#)

**Adding extras**

[Digital signatures](#)

[Some Things to Read](#)

[License Of This Document](#)

# Outline

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages?

Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verifying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document



[What is RPM?](#)[RPM Commands](#)[RPM Command Examples](#)[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)[Updates](#)[The "repos": repositories](#)[Adding extras](#)[Digital signatures](#)[Some Things to Read](#)[License Of This Content](#)

- ▶ If you add the `dag`, `freshrpms`, `atrpms` or `livna` repositories, you should import their public keys, and enable checking the GPG signatures of the packages.

- ▶ For example, here is my

```
/etc/yum.repos.d/dag.repo file: [dag]
name=Dag RPM Repository for Fedora Core
baseurl=http://apt.sw.be/fedora/$releasever/en/$basearch
enabled=1
gpgcheck=1
```

[What is RPM?](#)[RPM Commands](#)[RPM Command Examples](#)[Yum — Sounds delicious!](#)[Updates](#)[The "repos": repositories](#)[Some Things to Read](#)[License Of This Document](#)

# Resources



**Dr. Peter Salus.**

*The Daemon, the GNU & the Penguin.*

Groklaw 2006.

<http://www.groklaw.net/staticpages/index.php?page=20051013231901859>.



**Eric Foster-Johnson.**

*RPM Guide.*

<http://fedora.redhat.com/docs/drafts/rpm-guide-en/>



***The RPM Package Manager.***

<http://rpm.org/>



**Wikipedia entry.**

*Yellow dog Updater, Modified.*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow\\_dog\\_Updater,\\_Modified](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_dog_Updater,_Modified)

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

### What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document



# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command Examples

Yum — Sounds delicious!

Updates

The "repos": repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document



# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The "repos": repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The "repos":  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document



# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

What is RPM?

RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
repositories

Some Things to Read

License Of This  
Document

# Topics Covered

## What is RPM?

What is a Package?

Why should I have packages? Why not just zip files or something?

Advantages of RPM packages

## RPM Commands

Queries

Install

Update

Freshen

Erasing

Verfying

Checking Digital Signatures

## RPM Command Examples

A quick comparison with `dpkg`

## Yum — Sounds delicious!

Why not stick with RPM?

What's all this primitive text stuff?

## Updates

Why update? Why not update?

How to update

Setting `http_proxy`

## The “repos”: repositories

Adding extras

Digital signatures

## Some Things to Read

## License Of This Document

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RPM Commands

RPM Command  
Examples

Yum — Sounds  
delicious!

Updates

The “repos”:  
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Document

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Examples

Yum — Sounds  
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repositories

Some Things to Read

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