

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) ↵`

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

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 d ocumentation files in the <code>httpd</code> package
<code>rpm -qc httpd</code>	list all c 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>	v erify that the <code>httpd</code> package is correctly installed
<code>rpm -qf /etc/passwd</code>	determine which package the <code>/etc/passwd</code> f 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!

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](#)

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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

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

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