

Packaging Sentora Packages (.zpp files)

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What is special about a .zpp file and what is their purpose?

Well the main thing about a .zpp file is that it is what our module installer systems use in Sentora to automatically install a module either from a local source or downloaded and installed from an internet zppy repository via the internet.

Why use a custom file extension? – Why not just a .zip or .tar.gz?

Well for the main reason that it's not just an archive of data, the file contains a set structure and must meet certain conditions for the zppy client to install the module from the .zpp file.

How to package your module into a .zpp file

Quite simply, a .zpp file is just a standard ZIP file that follows a few simple rules that need to be met to ensure that the .zpp files can be extracted and installed automatically by the zppy client software, if they fail to meet the following requirements then the modules/packages will not automatically install correctly or even at all!

- The zip file **MUST** contain the root of the module directory (ie. When you open the zip file you can see the module.xml file without having to open another folder first!)
- The zip file name is what is used as the new folder name that is created and the contents of the module extracted to inside your panel/modules/ folder. – so for example is a zpp file was named 'faq_manager.zpp' the Zippy client would create the module folder, extract and install the module in /panel/modules/faq_manager/
- Any post install (install.run), upgrade (upgrade.run) or remove (remove.run) 'run' files (as documented in the Sentora Developers Guide) must be in the deploy/ folder if they are to work correctly. – These files are optional however and only really necessary where modules require more advanced installation steps (like copying data to a core folder or running a SQL script etc.)
- The module.xml file **MUST** be valid and ALL tags completed correctly! – This is also covered in the Module developers guide.
- **It is good practice to keep the package name (filename) lowercase and exchange white space characters with underscores '_'.**

So to create the actual .zpp file first 'zip' up your module's files and then from the command line run this simple command:--

```
mv my_package.zip my_package.zpp
```

The above command will now move the old file with the .zip extension and create the new file with the new extension (basically we are just renaming the file!). If you wanted to keep the original zip file and create a new file replace the 'mv' (move command) with 'cp' (copy command).

Now that your .zpp file is made this can now be used and should work great!

Want more information?

Well that is all you need to know and all you need to do to actually create the .zpp file (Sentora module package) however there is a ton of other information regarding module development and module package scripts etc. In the 'Sentora Module Developers Guide'.