

## NAME

dpkg-scanpackages - create Packages index files

## SYNOPSIS

**dpkg-scanpackages** [*option...*] *binary-dir* [*override-file* [*path-prefix*]] > *Packages*

## DESCRIPTION

**dpkg-scanpackages** sorts through a tree of Debian binary packages and creates a Packages file, used by [apt\(8\)](#), [dselect\(1\)](#), etc, to tell the user what packages are available for installation. These Packages files are the same as those found on Debian archive sites and CD-ROMs. You might use **dpkg-scanpackages** yourself if making a directory of local packages to install on a cluster of machines.

**Note:** If you want to access the generated Packages file with **apt** you will probably need to compress the file with [bzip2\(1\)](#) (generating a Packages.bz2 file) or [gzip\(1\)](#) (generating a Packages.gz file). apt ignores uncompressed Packages files except on local access (i.e. **file://** sources).

*binary-dir* is the name of the tree of the binary packages to process (for example, **contrib/binary-i386**). It is best to make this relative to the root of the Debian archive, because every Filename field in the new Packages file will start with this string.

*override-file* is the name of a file to read which contains information about how the package fits into the distribution (it can be a compressed file); see [deb-override\(5\)](#).

*path-prefix* is an optional string to be prepended to the Filename fields.

If more than one version of a package is found only the newest one is included in the output. If they have the same version and only differ in architecture only the first one found is used.

## OPTIONS

**-t, --type** *type*

Scan for *\*.type* packages, instead of \*.deb.

**-e, --extra-override** *file*

Scan *file* to find supplementary overrides (the file can be compressed). See [deb-extra-override\(5\)](#) for more information on its format.

**-a, --arch** *arch*

Use a pattern consisting of *\*\_all.deb* and *\*\_arch.deb* instead of scanning for all debs.

**-h, --hash** *hash-list*

Only generate file hashes for the comma-specified list specified. The default is to generate all currently supported hashes. Supported values: **md5**, **sha1**, **sha256**.

**-m, --multiversion**

Include all found packages in the output.

**-M, --medium** *id-string*

Add an X-Medium field containing the value *id-string*. This field is required if you want to generate **Packages.cd** files for use by the multacd access method of dselect.

**-?, --help**

Show the usage message and exit.

**--version**

Show the version and exit.

## DIAGNOSTICS

**dpkg-scanpackages** outputs the usual self-explanatory errors. It also warns about packages that are in the wrong subdirectory, are duplicated, have a Filename field in their control file, are missing from the override file, or have maintainer substitutions which do not take effect.

## SEE ALSO

[dpkg\(1\)](#), [dselect\(1\)](#), [deb-override\(5\)](#), [deb-extra-override\(5\)](#), [dpkg-scansources\(1\)](#).