Packages on Maemo/MeeGo

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University Cooperation in Telecommunications
Adrian Yanes

R&D -Tieto, Finland
adrian.yanes@tieto.com

"In the beginning there was the .tar.gz. Users had to compile each program that they wanted to use on their GNU/Linux systems. When Debian was created, it was deemed necessary that the system include a method of managing the packages installed on the machine. The name dpkg was given to this system. Thus the famous `package' first came into being on GNU/Linux, a while before Red Hat decided to create their own `rpm' system."[1]

[1]-APT HOWTO-http://www.debian.org/doc/manuals/apt-howto/ch1.en.html

Why the packages are important?

- If you are an user is the fastest way to install an application

- If you are a developer is the fastest way to distribute your application

Types of packages

-Source

-Binary

What should provides a binary package?

-Executable files

-Libraries

-Documentation

What should provides a source package?

-All the stuff necessary to reproduce the package(deb):

- · Original source code: .tar.gz
- · Control files: .dsc
- · Diff files: .diff
- · Source code ready to "package"

How are managed the packages?

Package manage systems:

    -dpkg (Debian/Ubuntu)
    -rpm   (RedHat/Fedora...)
    -a long etc...

How are distributed the packages?

·Remote repositories
·CD images
·Local files
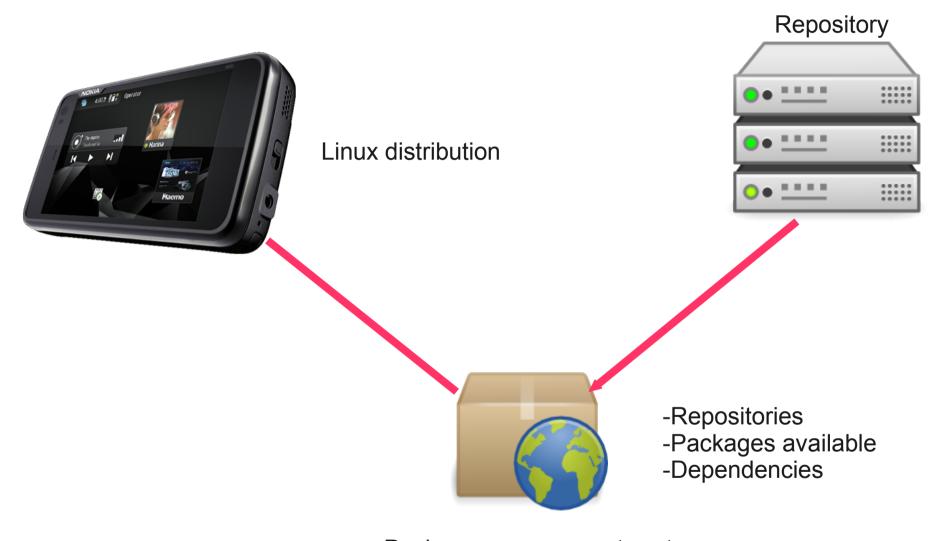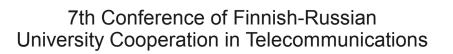
Packages on Maemo/MeeGo

Repository

Linux distribution

-Repositories
-Packages available
-Dependencies

Package management system

Packages
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Number of packages at Maemo Fremantle Repository

Repository Maemo fremantle extras:
  free: 525
  non-free: 0
Repository Maemo fremantle extras-testing:
  free: 1614
  non-free: 8
Repository Maemo fremantle extras-devel:
  free: 6545
  non-free: 46

·Based in Debian system: dpkg & APT
·Q&A by the community
·Developer==maintainer
·One of the strongest points

Developer side

-The packages are your friends

-A good developer should to know at least how to do a small package for his application.

-Create packages is easy and useful (believe me)

User side

-To know how works the packages save time

-As user you are the best beta tester, please report bugs!

-If you like one application and it is not packaged maybe you could do it.

Packages
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·Based in RedHat system: RPM
·Repositories: Community / Market(Ovi)
·Q&A different depending the type of app
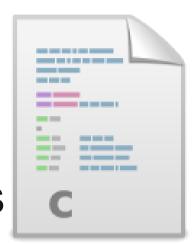·Developer + Testers + Maintainers + QA
·Commercial possibilities

Developer side

-Packages are still a friend of yours

-MeeGo will provide a good mechanisms to start deploying thinking in the packages. (MADDE)

-Commercial possibilities. (OVI Store)

User side

-More repositories: Community + Commercial

-Official support + Q&A in some apps.

-You can contribute (again) doing packages.

How I can create packages?
(maybe you were only waiting for this)

-Follow Debian Policy (it is the best reference)

-Adapt to Maemo: icons/paths/etc.

-Test

-Publish:
- Autobuilder
- dput
- SCP

-Promote
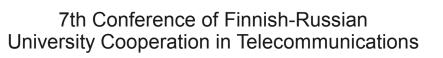
-Fedora/RedHat policy could be the reference

-Start practising with RPM..

-Try to package Qt Applications (some differences)

-Cross the fingers and hope that Debian packages would be "supported"

Thanks for your time.

Don't forget the packages!