

REXX Script Use Cases

mg Member version tracking

pkgupd Debian package archive refresher

mg – Why ?

- Testing means trail and error – every time a different version
- Manual backup of versions is an unrealistic Illusion
- But older versions can be really helpful - sometimes

mg – Usage

- Initial edit macro
- Enabled via `imacro mg` while editing any member
- Setting stays active for the whole PDS, because saved in ISPF profile
- Activation message “MG active” during start of every edit session
- Disabled via `imacro none`

mg – Version viewer

- Use the common `srchfor` command inside of the member list with parameter: `~@your_membername@`
- Alphabetical order of backup members (Z9*) correlates with chronological order
- Optional: Other members can be hidden by option

mg - Insight

- Redefines built-in commands `save` and `end` in order to make backups automatically
- Stores backup in members starting with Z9, following by a 6-digit descending counter
- Header line of every backup member contains member name and checksum (duplicate check)
- Housekeeping is still work in progress and not included

pkgupd – Why^I ?

The Debian Advanced Packaging Tool (**apt-get**) is great to maintain your system, but I dream of:

- One package archive for all maintained systems
- Offline available (USB hard disc/no network)
- Only but all *needed* packages no matter of type and architecture
- Refresh independent on the currently running Linux system

pkgupd – Why^{II} ? (security philosophy)

- Separate user data from Linux system
- Persistent system changes only via reboot from a new live system image possible
- Creation of live images only offline
- HD with images is usually always r/o, in particular when online (hardware forces a plug-off and plug-in to make the HD writeable and vis-a-vis)

pkgupd - Usage

- For the management of the installed packages use **apt-get** as usually (**update, upgrade, install**) but always with the option **--no-download** and with **/var/cache/apt/archives + /var/lib/apt/lists** linked to your USB-HD (r/o recommended !!!)
- To get updates to the underlying package archives use the script **pkgupd** at any online Linux system and refresh the **lists** and **archives** directories with the content of the created ***.tbz** archives

pkgupd - Insight

1. Download¹ up-to-date lists (= **apt-get update**)
2. Compare checksums of USB-HD archive with content of official repositories and create a download list of missing and needed packages, consider (maybe changed) package dependencies
3. Download¹ the packages
4. Save downloads for integration into USB-HD archive

¹ Regina-Rexx with rexxcURL extension used

Thank you.

- Comments ?
- Recommendations ?