
Parallels

Application Packaging Standard 1.1

What's New

Revision 1.0.01



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Contents

Introduction	4
New in Application Packaging Standard	5
Application Services.....	5
Application Presentation	5
Settings	6
Provisioning and Updating	6
Integration Aspects	7
New in APS Catalog.....	7

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This document outlines new features of Application Packaging Standard 1.1 (hereinafter APS). This release includes a number of new features and improvements that make APS be a more flexible solution to suit SaaS providers needs.

In This Chapter

New in Application Packaging Standard	5
New in APS Catalog.....	7

New in Application Packaging Standard

This section describes new features and major changes in Application Packaging Standard 1.1.

Application Services

New entity *service* is introduced. Services are an application functions or features that are delivered to end-user. Application may provide independent services as well as nested ones. The main advantage of this feature is possibility to package complex applications with hierarchic structure of services. For example, SugarCRM application that provides context for managing customers' information - the major application service. Within the frame of this service the application provides an ability to share amount of work between users. Parent-child relations are established between such services. In the given example, context is the parent service and user account is his child one. These relations define hierarchy of services and order of their provisioning. Child service may refer to requirements and settings of his parent one.

Declaring application services allows packager to specify the following information for each service individually:

- presentation information;
- info-links to external web resources;
- entry points;
- settings;
- requirements to be satisfied;
- end-user license agreement;
- provisioning and upgrade activities.

To improve services presentation in GUI one of predefined attributes (*classes*) can be specified for each service.

Application Presentation

The main feature here is extending of entry points format. Now it is possible to specify *autologin* information for each entry point that allows user to access different services without additional logging in. Path to entry point may be specified with URI templates. Also, one of predefined attributes (*classes*) can be specified for entry point to inform Controller about its designation.

New entities *vendor* and *packager* are introduced. These entities allow describing application vendor and packager in details, to provide more information on application origin to end-users.

Settings

Now settings are subdivided in to *global settings* that affect all application instances and *service settings*. Introducing service settings allows more sophisticated ways of application configuration:

- *Automatic values assignment* by means of specifying one of predefined attributes (*classes*) for each setting.
- *Setting visibility* by means of new settings types.
- *Tracking settings changes* that allows passing setting old value to configuration scripts.
- *vCard* compatible settings are used for user personal information.

Provisioning and Updating

The main feature in provisioning is that configuration scripts now can be used for enabling or disabling application services. Also, configuration scripts can be binary executables now.

Content delivery methods are introduced. These methods define way of delivering and processing application files before provisioning its instances. Different types of provisioning methods, *scripts*, *PVC Template* or *URL mapping*, can be specified for each application service. Application may also support different provisioning methods depending on set of requirements satisfied by Controller.

Rules of applying upgrades become more flexible and oriented. Now it is possible to specify application version an update is applicable to explicitly by means of XPath expression. Patches can be declared as *recommended* to indicate their necessity. Upgrades can be declared as optional to give end-user choice whether to apply update or not. Moreover an individual upgrade procedure can be declared for each application service.

Integration Aspects

APS uses hosting platform resources for applications provisioning. Rules of these resources usage are defined by aspects. New aspects are added to APS 1.1 Specification to extend number of qualified technologies and resources.

Now, an application may require:

- specific operating system and processor architecture
- hardware resources such as memory, disk space.
- existing mailbox to be associated with an application service provisioning.

Applications that require database may request specified database access rights.

New in APS Catalog

Now, APS Catalog allows viewing the list of applications regardless of APS format version. New additional URIs are offered to get lists of vendors and categories in XML format. Information from these lists can be used to form feed links that filter APS Catalog content.