

Guidelines for Packaging Oracle9i Application Server Portal Portlets for Distribution

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OVERVIEW

This document provides guidelines for partners to facilitate packaging their portlets for distribution. It should be used in conjunction with the *portlet_package_help_file_template.html* file.

The purpose of packaging the portlets is to ensure all the required portlet components are documented and grouped together in a manner that makes it easy for an Oracle9i Application Server Portal (Oracle9iAS Portal) administrator to download and install the partner portlets on the administrator's system.

Once the portlets have been packaged, an Oracle9iAS Portal administrator can download a portlet package and use the installation instructions to install the partner's provider, portlet code and required resources to enable the portlets within the administrator's environment.

A portlet package should include the following:

- All the necessary provider and portlet code
- All the image files that are used by the portlets
- All the supporting documents and files that are required to get the portlets running
- A portlet package help file, in HTML format (see "Creating Portlet Package Help File" below)

PACKAGING THE PROVIDER AND THE PORTLETS

The following steps should be followed in order to package the provider and the portlets:

1. Identify the type of provider.

There are two types of Oracle9iAS Portal providers – *Database Provider* and *Web Provider*. Database Providers and their associated portlets are developed using PL/SQL and so are deployed within the Oracle database. Web Providers and their associated portlets are normally written in Java (but may also be written in PL/SQL) and are normally deployed outside the Oracle database.

Determining which type of provider is used is important for determining which files need to be packaged. If a Database Provider is being used, the provider and all the portlet code must be packaged. If a Web Provider is being used, the provider and portlets are not normally distributed but are hosted by the partner. In this case, you need to supply instructions to the Oracle9iAS Portal administrator on how to register your provider and portlets. These instructions should include a reminder the administrator needs to enable proxy in the Provider Registration screen. Please consult the developers who created your provider and portlets for additional guidance.

2. Run each of the portlets and capture a screen shot of the running portlet. Each portlet should be captured individually and the resulting graphic image should be stored in GIF format.
3. Create a portlet package help file in HTML format. See the “Creating a Portlet Package Help File” for details.
4. Create a directory structure for the package and populate the structure as follows:

portlet package name

doc

code

resources

other

Where:

portlet package name – top level directory

doc – subdirectory containing the portlet package help file

code – subdirectory containing all the necessary provider and portlet code. This may be PL/SQL or Java code. Installation scripts should also be placed in this directory.

resources – subdirectory containing all the necessary resource files for the provider and portlets, including .jar files, images, sound files, etc.

other – subdirectory containing any other supporting files

5. Create a ZIP file of the entire directory structure and all files contained within the structure
6. Validate the ZIP file can be unzipped and the provider/portlets can be installed into a new environment

CREATING A PORTLET PACKAGE HELP FILE

Every portlet package must be accompanied by documentation that describes the different aspects of the provider and the portlets. This should include detailed installation instructions. Please use the *portlet_package_help_file_template.html* file to create this accompanying documentation. The sections in this template are:

- Introduction – a brief introduction to the provider and the associated portlets.
- Portlet Screen Shots – names and run-time images of all the portlets served by the provider.
- Summary – a table with the following entries:
 - Provider Type – Database Provider or Web Provider
 - Database Schema – name of database schema used, if any. Note this schema should NOT be any of the schemas created and used by the Oracle9iAS Portal product, such as *portal30*. If a schema is used, the installation script that installs the portlets should create it.
 - Provider Package Name – for Database Providers this is the name of the PL/SQL package containing the provider. For Web Providers this is the name of the provider, as defined in the provider repository.
 - Portlet Package Name – for Database Providers, this is the name of the PL/SQL package(s) containing the portlets. For Web Providers, this is the name of the portlets, as defined in the provider repository.
 - Packaged As – for Database Providers, this table entry specifies whether the provider and portlets are packaged as SQL scripts or PL/SQL wrappers. For Web Providers, this table entry specifies whether the provider and portlets are packaged as *jar* files or *class* files.
- Administrator Notes – instructions and notes for administering the provider and the portlets.
- User Notes – notes to help a portlet user understand the functionality of each portlet and any parameters that can be set within a portlet. Screen shots of what the user might see in *customize* or *edit defaults* modes can be very helpful to a user.
- Dependencies – a sub-table that lists all the dependencies for the provider and the portlets. This can include the names of PL/SQL packages, Java libraries (and their release levels), other operating system files and partner specific software required to operate the portlets.
- Portal Release Dependencies – release level of Oracle9iAS Portal and the Portal Development Kit (PDK) used to develop and test the provider and portlets.

- Installation and Configuration – detailed instructions to install and configure the provider and the portlets. This should include a list of all files included in the ZIP file, the step-by-step instructions to copy the files to the target system, install packages and configure any dependent systems required to make the portlets operational. Subsections to consider including are:
 - Changes required to *Jserv.properties* (Web Provider only)
 - Changes required to *zone.properties* (Web Provider only)
 - Files to be copied into the *htdocs* directory (Web Provider only)
 - Steps to create any required schemas and to run any required scripts (Database Provider only)
 - Steps to register the provider with Oracle9iAS Portal
- Troubleshooting – information to help an administrator troubleshoot common installation errors. A list of common mistakes with steps required to resolve those mistakes is very helpful.
- Contact Information – partner technical and sales contact information. Any licensing information for the provider, portlets or partner software required to operate the portlets should be included here.

FEEDBACK

If you have comments on this document or on the process described herein, please submit a posting to the Oracle Portal Development Kit (PDK) discussion forum on Oracle Technology Network (<http://otn.oracle.com>).



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