a gentle intro to functional package management

with GNU Guix

Package managers are really useful.

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But they can be so frustrating!

Version conflicts Old software Suspenseful upgrades The only way is forward **Changes affect all users** Trust?

No package management You are on your own.

External repos

EPEL, PPAs, AUR... more conflicts, more to trust

Application-specific packaging

gem, cabal, pip, cpan, npm: more packages, less management

Build your own system package

Relocatable rpm, deb, PKGBUILD, ...

Meta package managers

Generate system packages with e.g. fpm

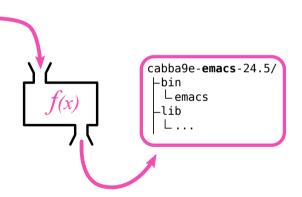
Giving up

Packaging is hard, let's take **snapshots**.

Functional packaging

headers sources • build tools libraries

...



Functional packaging

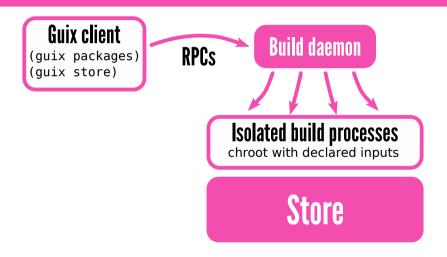
Same inputs? Same output!

Different inputs? Different outputs.

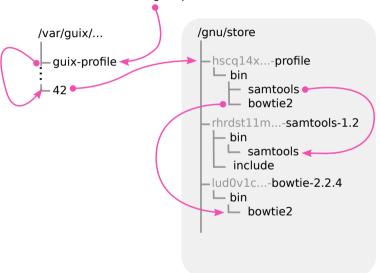
```
cabba9e-emacs-24.5/
-bin
_Lemacs
-lib
_L...
```

```
dedbeef-emacs-24.5/
-bin
_Lemacs
-lib
_L...
```

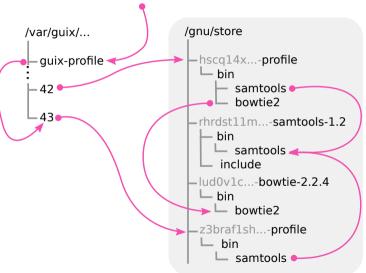
GNU Guix



/home/rekado/.guix-profile



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```
(define glpk
  (package
    name "glpk")
    version "4.57")
    source
     (origin
       (method url-fetch)
       (sha256 (base32 "0p17jj1ixd2..."))))
build-system gnu-build-system)
     inputs
     `(("qmp" ,gmp)))
    (arguments
      (#:configure-flags '("--with-gmp")))
     home-page "http://www.gnu.org/software/glpk/")
     synopsis "GNU Linear Programming Kit")
     description
     "GLPK is a C library for solving large-scale linear
programming (LP), mixed integer programming (MIP), and
other related problems ...")
    (license apl3+)))
```

Learn more!

#guix on irc.freenode.net http://gnu.org/s/guix

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