

# Packaging

## Overview

It is possible to install a component manually by copying the files using an SFTP client and modifying the database tables. It is more efficient to create a package file in the form of a [composer.json](#) document that will allow the Installer to do this for you. This package file resides in the top-level of your component's directory and contains a variety of information:

- basic descriptive details about your component (i.e. name), and optionally, a description, copyright and license information.
- the extension type (component, module, plugin, template)
- optionally, a destined install directory

## Structure

Packaging a component for distribution is relatively easy. The file and directory structure is exactly as it would be after installation. Here's what a typical package will look like:

```
/com_{componentname}
  {componentname}.xml
  composer.json
  /site
    {componentname}.php
    controller.php
  /views
    /{viewname}
      /tmpl
        default.php
  /models
    {modelname}.php
  /controllers
    {controllername}.php
/admin
  {componentname}.php
  controller.php
  /views
    /{viewname}
      /tmpl
        default.php
  /models
    {modelname}.php
  /controllers
```

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{controllername}.php