



# Documentation for the Umbraco Package: **Asset Compressor**

**Offroadcode Limited**

11 May 2012

**Offroadcode Limited**

Office 5 Dale Street Mills, Royd Street, Huddersfield, HD3 4QY, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1484 643078 W: <http://offroadcode.com> E: [hello@offroadcode.com](mailto:hello@offroadcode.com)

# Introduction

Offroadcode's latest package utilises the Yahoo YUI compression tools to compress your CSS and Javascript on the fly, caches it for performance and allows you to combine multiple files into one HTTP request along with other best practise goodies.

This package was mentioned in the UK Umbraco Festival talk if you've watched it, if not you can see it here <http://umbracoukfestival.co.uk/speakers/#pete-duncanson>

For some years we've been using a custom compressor which under the hood uses the super mature, tested and actively developed Yahoo YUI Compressor. That bit is the easy bit. We then add lots of "ease of use sugar" to make using them a breeze. Initially the YUI Compressors are intended to be used in a build server or similar to compress your files once before you deploy them. We found that a bit limited though on a site you develop on regularly which is not of the size required to warrant a full build server setup. So our compressor simply runs on the web server and will compress on the fly while caching the results for future requests for blazingly fast speed.

## Why should you use it?

It is pretty much set and forget. Where ever you have a script or link tag you just make a little change to the url and we do the rest for you.

Other benefits:

- Reduces the number of HTTP requests to your servers so the page downloads faster ([http://developer.yahoo.com/performance/rules.html#num\\_http](http://developer.yahoo.com/performance/rules.html#num_http)) by combining related files into one download.
- Compress both your CSS and Javascript for smaller file sizes (<http://developer.yahoo.com/performance/rules.html#minify>)
- Easy to install, a simple url change is all that is needed
- Fast, the YUI compressors are blazingly quick and we cache the output for speed
- No .net knowledge needed, anyone can add assets as long as they have access to the templates.
- Easy to debug when developing, you can tell it to not compress when on local
- Encourages you to better organise your assets
- Lightens the bandwidth load on browsers, mobiles, servers and improves SEO but reducing your page load speed.

## So how do you use it?

We use a Http Handler to catch JS/CSS requests, see if you've asked for them to be minified and then compress whatever you've requested us to. This can be a whole folder, individual files or combinations of files.

Simple, just follow these conventions:

- The files to compress need to be physically on your webserver, you can't compress files from remote servers.
- We recommend you organise your assets into separate folders that group items together (/scripts/sitewide, /scripts/mapgoodies, /css/ecommerce, etc.)
- Don't include CSS and JS in the same folder, use a sub folder if needed (/mywidget/css and /

Offroadcode Limited

Office 5 Dale Street Mills, Royd Street, Huddersfield, HD3 4QY, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1484 643078 W: <http://offroadcode.com> E: [hello@offroadcode.com](mailto:hello@offroadcode.com)

mywidget/js)

- If you have files that you DO NOT want to be compressed (normally library files which are already minified) then include ".min." in their filenames (eg mootools.1.2.min.js) and it won't be compressed
- When you want to include a file(s) you simply include "Minify" at the front of the url followed by the absolute path to the asset folder
- Make sure you don't have a folder called "Minify" on your file system :)

## Examples with Javascript:

```
<!-- Compress and combine all *.js in the /scripts/widgets folder -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="Minify/scripts/widgets"></script>

<!-- Compress multiple individual files on the query string, great for
testing and sanity checking. Warning there is a HTTP limit to url lengths,
keep it less than 250 chars! -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="Minify?f=/TestFolder/
IncludeMultipleFile1.js;/TestFolder/IncludeMultipleFile2.js"></script>

<!-- This one won't get compressed as its got ".min." in the filename -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="Minify/TestFolder/Mootools.1.2.min.js"></
script>
```

## Works for CSS too:

```
<!-- Compress and combine all *.css in the /css/widgets folder -->
<link rel="stylesheet" href="Minify/css/widgets" media="screen" />

<!-- Compress multiple individual files on the query string, great for
testing and sanity checking. Warning there is a HTTP limit to url lengths,
keep it less than 250 chars! -->
<link rel="stylesheet" href="Minify?f=/TestFolder/IncludeMultipleFile1.css;/
TestFolder/IncludeMultipleFile2.csscss/widgets" media="screen" />

<!-- This one won't get compressed as its got ".min." in the filename -->
<link rel="stylesheet" href="Minify/css/widgets" media="screen" />
```

## Debugging

Worried about debugging something and having to dig through all that horrid compressed mess? Simply add ?debug=true to any of the urls and none of the files will be minified but will still be combined.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="Minify/css/widgets?debug=true" media="screen" />
<script type="text/javascript" src="Minify/TestFolder/myscripts.js?
debug=true"></script>
```

We've also found it handy to put a cache breaker at the end of the urls if we are working on local host. A simple random querystring name/value pair should do it.

## Config

There is no config! We prefer the convention over configuration option for coding so we've picked some sensible defaults for you. All individual files are cached for 20 minutes and combined on demand.

### Offroadcode Limited

Office 5 Dale Street Mills, Royd Street, Huddersfield, HD3 4QY, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1484 643078 W: <http://offroadcode.com> E: [hello@offroadcode.com](mailto:hello@offroadcode.com)

# Our Packages

Offroadcode like making web development easier so a lot of our packages focus on making best practises easy to follow.

Check out our other packages including:

- DocTypeMixins - <http://our.umbraco.org/projects/backoffice-extensions/doctypemixins>
- XSLTouch - <http://our.umbraco.org/projects/developer-tools/xsltouch>
- XSLToJson - <http://our.umbraco.org/projects/developer-tools/xslojson>
- Kill IE6 - <http://our.umbraco.org/projects/website-utilities/kill-ie6>

## Offroadcode Limited

Office 5 Dale Street Mills, Royd Street, Huddersfield, HD3 4QY, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1484 643078 W: <http://offroadcode.com> E: [hello@offroadcode.com](mailto:hello@offroadcode.com)