

Introduction to Python Decorators, Context Managers, Packages and Packaging

Christopher Barker

UW Continuing Education

December 3, 2013

Table of Contents

- 1 Review/Questions
- 2 Decorators
- 3 Context Managers
- 4 Packages and Packaging
- 5 Distributing

Review of Previous Class

- Magic methods
- Iterators
- Generators
- (wxPython)

Lightning Talks

Lightning talks today:

Harlan AuBuchon

Brian Schmitz

Review

Questions about labs?

My Solutions?

A diversion...

A number of you are already using iPython

It's a very useful tool

And the iPython notebook is even cooler ..
particularly for in-class demos.

So I'll use it some today:

[http://ipython.org/ipython-doc/dev/
interactive/notebook.html](http://ipython.org/ipython-doc/dev/interactive/notebook.html)

Decorators

Decorators are wrappers around functions

They let you add code before and after the execution of a function

Creating a custom version of that function

Decorators

Syntax:

```
@logged
def add(a, b):
    """add() adds things"""
    return a + b
```

Demo and Motivation:

code/decorators/basic_math.py [ipnb]

PEP: <http://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0318/>

Decorators

@ decorator operator is an abbreviation:

```
@f  
def g:  
    pass
```

same as

```
def g:  
    pass  
g = f(g)
```

“Syntactic Sugar” – but really quite nice

Decorators

demo:

`decorator.py`

Decorator examples

Examples from the stdlib:

Does this structure:

```
def g:  
    pass  
g = f(g)
```

look familiar from last class?

Decorator examples

`staticmethod()`

```
class C(object):  
    def add(a, b):  
        return a + b  
    add = staticmethod(add)
```

Decorator examples

`staticmethod()`

Decorator form:

```
class C(object):  
    @staticmethod  
    def add(a, b):  
        return a + b
```

(and `classmethod`)

examples

property()

```
class C(object):  
    def __init__(self):  
        self._x = None  
    def getx(self):  
        return self._x  
    def setx(self, value):  
        self._x = value  
    def delx(self):  
        del self._x  
    x = property(getx, setx, delx,  
                  "I'm the 'x' property.")
```

becomes...

Decorator examples

```
class C(object):
    def __init__(self):
        self._x = None
    @property
    def x(self):
        return self._x
    @x.setter
    def x(self, value):
        self._x = value
    @x.deleter
    def x(self):
        del self._x
```

Puts the info close to where it is used

examples

CherryPy

```
import cherrypy
class HelloWorld(object):
    @cherrypy.expose
    def index(self):
        return "Hello World!"
cherrypy.quickstart(HelloWorld())
```


examples

Pyramid

```
@template
def A_view_function(request)
    .....

@json
def A_view_function(request)
    .....
```

so you don't need to think about what your view is returning...

decorators...

For this class:

Mostly want to you to know how to use decorators
that someone else has written

Have a basic idea what they do when you do use
them

But writing a couple will help you “get” it, and help
cement your Python knowledge...

Writing Decorators

So how to you write one?

demo in iPython notebook

`code\decorators\DecoratorDemo.py`

For more detail: (and talks about closures...):
<http://simeonfranklin.com/blog/2012/jul/1/python-decorators-in-12-steps/>

LAB

- Re-write the properties from last week's Circle class to use the decorator syntax (see a couple slides back for an example) (circle_properties.py and test_circle_properties.py)
- Write a decorator that can be used to wrap any function that returns a string in a <p> element – auto-generation of simple html. (p_wrapper.py)
- Try using a class to make a decorator that will wrap a specified tag around a function that returns a string:

```
@tag_wrapper('h1')
def func2(x, y=4, z=2):
    return "the sum of %s and %s and %s is %s"%(x, y, z, x+y+z)
>>> print func2(3,4)
<h1> the sum of 3 and 4 and 2 is 9 </h1>
```

Lightning Talk

Lightning Talk:

Harlan AuBuchon

Context Managers

the `with` statement

A class with `__enter__()` and `__exit__()` methods.

`__enter__()` is run before your block of code

`__exit__()` is run after your block of code

Can be used to setup/cleanup before and after:
open/closing files, db connections, etc

Context Managers

“PEP 343: the with statement”

– A.M. Kuchling

[http://docs.python.org/dev/whatsnew/2.6.html#
pep-343-the-with-statement](http://docs.python.org/dev/whatsnew/2.6.html#pep-343-the-with-statement)

“Understanding Python’s with statement”

– Fredrik Lundh

<http://effbot.org/zone/python-with-statement.htm>

“The Python with Statement by Example”

– Jeff Preshing

[http://preshing.com/20110920/
the-python-with-statement-by-example](http://preshing.com/20110920/the-python-with-statement-by-example)

Context Managers

Use syntax:

```
with manager as something:  
    a = block_of_code  
    use_something_here(something)  
    ...
```

manager is the context manager: i.e. has an `__enter__` and `__exit__` method – if `__enter__` returns an object, it gets assigned to something

Context Managers

The file object is also a context manager:

```
with open(filename) as the_file:
    for line in the_file:
        work_with(line)
    ...
...
```

In this case, the file will automatically be closed when you leave that block, regardless of errors, etc.

Most commonly used context manager – by far!

Context Managers

You also may hav seen this in some of my unit tests:

```
with pytest.raises(ZeroDivisionError):  
    some_test_code_here  
    1/0
```

Context Managers can also catch Exceptions....

LAB

See if you can write a context manger that will time some code.

When using it, you can do:

```
with timer:
    this_is_some_code_to_run()
    how_long_might_it_take
```

and you'll get something like:

```
this code took 0.12 seconds
```

See: `context_manager\timer_context.html`
(`timer_context.py`)

Lightning Talk

Lightning Talk:

Brian Schmitz

Modules and Packages

A module is a file with python code in it

A package is a directory with an `__init__.py` file in it

And usually other modules, packages, etc...

```
my_package
    __init__.py
    module_a.py
    module_b.py
```

```
import my_package
```

```
runs my_package/__init__.py
```

Modules and Packages

```
import sys

for p in sys.path:
    print p
```

(demo)

Installing Python

Linux:

Usually part of the system – just use it

Windows:

Use the `python.org` version:

System Wide

Can install multiple versions if need be

Third party binaries for it.

Installing Python

OS-X:

Comes with the system, but:

- Apple has never upgraded within a release
- There are non-open source components
- Third party packages may or may not support it
- Apple does use it – so don't mess with it.
- I usually recommend the `python.org` version

(Also Macports, Fink, Home Brew...)

Distributions

There are also a few “curated” distributions:

These provide python and a package management system for hard-to-build packages.

Widely used by the scipy community (lots of hard to build stuff that needs to work together...)

- Anaconda
(<https://store.continuum.io/cshop/anaconda/>)
- Canopy
(<https://www.enthought.com/products/canopy/>)
- ActivePython
(<http://www.activestate.com/activepython>)

Installing Packages

Every Python installation has its own `stdlib` and `site-packages` folder

`site-packages` is the default place for third-party packages

Finding Packages

The Python Package Index:

PyPi

`http://pypi.python.org/pypi`

Installing Packages

From source (`setup.py install`)

With the system installer (`apt-get`, `yum`, etc...)

From binaries:

Windows: MSI installers

OS-X: `dmg` installers

And now: binary wheels
(make sure to get compatible packages)

`easy_install` and `pip`

Installing Packages

In the beginning, there was the distutils:

....

But distutils is missing some key features:

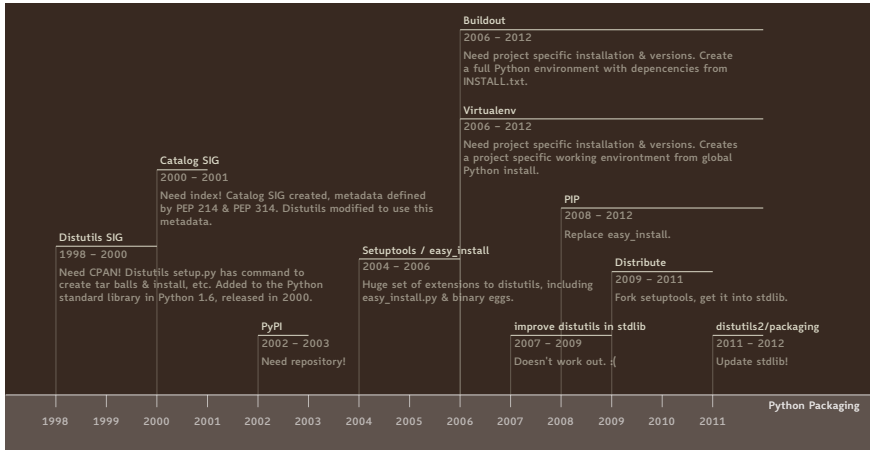
- package versioning
 - package discovery
 - auto-install
- And then came PyPi
 - And then came setuptools
 - But that wasn't well maintained...
 - Then there was distribute/pip
 - Which has now been merged back into setuptools

Installing Packages

Actually, it's still a bit of a mess

But getting better...

Packaging Time line



Packaging Tools



Current State of Packaging

To build packages: `distutils`

<http://docs.python.org/2/distutils/>

For more features: `setuptools`

<http://pythonhosted.org/setuptools/>

To install packages: `pip`

<http://www.pip-installer.org/en/latest/>

For binary packages: `wheels`

<http://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0427/>

Compiled Packages

Biggest issue is with compiled extensions
(C/C++, etc)

- You need the right compiler set up

Dependencies

- Here's where it gets really ugly
- Particularly on Windows

Compiled Packages

Linux

Pretty straightforward:

1) Is there a system package
(rpm, deb, apt-get, etc...)?

2) Install the dependencies, build from source:

```
python setup.py build ; python setup.py install
```

(Or maybe `pip install` will just work)

Compiled Packages

Windows

Sometimes simpler:

1) A lot of packages have Windows binaries:

- Usually for `python.org` builds
- Excellent source:

<http://www.lfd.uci.edu/~gohlke/pythonlibs/>

- Make sure you get 32 or 64 bit consistent

2) But if no binaries:

- Hope the dependencies are available!
- Set up the compiler (MS VS2008 Express works)

Compiled Packages

OS-X

Lots of Python versions:

- Apple's built-in (different for each version of OS)
- `python.org` builds.
 - 32 bit PPC+Intel
 - 32+64 bit Intel
- Macports - Homebrew

Binary Installers (dmg or wheel) have to match python version

Compiled Packages

OS-X

If you have to build it yourself:

Xcode compiler (the right version):

- Version 3.* for 32 bit PPC+Intel
- Version 4.* for 32+64 bit Intel

If extra dependencies:

- macports or home brew often easiest way to build them

Final Recommendation

First try: `pip install`

If that doesn't work:

Read the docs of the package you want to install

Do what they say

virtualenv

virtualenv is a tool to create isolated Python environments.

Very useful for developing multiple apps

Or deploying more than one on one system

<http://www.virtualenv.org/en/latest/index.html>

(Cris will get into more detail with this next class)

Distributing

What if you need to distribute you own:

Scripts

Libraries

Applications

Scripts

Often you can just copy, share, or check in the script to source control and call it good.

But only if it's a single file, and doesn't need anything non-standard

Scripts

When the script needs more than just the
stdlib
(or your company standard environment)

You have an application, not a script

Libraries

When you read the distutils docs, it's usually libraries they're talking about

Scripts + library is the same...

(<http://docs.python.org/distutils/>)

distutils

distutils makes it easy to do the easy stuff:

Distribute and install to multiple platforms, etc.

Even binaries, installers and compiled packages

(Except dependencies)

(<http://docs.python.org/distutils/>)

distutils basics

It's all in the `setup.py` file:

```
from distutils.core import setup
setup(name='Distutils',
      version='1.0',
      description='Python Distribution Utilities',
      author='Greg Ward',
      author_email='gward@python.net',
      url='http://www.python.org/sigs/distutils-sig/',
      packages=['distutils', 'distutils.command'],
    )
```

(<http://docs.python.org/distutils/>)

distutils basics

Once your setup.py is written, you can:

```
python setup.py ...
```

build	build everything needed to install
install	install everything from build directory
sdist	create a source distribution (tarball, zip file, etc.)
bdist	create a built (binary) distribution
bdist_rpm	create an RPM distribution
bdist_wininst	create an executable installer for MS Windows
upload	upload binary package to PyPI

More complex packaging

For a complex package:

You want to use a well structured setup:

<http://guide.python-distribute.org/creation.html>

develop mode

While you are developing your package, Installing it is a pain.

But you want your code to be able to import, etc. as though it were installed

`setup.py develop` installs links to your code, rather than copies – so it looks like it's installed, but it's using the original source

```
python setup.py develop
```

You need `setuptools` to use it.

Applications

For a complete application:

- Web apps
- GUI apps

Multiple options:

- Virtualenv + VCS
- `zc.buildout` (<http://www.buildout.org/>)
- System packages (rpm, deb, ...)
- Bundles...

Bundles

Bundles are Python + all your code + plus all the dependencies – all in one single “bundle”

Most popular on Windows and OS-X

```
py2exe  
py2app  
pyinstaller  
...
```

User doesn't even have to know it's python

Examples:

```
http://www.bitpim.org/
```

```
http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/nucos
```

LAB

Write a setup.py for a script of yours

- Ideally, your script relies on at least one other module
- At a minimum, you'll need to specify scripts
- and probably py_modules
- try:
 - `python setup.py build`
 - `python setup.py install`
 - `python setup.py sdist`
 - `python setup.py bdist_wininst`
- EXTRA: install setuptools
 - use: `from setuptools import setup`
 - try: `python setup.py develop`

(my example: capitalize Package)

Homework

Finish any labs...

Your project

Next week:

Cris Ewing will come and talk about the next quarter