
EasyProcess Documentation

Release 0.1.2

ponty

January 07, 2012

CONTENTS

1	Basic usage	2
2	Installation	3
2.1	General	3
2.2	Ubuntu	3
2.3	Uninstall	3
3	Usage	4
3.1	Simple example	4
3.2	General	4
3.3	Shell commands	5
3.4	return_code	5
3.5	With	5
3.6	Timeout	6
3.7	Logging	6
3.8	Alias	7
3.9	Replacing existing functions	7
3.10	extract_version	8
4	API	9
5	Development	12
5.1	Tools	12
5.2	Install on ubuntu	12
5.3	Tasks	13
6	Indices and tables	14
	Python Module Index	15
	Index	16

EasyProcess

Date January 07, 2012

PDF EasyProcess.pdf

Contents:

EasyProcess is an easy to use python subprocess interface.

Links:

- home: <https://github.com/ponty/EasyProcess>
- documentation: <http://ponty.github.com/EasyProcess>

Features:

- layer on top of `subprocess` module
- easy to start, stop programs
- easy to get standard output/error, return code of programs
- command can be list or string
- logging
- timeout
- unit-tests
- crossplatform, development on linux
- global config file with program aliases
- shell is not supported
- pipes are not supported
- stdout/stderr is set only after the subprocess has finished
- stop() does not kill whole subprocess tree

Known problems:

- Python 3 is not supported

Similar projects:

- execute (<http://pypi.python.org/pypi/execute>)
- commandwrapper (<http://pypi.python.org/pypi/commandwrapper>)
- extcmd (<http://pypi.python.org/pypi/extcmd>)

BASIC USAGE

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>> EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr
'Python 2.6.6'
```

INSTALLATION

2.1 General

- install `setuptools` or `pip`
- install the program:

if you have `setuptools` installed:

```
# as root
easy_install EasyProcess
```

if you have `pip` installed:

```
# as root
pip install EasyProcess
```

2.2 Ubuntu

```
sudo apt-get install python-setuptools
sudo easy_install EasyProcess
```

2.3 Uninstall

```
# as root
pip uninstall EasyProcess
```

USAGE

3.1 Simple example

Example program:

```
from easyprocess import EasyProcess

v = EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr
print 'your python version:', v
```

Output:

```
$ python -m easyprocess.examples.ver
your python version: Python 2.6.6
```

3.2 General

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>>
>>> # Run program, wait for it to complete, get stdout (command is string):
>>> EasyProcess('python -c "print 3"]').call().stdout
'3'
>>>
>>> # Run program, wait for it to complete, get stdout (command is list):
>>> EasyProcess(['python', '-c', 'print 3']).call().stdout
'3'
>>>
>>> # Run program, wait for it to complete, get stderr:
>>> EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr
'Python 2.6.6'
>>>
>>> # Run program, wait for it to complete, get return code:
>>> EasyProcess('python --version').call().return_code
0
>>>
>>> # Run program, wait 1 second, stop it, get stdout:
>>> print EasyProcess('ping localhost').start().sleep(1).stop().stdout
PING localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1): icmp_req=1 ttl=64 time=0.026 ms
64 bytes from localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1): icmp_req=2 ttl=64 time=0.020 ms
```

3.3 Shell commands

Shell commands are not supported.

Warning: `echo` is a shell command on Windows (there is no `echo.exe`), but it is a program on Linux

3.4 return_code

`EasyProcess.return_code` is `None` until `EasyProcess.stop()` or `EasyProcess.wait()` is called.

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>>
>>> # process has finished but no stop() or wait() was called
>>> print EasyProcess('echo hello').start().sleep(0.5).return_code
None
>>>
>>> # wait()
>>> print EasyProcess('echo hello').start().wait().return_code
0
>>>
>>> # stop() after process has finished
>>> print EasyProcess('echo hello').start().sleep(0.5).stop().return_code
0
>>>
>>> # stop() before process has finished
>>> print EasyProcess('sleep 2').start().stop().return_code
-15
>>>
>>> # same as start().wait().stop()
>>> print EasyProcess('echo hello').call().return_code
0
```

3.5 With

By using `with` statement the process is started and stopped automatically:

```
from easyprocess import EasyProcess
with EasyProcess('ping 127.0.0.1') as proc: # start()
    # communicate with proc
    pass
# stopped
```

Equivalent with:

```
from easyprocess import EasyProcess
proc = EasyProcess('ping 127.0.0.1').start()
try:
    # communicate with proc
    pass
finally:
    proc.stop()
```


3.6 Timeout

This was implemented with “daemon thread”.

“The entire Python program exits when only daemon threads are left.” <http://docs.python.org/library/threading.html>

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>> # Run ping with timeout
>>> print EasyProcess('ping localhost').call(timeout=1).stdout
PING localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1): icmp_req=1 ttl=64 time=0.026 ms
```

3.7 Logging

Example program:

```
from easyprocess import EasyProcess
import logging

# turn on logging
logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)

EasyProcess('python --version').call()
EasyProcess('ping localhost').start().sleep(1).stop()
EasyProcess('python --version').check()
try:
    EasyProcess('bad_command').check()
except Exception, detail:
    print detail

try:
    EasyProcess('sh -c bad_command').check()
except Exception, detail:
    print detail
```

Output:

```
$ python -m easyprocess.examples.log
DEBUG:easyprocess:param: "python --version" command: ['python', '--version'] ("python --version")
DEBUG:easyprocess:reading config: /home/titi/.easyprocess.cfg
DEBUG:easyprocess:process was started (pid=2297)
DEBUG:easyprocess:process has ended
DEBUG:easyprocess:return code=0
DEBUG:easyprocess:stdout=
DEBUG:easyprocess:stderr=Python 2.6.6
DEBUG:easyprocess:param: "ping localhost" command: ['ping', 'localhost'] ("ping localhost")
DEBUG:easyprocess:process was started (pid=2298)
DEBUG:easyprocess:stopping process (pid=2298 cmd=["'ping', 'localhost']")
DEBUG:easyprocess:process is active -> sending SIGTERM
DEBUG:easyprocess:process has ended
DEBUG:easyprocess:return code=-15
DEBUG:easyprocess:stdout=PING localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from localhost.localdomain (127.0.0.1): icmp_req=1 ttl=64 time=0.023 ms
DEBUG:easyprocess:stderr=
DEBUG:easyprocess:param: "python --version" command: ['python', '--version'] ("python --version")
DEBUG:easyprocess:process was started (pid=2299)
```

```
DEBUG:easyprocess:process has ended
DEBUG:easyprocess:return code=0
DEBUG:easyprocess:stdout=
DEBUG:easyprocess:stderr=Python 2.6.6
DEBUG:easyprocess:param: "bad_command" command: ['bad_command'] ("bad_command")
DEBUG:easyprocess:OSError exception:[Errno 2] No such file or directory
DEBUG:easyprocess:param: "sh -c bad_command" command: ['sh', '-c', 'bad_command'] ("sh -c bad_command")
DEBUG:easyprocess:process was started (pid=2303)
DEBUG:easyprocess:process has ended
DEBUG:easyprocess:return code=127
DEBUG:easyprocess:stdout=
DEBUG:easyprocess:stderr=sh: bad_command: not found
start error <EasyProcess cmd_param=bad_command alias=None cmd=['bad_command'] (bad_command) oerror=
check error, return code is not zero! <EasyProcess cmd_param=sh -c bad_command alias=None cmd=['sh',
```

3.8 Alias

You can define an alias for EasyProcess calls by editing your config file (\$HOME/.easyprocess.cfg) This can be used for:

- testing different version of the same program
- redirect calls
- program path can be defined here. (Installed programs are not in \$PATH on Windows)

start python and print python version:

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>> EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr
'Python 2.6.6'
```

edit the config file: \$HOME/.easyprocess.cfg:

```
[link]
python=/usr/bin/python2.7
```

restart python and print python version again:

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess
>>> EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr
'Python 2.7.0+'
```

3.9 Replacing existing functions

Replacing `os.system`:

```
retcode = os.system("ls -l")
==>
p = EasyProcess("ls -l").call()
retcode = p.return_code
print p.stdout
```

Replacing `subprocess.call`:

```
retcode = subprocess.call(["ls", "-l"])
==>
p = EasyProcess(["ls", "-l"]).call()
retcode = p.return_code
print p.stdout
```

3.10 extract_version

`easyprocess.extract_version(txt)`

This function tries to extract the version from the help text of any program.

```
>>> from easyprocess import EasyProcess, extract_version
>>> extract_version(EasyProcess('python --version').call().stderr)
'2.6.6'
```

API

Easy to use python subprocess interface.

```
class easyprocess.EasyProcess (cmd, ubuntu_package=None, url=None, max_bytes_to_log=1000,  
                                cwd=None, use_temp_files=True)
```

simple interface for `subprocess`

shell is not supported (shell=False)

Parameters

- **cmd** – string ('ls -l') or list of strings (['ls','-l'])
- **max_bytes_to_log** – logging of stdout and stderr is limited by this value
- **use_temp_files** – use temp files instead of pipes for stdout and stderr, pipes can cause deadlock in some cases (see unit tests)

call (timeout=None)

Run command with arguments. Wait for command to complete.

same as:

1. `start()`
2. `wait()`
3. `stop()`

Return type self

check (return_code=0)

Run command with arguments. Wait for command to complete. If the exit code was as expected and there is no exception then return, otherwise raise `EasyProcessError`.

Parameters **return_code** – int, expected return code

Return type self

check_installed ()

Used for testing if program is installed.

Run command with arguments. Wait for command to complete. If `OSError` raised, then raise `EasyProcessCheckInstalledError` with information about program installation

Parameters **return_code** – int, expected return code

Return type self

is_alive()
poll process using `subprocess.Popen.poll()`
Return type bool

pid
PID (`subprocess.Popen.pid`)
Return type int

return_code
returncode (`subprocess.Popen.returncode`)
Return type int

sendstop()
Kill process (`subprocess.Popen.terminate()`). Do not wait for command to complete.
Return type self

sleep(sec)
sleeping (same as `time.sleep()`)
Return type self

start()
start command in background and does not wait for it
Return type self

stop()
Kill process and wait for command to complete.
same as:

1. `sendstop()`
2. `wait()`

Return type self

wait(timeout=None)
Wait for command to complete.
Timeout:

- discussion: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1191374/subprocess-with-timeout>
- implementation: threading

Return type self

wrap(callable, delay=0)
returns a function which:

1. start process
2. call callable, save result
3. stop process
4. returns result

similar to `with` statement

Return type

exception `easyprocess.EasyProcessCheckInstalledError` (*easy_process*)

This exception is raised when a process run by `check()` returns a non-zero exit status or `OSError` is raised.

exception `easyprocess.EasyProcessError` (*easy_process*, *msg*='')

`easyprocess.Proc`

alias of `EasyProcess`

`easyprocess.extract_version` (*txt*)

This function tries to extract the version from the help text of any program.

DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Tools

1. `setuptools`
2. `Paver`
3. `nose`
4. `ghp-import`
5. `pyflakes`
6. `pychecker`
7. `paved fork`
8. `Sphinx`
9. `sphinxcontrib-programsscreenshot`
10. `sphinxcontrib-paverutils`
11. `autorun` from `sphinx-contrib` (there is no simple method, you have to download/unpack/setup)

5.2 Install on ubuntu

```
sudo apt-get install python-setuptools
sudo apt-get install python-paver
sudo apt-get install python-nose
sudo easy_install ghp-import
sudo apt-get install pyflakes
sudo apt-get install pychecker
sudo easy_install https://github.com/ponty/paved/zipball/master
sudo apt-get install scrot
sudo apt-get install xvfb
sudo apt-get install xserver-xephyr
sudo apt-get install python-imaging
sudo apt-get install python-sphinx
sudo easy_install sphinxcontrib-programsscreenshot
sudo easy_install sphinxcontrib-programoutput
sudo easy_install sphinxcontrib-paverutils
```

5.3 Tasks

[Paver](#) is used for task management, settings are saved in `pavement.py`. [Sphinx](#) is used to generate documentation.

print [paver](#) settings:

```
paver printoptions
```

clean generated files:

```
paver clean
```

generate documentation under *docs/_build/html*:

```
paver cog pdf html
```

upload documentation to [github](#):

```
paver ghpages
```

run unit tests:

```
paver nose  
#or  
nosetests --verbose
```

check python code:

```
paver pyflakes  
paver pychecker
```

generate python distribution:

```
paver sdist
```

upload python distribution to [PyPI](#):

```
paver upload
```


INDICES AND TABLES

- *genindex*
- *modindex*
- *search*

PYTHON MODULE INDEX

e

`easyprocess`, 4

INDEX

C

`call()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 9
`check()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 9
`check_installed()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 9

E

`EasyProcess` (class in `easyprocess`), 9
`easyprocess` (module), 4, 9
`EasyProcessCheckInstalledError`, 11
`EasyProcessError`, 11
`extract_version()` (in module `easyprocess`), 8, 11

I

`is_alive()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 9

P

`pid` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` attribute), 10
`Proc` (in module `easyprocess`), 11

R

`return_code` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` attribute), 10

S

`sendstop()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10
`sleep()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10
`start()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10
`stop()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10

W

`wait()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10
`wrap()` (`easyprocess.EasyProcess` method), 10