

Packaging Programs and Extensions

This chapter assumes that you have some Python code that you need to deliver to other people and groups. It works on your machine, but now you have the added complications of making it work on other people's. This involves packaging your code in a suitable format and making it available to its intended audience.

The Python packaging ecosystem has greatly increased in diversity since the last edition. These improvements are based on careful work to specify the a Python source tree format independent of any specific build-system in [PEP 517](#),—*A build-system independent format for source trees*, and the minimum build-system requirements in [PEP 518](#)—*Specifying Minimum Build System Requirements for Python Projects*. The “Rationale” section of the latter document concisely describes why these changes were required, the most significant being the need to run the *setup.py* file to discover (presumably by observing tracebacks) the requirements of the build.

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