# :mod:`sysconfig` --- Provide access to Python's configuration information

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 4)

Unknown directive type "module".

```
.. module:: sysconfig
    :synopsis: Python's configuration information
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 7)

Unknown directive type "moduleauthor".

.. moduleauthor:: Tarek Ziadé <tarek@ziade.org>

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 8)

Unknown directive type "sectionauthor".

.. sectionauthor:: Tarek Ziadé <tarek@ziade.org>

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 10)

Unknown directive type "versionadded".

.. versionadded:: 3.2

Source code: :source:`Lib/sysconfig.py`

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Unknown interpreted text role "source".

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Unknown directive type "index".

```
.. index::
    single: configuration information
```

The <u>mod</u>: sysconfig` module provides access to Python's configuration information like the list of installation paths and the configuration variables relevant for the current platform.

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

# Configuration variables

A Python distribution contains a :file: 'Makefile' and a :file: 'pyconfig.h' header file that are necessary to build both the Python binary itself and third-party C extensions compiled using :mod: 'distutils'.

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

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Unknown interpreted text role "file".

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

mod: sysconfig' puts all variables found in these files in a dictionary that can be accessed using :func: 'get\_config\_vars' or :func: 'get\_config\_var'.

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 30); backlink

Unknown interpreted text role "func".

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\[cpython-main] [Doc] [library] sysconfig.rst, line 30); backlink

Unknown interpreted text role "func".

Notice that on Windows, it's a much smaller set.

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_config_vars(*args)
```

With no arguments, return a dictionary of all configuration variables relevant for the current platform.

With arguments, return a list of values that result from looking up each argument in the configuration variable dictionary.

For each argument, if the value is not found, return ``None``.

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_config_var(name)

Return the value of a single variable *name*. Equivalent to
   ``get_config_vars().get(name) ``.

If *name* is not found, return ``None``.
```

### Example of usage:

```
>>> import sysconfig
>>> sysconfig.get_config_var('Py_ENABLE_SHARED')
0
>>> sysconfig.get_config_var('LIBDIR')
'/usr/local/lib'
>>> sysconfig.get_config_vars('AR', 'CXX')
['ar', 'g++']
```

## **Installation paths**

Python uses an installation scheme that differs depending on the platform and on the installation options. These schemes are stored in mod: 'sysconfig' under unique identifiers based on the value returned by :const:'os.name'.

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Unknown interpreted text role "const".

Every new component that is installed using "mod:'distutils' or a Distutils-based system will follow the same scheme to copy its file in the right places.

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Python currently supports nine schemes:

- posix\_prefix: scheme for POSIX platforms like Linux or macOS. This is the default scheme used when Python or a component is installed.
- posix\_home: scheme for POSIX platforms used when a home option is used upon installation. This scheme is used when a component is installed through Distutils with a specific home prefix.
- posix\_user: scheme for POSIX platforms used when a component is installed through Distutils and the user option is used. This scheme defines paths located under the user home directory.
- posix\_venv: scheme for :mod:'Python virtual environments <venv>' on POSIX platforms; by default it is the same as posix\_prefix .

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- nt: scheme for NT platforms like Windows.
- *nt user*: scheme for NT platforms, when the *user* option is used.
- nt\_venv: scheme for :mod: Python virtual environments < venv>` on NT platforms; by default it is the same as nt.

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- venv: a scheme with values from ether posix\_venv or nt\_venv depending on the platform Python runs on
- osx framework user: scheme for macOS, when the user option is used.

Each scheme is itself composed of a series of paths and each path has a unique identifier. Python currently uses eight paths:

• stallib: directory containing the standard Python library files that are not platform-specific.

- platstallib: directory containing the standard Python library files that are platform-specific.
- platlib: directory for site-specific, platform-specific files.
- purelib: directory for site-specific, non-platform-specific files.
- include: directory for non-platform-specific header files for the Python C-API.
- platinclude: directory for platform-specific header files for the Python C-API.
- scripts: directory for script files.
- data: directory for data files.

mod: sysconfig provides some functions to determine these paths.

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_scheme_names()

Return a tuple containing all schemes currently supported in :mod:`sysconfig`.
```

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_default_scheme()

Return the default scheme name for the current platform.

.. versionchanged:: 3.10
   This function was previously named ``_get_default_scheme()`` and considered an implementation detail.

.. versionchanged:: 3.11
   When Python runs from a virtual environment, the *venv* scheme is returned.
```

Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_preferred_scheme(key)
Return a preferred scheme name for an installation layout specified by *key*.
   *key* must be either ``"prefix"``, ``"home"``, or ``"user"``.
The return value is a scheme name listed in :func:`get_scheme_names`. It can be passed to :mod:`sysconfig` functions that take a *scheme* argument, such as :func:`get_paths`.
.. versionadded:: 3.10
.. versionchanged:: 3.11
   When Python runs from a virtual environment and ``key="prefix"``, the *venv* scheme is returned.
```

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get preferred schemes()
```

Return a dict containing preferred scheme names on the current platform. Python implementers and redistributors may add their preferred schemes to the ``\_INSTALL\_SCHEMES`` module-level global value, and modify this function to return those scheme names, to e.g. provide different schemes for system and language package managers to use, so packages installed by either do not mix with those by the other.

End users should not use this function, but :func:  $get_default_scheme$  and :func:  $get_preferred_scheme()$  instead.

.. versionadded:: 3.10

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## Unknown directive type "function".

.. function:: get path names()

Return a tuple containing all path names currently supported in : mod: `sysconfig`.

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### Unknown directive type "function".

.. function:: get path(name, [scheme, [vars, [expand]]])

Return an installation path corresponding to the path \*name\*, from the install scheme named \*scheme\*.

\*name\* has to be a value from the list returned by :func:`get path names`.

:mod:`sysconfig` stores installation paths corresponding to each path name,
for each platform, with variables to be expanded. For instance the \*stdlib\*
path for the \*nt\* scheme is: ``{base}/Lib``.

:func:`get\_path` will use the variables returned by :func:`get\_config\_vars` to expand the path. All variables have default values for each platform so one may call this function and get the default value.

If \*scheme\* is provided, it must be a value from the list returned by :func:`get\_scheme\_names`. Otherwise, the default scheme for the current platform is used.

If \*vars\* is provided, it must be a dictionary of variables that will update the dictionary return by :func:`get config vars`.

If \*expand\* is set to ``False``, the path will not be expanded using the variables.

If \*name\* is not found, raise a :exc:`KeyError`.

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#### Unknown directive type "function".

.. function:: get paths([scheme, [vars, [expand]]])

Return a dictionary containing all installation paths corresponding to an installation scheme. See :func:`get\_path` for more information.

If \*scheme\* is not provided, will use the default scheme for the current platform.

If \*vars\* is provided, it must be a dictionary of variables that will update the dictionary used to expand the paths.

If  $\star expand \star$  is set to false, the paths will not be expanded.

```
If *scheme* is not an existing scheme, :func:`get_paths` will raise a
:exc:`KeyError`.
```

## Other functions

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_python_version()

Return the ``MAJOR.MINOR`` Python version number as a string. Similar to
``'%d.%d' % sys.version_info[:2]``.
```

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_platform()
```

Return a string that identifies the current platform.

This is used mainly to distinguish platform-specific build directories and platform-specific built distributions. Typically includes the OS name and version and the architecture (as supplied by 'os.uname()'), although the exact information included depends on the OS; e.g., on Linux, the kernel version isn't particularly important.

Examples of returned values:

```
- linux-i586
- linux-alpha (?)
- solaris-2.6-sun4u
Windows will return one of:
```

- win-amd64 (64bit Windows on AMD64, aka x86\_64, Intel64, and EM64T)

- win32 (all others - specifically, sys.platform is returned)

macOS can return:

```
- macosx-10.6-ppc
- macosx-10.4-ppc64
- macosx-10.3-i386
```

- macosx-10.4-fat

For other non-POSIX platforms, currently just returns :data:`sys.platform`.

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: is_python_build()
```

Return ``True`` if the running Python interpreter was built from source and is being run from its built location, and not from a location resulting from e.g. running ``make install`` or installing via a binary installer.

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Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: parse_config_h(fp[, vars])
```

```
Parse a :file:`config.h`\-style file.

*fp* is a file-like object pointing to the :file:`config.h`\-like file.

A dictionary containing name/value pairs is returned. If an optional dictionary is passed in as the second argument, it is used instead of a new dictionary, and updated with the values read in the file.
```

```
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Unknown directive type "function".
```

```
.. function:: get_config_h_filename()
```

Return the path of :file:`pyconfig.h`.

```
System\,Message: ERROR/3 \, (\cite{Continuous and Continuous and C
```

Unknown directive type "function".

```
.. function:: get_makefile_filename()
   Return the path of :file:`Makefile`.
```

# Using :mod:`sysconfig` as a script

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Unknown interpreted text role 'mod'.

You can use :mod:`sysconfig` as a script with Python's -m option:

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

```
$ python -m sysconfig
Platform: "macosx-10.4-i386"
Python version: "3.2"
Current installation scheme: "posix prefix"
Paths:
       data = "/usr/local"
       include = "/Users/tarek/Dev/svn.python.org/py3k/Include"
       platinclude = "."
       platlib = "/usr/local/lib/python3.2/site-packages"
       platstdlib = "/usr/local/lib/python3.2"
       purelib = "/usr/local/lib/python3.2/site-packages"
        scripts = "/usr/local/bin"
       stdlib = "/usr/local/lib/python3.2"
Variables:
       AC APPLE UNIVERSAL BUILD = "0"
       AIX GENUINE CPLUSPLUS = "0"
       AR = "ar"
       ARFLAGS = "rc"
```

This call will print in the standard output the information returned by :func: 'get\_platform', :func: 'get\_python\_version', :func: 'get\_path' and :func: 'get\_config\_vars'.

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Unknown interpreted text role "func".

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