

:mod:`distutils` --- Building and installing Python modules

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```
.. module:: distutils
   :synopsis: Support for building and installing Python modules into an
             existing Python installation.
```

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Unknown directive type "sectionauthor".

```
.. sectionauthor:: Fred L. Drake, Jr. <fdrake@acm.org>
```

:mod:`distutils` is deprecated with removal planned for Python 3.12. See the [ref`What's New <distutils-deprecated>`](#) entry for more information.

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The :mod:`distutils` package provides support for building and installing additional modules into a Python installation. The new modules may be either 100%-pure Python, or may be extension modules written in C, or may be collections of Python packages which include modules coded in both Python and C.

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Most Python users will *not* want to use this module directly, but instead use the cross-version tools maintained by the Python Packaging Authority. In particular, [setuptools](#) is an enhanced alternative to :mod:`distutils` that provides:

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- support for declaring project dependencies
- additional mechanisms for configuring which files to include in source releases (including plugins for integration with version control systems)
- the ability to declare project "entry points", which can be used as the basis for application plugin systems
- the ability to automatically generate Windows command line executables at installation time rather than needing to prebuild them

- consistent behaviour across all supported Python versions

The recommended [pip](#) installer runs all `setup.py` scripts with `setuptools`, even if the script itself only imports `distutils`. Refer to the [Python Packaging User Guide](#) for more information.

For the benefits of packaging tool authors and users seeking a deeper understanding of the details of the current packaging and distribution system, the legacy `:mod:`distutils`` based user documentation and API reference remain available:

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- `:ref:`install-index``

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- `:ref:`distutils-index``

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