

# Python executables: py2exe or PyInstaller?

Asked 10 years, 9 months ago Modified 1 year, 4 months ago Viewed 46k times

▲ To create executable files (windows) I assume that we should use one of them: Py2exe or PyInstaller.

70 What are the difference between them?

windows python executable



12

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asked Jun 2, 2011 at 9:50



trante

32.3k

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3 Answers

▲ Py2exe and PyInstaller both are wrappers but here are few differences that I noticed,

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1. Py2exe is compatible with python2.4+ including python3.0 & 3.1 whereas PyInstaller is currently, compatible with python 2.7 and 3.3–3.5
2. As far I know, Py2exe didn't support signing whereas Pyinstaller has support for signing from version 1.4
3. In PyInstaller it is easy to create one exe, By default both create a bunch of exes & dlls.
4. In py2exe its easier to embed manifest file in exe, useful for run as administrator mode in windows vista and beyond.
5. Pyinstaller is modular and has a feature of hooks to include files in the build that you like. I don't know about this feature in py2exe.

Hope this helps you in your decision making.

[Update] - It looks like PyInstaller is actively developed (<https://github.com/pyinstaller/pyinstaller/>) and released. py2exe is still using sourceforge and its release cycle is very random on pypi there is no build after 2014 and their code show development in 2017 as well (<https://sourceforge.net/p/py2exe/svn/HEAD/tree/trunk/py2exe-3/py2exe/>). So, I recommend using pyinstaller till the time py2exe stabilizes its release cycle in favor of developers.

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edited Jul 29, 2020 at 21:11



SalahDin Rezk

17 8

answered Jun 4, 2011 at 7:02



Gagandeep Singh

5,465

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22 It should also be mentioned that py2exe is not being actively maintained, the last version (0.6.9) came out in 2008. – Hubro Dec 9, 2012 at 14:58

3 For py2exe: Looks like 0.6.9 is the latest supporting the python 2 line. Support for python 3 continues on pypi ([pypi.python.org/pypi/py2exe](https://pypi.python.org/pypi/py2exe), v0.9.2.2 updated 2014-10-21), though I didn't see this on their wiki... might be somewhere. – otherchirps Jan 4, 2015 at 2:19

6 For pyInstaller - they now claim up to 3.4 compatibility. – Marc Nov 5, 2015 at 4:47

1 py2exe 0.10.1.0 has been released the 8 November 2020. py2exe (for python 3) is now hosted on Github : [github.com/py2exe/py2exe](https://github.com/py2exe/py2exe) – Jona Dec 8, 2020 at 8:36

GNU/Linux, etc. PyInstaller has been used successfully with AIX, Solaris, FreeBSD and OpenBSD, but is not tested against them as part of the continuous integration tests." – Boris Modylevsky Dec 21, 2020 at 9:53

From the message of the wikipedia, py2exe is not active for long time :

3 **Stable release: 0.9.2.2 for Python 3 /; 21 October 2014; 0.6.9 for Python 2 /; 15 November 2008**

So I advise to use the pyinstaller.....

But now the pyinstaller also meet the problem [The official website of pyinstaller:](#)

Help keeping PyInstaller alive: Maintaining PyInstaller is a huge amount of work. PyInstaller development can only continue if users and companies provide sustainable funding. See [Funding PyInstaller](#) for how to support PyInstaller.

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answered Nov 29, 2019 at 11:34



five element god

73 4

There is a fork of py2exe that is being actively developed to support ongoing versions of Python, <https://github.com/albertosottile/py2exe>, currently at v0.9.3.2 which works with Python 3.7.

I've used it on a small project and it works as expected, producing a working executable. Download the correct version from the [releases page](#) and install with `pip`.

**Update 2020-11-06:**

As per LolPython's comment, this fork now redirects to the official repo so use that instead:

<https://github.com/py2exe/py2exe>

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edited Nov 6, 2020 at 9:18

answered Jan 23, 2020 at 14:24



adejones

680 7 10

- 1 Your link is not broken but FYI it now redirects to [github.com/py2exe/py2exe](https://github.com/py2exe/py2exe) which indicates that the fork is now the official py2exe project. The project homepage confirms this: [py2exe.org](https://py2exe.org) includes Alberto Sottile in the list of project contributors. – LolPython Nov 2, 2020 at 16:28