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* Plugins

Plugins#

As of version `22.11.0`, `conda` has support for user plugins, enabling extension and/or alterations to some of its functionality.

Quick start#

This is an example of a minimal working conda plugin that defines a new subcommand:

example_plugin.py#

```
import conda.plugins
```

```
from conda.base.context import context
```

```
def command(arguments: list[str]):
```

```
    print("Conda subcommand!")
```

```
@conda.plugins.hookimpl
def conda_subcommands():
    yield conda.plugins.CondaSubcommand(
        name="example",
        action=command,
        summary="Example of a conda subcommand",
    )
```

Let's break down what's going on here step-by-step:

1. First, we create the function ``command`` that serves as our subcommand. This function is passed a list of arguments which equal to ``sys.argv[2:]``.
2. Next, we register this subcommand by using the ``conda_subcommands`` plugin hook. We do this by creating a function called ``conda_subcommands`` and then decorating it with ``conda.plugins.hookimpl``.
3. The object we return from this function is ``conda.plugins.CondaSubcommand``, which does several things:
 1. **``name``** is what we use to call this subcommand via the command line (i.e. "conda example")
 2. **``action``** is the function that will be called when we invoke "conda example"
 3. **``summary``** is the description of the of the subcommand that appears when users call "conda

--help"

In order to actually use conda plugins, they must be packaged as Python packages. Furthermore, we also need to take advantage of a feature known as [Python package entrypoints](<https://packaging.python.org/en/latest/specifications/entry-points/>). We can define our Python package and the entry points by either using a `pyproject.toml` file (preferred) or a `setup.py` (legacy) for our project:

pyproject.toml#

[build-system]

requires = ["setuptools", "setuptools-scm"]

build-backend = "setuptools.build_meta"

[project]

name = "conda-example-plugin"

version = "1.0.0"

description = "Example conda plugin"

requires-python = ">=3.9"

dependencies = ["conda"]

[project.entry-points."conda"]

conda-example-plugin = "example_plugin"

```
setup.py#
```

```
from setuptools import setup
```

```
setup(  
    name="conda-example-plugin",  
    install_requires="conda",  
    entry_points={"conda": ["conda-example-plugin = example_plugin"]},  
    py_modules=["example_plugin"],  
)
```

In both examples shown above, we define an entry point for conda. It's important to make sure that the entry point is for "conda" and that it points to the correct module in your plugin package. Our package only consists a single Python module called `example_plugin`. If you have a large project, be sure to always point the entry point to the module containing the plugin hook declarations (i.e. where `conda.plugins.hookimpl` is used). We recommend using the plugin submodule in these cases, e.g. `large_project.plugin` (in `large_project/plugin.py`).

```
## More examples#
```


To see more examples of conda plugins, please visit the following resources:

* [conda-plugins-template](https://github.com/conda/conda-plugin-template): This is a repository with full examples that could be used as a starting point for your plugin

Using other plugin hooks#

For examples of how to use other plugin hooks, please read their respective documentation pages:

- * [Auth Handlers](auth_handlers.html)
- * [Health Checks](health_checks.html)
- * [Request Headers](request_headers.html)
- * [Post-commands](post_commands.html)
- * [Pre-commands](pre_commands.html)
- * [Reporter Backends](reporter_backends.html)
- * [Settings](settings.html)
- * [Solvers](solvers.html)
- * [Subcommands](subcommands.html)
- * [Virtual Packages](virtual_packages.html)

More information about how plugins work#

Plugins in `conda` are implemented with the use of [Pluggy](https://pluggy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/), a Python framework used by other projects, such as `pytest`, `tox`, and `devpi`. `pluggy` provides the ability to extend and modify the behavior of `conda` via function hooking,

which results in plugin systems that are discoverable with the use of [Python package entrypoints](https://packaging.python.org/en/latest/specifications/entry-points/).

For more information about how it works, we suggest heading over to their [documentation](https://pluggy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/).

API#

For even more detailed information about our plugin system, please see the [Plugin API](../api/conda/plugins/index.html) section.

Error handling#

Errors in `conda` are routed through

[`conda.exception_handler.ExceptionHandler`](../api/conda/exception_handler/index.html#conda.exception_handler.ExceptionHandler

"conda.exception_handler.ExceptionHandler"), which can print additional information about the `conda` installation when an `_unexpected_` exception is found. These automatic reports can be really verbose and can get in the way of communicating `_expected_` errors. See [this issue in conda-build](https://github.com/conda/conda-build/issues/5263) as an example.

To mark exceptions as `_expected_`, plugins should raise

[`conda.CondaError`](../api/conda/index.html#conda.CondaError "conda.CondaError") or a subclass thereof. See

[conda_auth.exceptions](https://github.com/conda-incubator/conda-auth/blob/main/conda_auth/exceptions.py) for an example.

A note on licensing#

For more information on which license to use for your custom plugin, please reference the ["Choose an Open Source License"](https://choosealicense.com/) site. If you need help figuring out exactly which one to use, we advise communicating with a qualified legal professional.

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[__Edit on GitHub](https://github.com/conda/conda/edit/main/docs/source/dev-guide/plugins/index.rst)

[__Show Source](../../_sources/dev-guide/plugins/index.rst.txt)

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