

# Easily read config files

## 1. What is the point exactly

Usually, when writing programs we need to read parameter values from a config file. These configfiles can be in different formats:

- the often used .ini format
- can also be in XML format

This demo shows how to read parameters from an .ini file. It uses the Python Configuration File Parser, see here

[Python Configparser](#)

Using the **ConfigRead class** it is easy to write a small program that needs parameters from a config file.

The Ini file structure is described here - usually we do not need the Default section.

[Ini File docu](#)

## 2. How to do it

In the Python program we need to declare a Python dictionary containing all the parameter (as keys) and their default values (as values). Example:

```
configval={
    "url"           : "defaulturl",
    "username"      : "usernamedefault",
    "password"      : "passworddefault",
    "abc"           : "default",
    "timeout"       : 123,
    "xmlfile_prefix": "g1",
    "setup_mqtt"    : 8,
    "termination"   : "yes",
}
```

Our corresponding configfile named **demo\_config.ini** (section peter) looks like this:

```
[peter]
# Section for demo ConfigRead
url = www.sommer.ch
username = mike124
password = mypassword
abcd = thealphabet
xmlfile_prefix = h1
setup_mqtt = 1
notknown = mike
```

As we can see, the config file contains several other sections. The demo program only uses the entries from section peter.

The file may contain entries that are **not** declared in the Python dir in the program. These file entries are simply **skipped**. Also there might be entries in the dir but not in the file. Their value is untouched by the read operation.

See program **demo\_readconfig.py** for the implementation.

Note: I always include class definition files in a folder sub. Since the class ConfigRead inherits from the class MyPrint, both the files configread.py and myprint.py can be found in this folder..

Run this program with:

```
python3 testconfig.py  
or  
python3 testconfig.py -D
```

I tried it Sept. 30 on my Pi and it works like a charm.

Also checkout my webpages:

[Foto Galleries](#)

[Projects Page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

September 2020, Peter K. Boxler

