

27. FURTHER EXTENSIONS

Any code that you write using any compiled language like C, C++, or Java can be integrated or imported into another Python script. This code is considered as an "extension."

A Python extension module is nothing more than a normal C library. On Unix machines, these libraries usually end in **.so** (for shared object). On Windows machines, you typically see **.dll** (for dynamically linked library).

Pre-Requisites for Writing Extensions

To start writing your extension, you are going to need the Python header files.

- 136. On Unix machines, this usually requires installing a developer-specific package such as [python2.5-dev](#).**
- 137. Windows users get these headers as part of the package when they use the binary Python installer.**

Additionally, it is assumed that you have good knowledge of C or C++ to write any Python Extension using C programming.

First Look at a Python Extension

For your first look at a Python extension module, you need to group your code into four part:

- 138. The header file *Python.h*.**
- 139. The C functions you want to expose as the interface from your module.**
- 140. A table mapping the names of your functions as Python developers see them to C functions inside the extension module.**
- 141. An initialization function.**