COMP(2041|9044) 22T2 — Python Modules

https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/22T2/

Standard Modules

Python has *a lot* of standard library modules

There are 217 standard modules

Any of them can be used via the import statement.

We have already used:

```
sys
os
re
subprocess
# etc
```

Non-Standard Modules

As a rule of thumb, someone else has already solved every problem.

It's a good idea to look for existing code.

There are about 390,000 packages availbe on PyPI.

PyPI is the [Py]thon [P]ackage [I]ndex

PyPI is a website that allows you to search for and register your own packages.

Any packages listed on the index can be installed via pip.

Packages

A package is a collection of files.

These files contains the source code of, and installation instructions for, one (or more) modules.

The most common type of package for python modules is called a `wheel`.

A `wheel` is basically just a `.zip` file that contains files in a specially crafted format.

Most of the time you don't need to worry about `wheels` (or other package types)
as they are automatically downloaded and installed.

pip

`pip` is the standard package manager for Python.

`pip` stands for [P]ip [I]nstalls [P]ackages.

`pip` can install any module on PyPI.
Or other repositories that have been configured.

pip

To install a module, you can use the following command:

```
python3 -m pip install <module_name>
```

You can also install a module from a local directory or git:

```
python3 -m pip install <module>.whl
```

```
python3 -m pip install git+<module_url>
```

pip

`pip` also updates and uninstalls modules.

```
python3 -m pip install --upgrade <module_name>
```

```
python3 -m pip uninstall <module_name>
```

venv

By deafult, Python installs modules in the global (per user) Python environment.

This is usually very messy.

It is preferable to keep your modules within the project that is using them.

This can be done by creating a virtual environment.

venv

In python a virtual environment is a directory that contains a copy of the Python interpreter.

It can be using to isolate your project from the rest of the system.

To create a virtual environment, use the following command:

```
python3 -m venv <venv_name>
```

It's common to simply name your virtual environment `venv`.

venv

Once you have a virtual environment, you can activate it by running the following command:

```
. <venv_name>/bin/activate
```

OR on Windows:

```
<venv_name>/Scripts/activate
```

without activating a virtual environment you are still in the global environment.

Once activated, the `python`, `python3`, `pip`, etc
commands will be run from within the virtual environment.

versioning

Python packages should be versioned using PEP440.

The full syntax for a PEP440 version is:

```
[N!]N(.N)*[{a|b|rc}N][.postN][.devN]
```

versioning

most commonly only the `N(.N)*` part is used.

This defines a verion of format `X.Y.Z`

Eg:

```
1.0.0
2.0
3.9.2
4.2
7.4.67.3.32
```

This is called a `final release`

versioning

It is most common to use three numbers `major.minor.micro`

Where:
the `major` version is incremented when there is a forward incompatible change.
the `minor` version is incremented when there is a backward incompatible change.
the `micro` version is incremented when there is a non-breaking change (eg bug fix).

If any number isn't specified, it is assumed to be 0.
Eg, all the following are the same:

```
5.7
5.7.0
5.7.0.0
5.7.0.0.0
# etc
```

version specifiers

version specifiers determine which version of a module to use.
without a version specifier, any version (usually the latest) is used.

An exact version is specified by using the == operator.
A minimum version is specified by using the >= operator (or exclusively >).
A maximum version is specified by using the <= operator (or exclusively <).
A excluded version is specified by using the != operator.
A strict version is specified by using the === operator.
A compatible version is specified by using the ~= operator.

version specifiers == vs ===

== is used to specify an exact version.
=== is used to specify a strict version.

=== is esentialy a string comparison.
where as == takes into account semantic information.

```
1.0 ==  1.0.0 # True
1.0 === 1.0.0 # False
```

version specifiers ~=

~= is used to specify a compatible version.

a compatible version of `X.Y` is `>= X.Y, == X.*`

That is: the minor version is greater than or equal, and the major version is the same.

version specifiers

multiple version specifiers can be used to restrict the version of a package.

```
~= 3.1.0, < 3.1.7, != 3.1.3
```

```
3.1.0
3.1.1
3.1.2
3.1.4
3.1.5
3.1.6
```

requirements.txt

The `requirements.txt` file is a simple text file that contains a list of modules to install.

These can either not have a version specifier.
Ie. just a list of modules.

Or they can have a version specifiers.
Ie. when you want to replicate an environment.

requirements.txt

`pip` can install modules from a `requirements.txt` file directly.

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

`pip` can generate a `requirements.txt` file with version specifiers.

```
pip freeze > requirements.txt
```