32.11. `compileall` — Byte-compile Python libraries

Source code: Lib/compileall.py

This module provides some utility functions to support installing Python libraries. These functions compile Python source files in a directory tree. This module can be used to create the cached byte-code files at library installation time, which makes them available for use even by users who don't have write permission to the library directories.

32.11.1. Command-line use

This module can work as a script (using **python -m compileall**) to compile Python sources.

directory ...
file ...

Positional arguments are files to compile or directories that contain source files, traversed recursively. If no argument is given, behave as if the command line was `-l <directories from sys.path>`.

-l

Do not recurse into subdirectories, only compile source code files directly contained in the named or implied directories.

-f

Force rebuild even if timestamps are up-to-date.

-q

Do not print the list of files compiled. If passed once, error messages will still be printed. If passed twice (`-qq`), all output is suppressed.

-d `destdir`

Directory prepended to the path to each file being compiled. This will appear in compilation time tracebacks, and is also compiled in to the byte-code file, where it will be used in tracebacks and other messages in cases where the source file does not exist at the time the byte-code file is executed.

-x `regex`

regex is used to search the full path to each file considered for compilation, and if the regex produces a match, the file is skipped.

-i `list`
Read the file `list` and add each line that it contains to the list of files and directories to compile. If `list` is `-`, read lines from `stdin`.

-b
Write the byte-code files to their legacy locations and names, which may overwrite byte-code files created by another version of Python. The default is to write files to their **PEP 3147** locations and names, which allows byte-code files from multiple versions of Python to coexist.

-r
Control the maximum recursion level for subdirectories. If this is given, then `-l` option will not be taken into account. **python -m compileall <directory> -r 0** is equivalent to **python -m compileall <directory> -l**.

-j `N`
Use *N* workers to compile the files within the given directory. If `0` is used, then the result of `os.cpu_count()` will be used.

Changed in version 3.2: Added the `-i`, `-b` and `-h` options.

Changed in version 3.5: Added the `-j`, `-r`, and `-qq` options. `-q` option was changed to a multilevel value. `-b` will always produce a byte-code file ending in `.pyc`, never `.pyo`.

There is no command-line option to control the optimization level used by the `compile()` function, because the Python interpreter itself already provides the option: **python -O -m compileall**.

32.11.2. Public functions

`compileall.`**compile_dir**(*dir*, *maxlevels=10*, *ddir=None*, *force=False*, *rx=None*, *quiet=0*, *legacy=False*, *optimize=-1*, *workers=1*)
Recursively descend the directory tree named by *dir*, compiling all `.py` files along the way. Return a true value if all the files compiled successfully, and a false value otherwise.

The *maxlevels* parameter is used to limit the depth of the recursion; it defaults to `10`.

If *ddir* is given, it is prepended to the path to each file being compiled for use in compilation time tracebacks, and is also compiled in to the byte-code file, where it will be used in tracebacks and other messages in cases where the source file does not exist at the time the byte-code file is executed.

If *force* is true, modules are re-compiled even if the timestamps are up to date.

If *rx* is given, its search method is called on the complete path to each file considered for compilation, and if it returns a true value, the file is skipped.

If *quiet* is `False` or `0` (the default), the filenames and other information are printed to standard out. Set to `1`, only errors are printed. Set to `2`, all output is suppressed.

If *legacy* is true, byte-code files are written to their legacy locations and names, which may overwrite byte-code files created by another version of Python. The default is to write files to their **PEP 3147** locations and names, which allows byte-code files from multiple versions of Python to coexist.

optimize specifies the optimization level for the compiler. It is passed to the built-in `compile()` function.

The argument *workers* specifies how many workers are used to compile files in parallel. The default is to not use multiple workers. If the platform can't use multiple workers and *workers* argument is given, then sequential compilation will be used as a fallback. If *workers* is lower than `0`, a `ValueError` will be raised.

Changed in version 3.2: Added the *legacy* and *optimize* parameter.

Changed in version 3.5: Added the *workers* parameter.

Changed in version 3.5: quiet parameter was changed to a multilevel value.

Changed in version 3.5: The *legacy* parameter only writes out `.pyc` files, not `.pyo` files no matter what the value of *optimize* is.

Changed in version 3.6: Accepts a path-like object.

`compileall.`**`compile_file`**(*fullname*, *ddir=None*, *force=False*, *rx=None*, *quiet=0*, *legacy=False*, *optimize=-1*)

Compile the file with path *fullname*. Return a true value if the file compiled successfully, and a false value otherwise.

If *ddir* is given, it is prepended to the path to the file being compiled for use in compilation time tracebacks, and is also compiled in to the byte-code file, where

it will be used in tracebacks and other messages in cases where the source file does not exist at the time the byte-code file is executed.

If *rx* is given, its search method is passed the full path name to the file being compiled, and if it returns a true value, the file is not compiled and `True` is returned.

If *quiet* is `False` or `0` (the default), the filenames and other information are printed to standard out. Set to `1`, only errors are printed. Set to `2`, all output is suppressed.

If *legacy* is true, byte-code files are written to their legacy locations and names, which may overwrite byte-code files created by another version of Python. The default is to write files to their **PEP 3147** locations and names, which allows byte-code files from multiple versions of Python to coexist.

optimize specifies the optimization level for the compiler. It is passed to the built-in `compile()` function.

New in version 3.2.

Changed in version 3.5: quiet parameter was changed to a multilevel value.

Changed in version 3.5: The *legacy* parameter only writes out `.pyc` files, not `.pyo` files no matter what the value of *optimize* is.

`compileall.`**compile_path**(*skip_curdir=True*, *maxlevels=0*, *force=False*, *quiet=0*, *legacy=False*, *optimize=-1*)

Byte-compile all the `.py` files found along `sys.path`. Return a true value if all the files compiled successfully, and a false value otherwise.

If *skip_curdir* is true (the default), the current directory is not included in the search. All other parameters are passed to the `compile_dir()` function. Note that unlike the other compile functions, `maxlevels` defaults to `0`.

Changed in version 3.2: Added the *legacy* and *optimize* parameter.

Changed in version 3.5: quiet parameter was changed to a multilevel value.

Changed in version 3.5: The *legacy* parameter only writes out `.pyc` files, not `.pyo` files no matter what the value of *optimize* is.

To force a recompile of all the `.py` files in the `Lib/` subdirectory and all its subdirectories:

```
import compileall
```

```
compileall.compile_dir('Lib/', force=True)

# Perform same compilation, excluding files in .svn directories.
import re
compileall.compile_dir('Lib/', rx=re.compile(r'[/\\][.]svn'), force=Tr

# pathlib.Path objects can also be used.
import pathlib
compileall.compile_dir(pathlib.Path('Lib/'), force=True)
```

See also:

Module `py_compile`

Byte-compile a single source file.