

## 19.9. `quopri` — Encode and decode MIME quoted-printable data

Source code: [Lib/quopri.py](#)

This module performs quoted-printable transport encoding and decoding, as defined in [RFC 1521](#): “MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) Part One: Mechanisms for Specifying and Describing the Format of Internet Message Bodies”. The quoted-printable encoding is designed for data where there are relatively few nonprintable characters; the base64 encoding scheme available via the [base64](#) module is more compact if there are many such characters, as when sending a graphics file.

`quopri.decode(input, output, header=False)`

Decode the contents of the *input* file and write the resulting decoded binary data to the *output* file. *input* and *output* must be [binary file objects](#). If the optional argument *header* is present and true, underscore will be decoded as space. This is used to decode “Q”-encoded headers as described in [RFC 1522](#): “MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) Part Two: Message Header Extensions for Non-ASCII Text”.

`quopri.encode(input, output, quotetabs, header=False)`

Encode the contents of the *input* file and write the resulting quoted-printable data to the *output* file. *input* and *output* must be [binary file objects](#). *quotetabs*, a non-optional flag which controls whether to encode embedded spaces and tabs; when true it encodes such embedded whitespace, and when false it leaves them unencoded. Note that spaces and tabs appearing at the end of lines are always encoded, as per [RFC 1521](#). *header* is a flag which controls if spaces are encoded as underscores as per [RFC 1522](#).

`quopri.decodestring(s, header=False)`

Like `decode()`, except that it accepts a source [bytes](#) and returns the corresponding decoded [bytes](#).

`quopri.encodestring(s, quotetabs=False, header=False)`

Like `encode()`, except that it accepts a source [bytes](#) and returns the corresponding encoded [bytes](#). By default, it sends a `False` value to *quotetabs* parameter of the `encode()` function.

**See also:**

**Module** [base64](#)

Encode and decode MIME base64 data