18.5. asyncio — Asynchronous I/O, event loop, coroutines and tasks

New in version 3.4.

Source code: Lib/asyncio/

This module provides infrastructure for writing single-threaded concurrent code using coroutines, multiplexing I/O access over sockets and other resources, running network clients and servers, and other related primitives. Here is a more detailed list of the package contents:

- a pluggable event loop with various system-specific implementations;
- transport and protocol abstractions (similar to those in Twisted);
- concrete support for TCP, UDP, SSL, subprocess pipes, delayed calls, and others (some may be system-dependent);
- a Future class that mimics the one in the concurrent.futures module, but adapted for use with the event loop;
- coroutines and tasks based on yield from (PEP 380), to help write concurrent code in a sequential fashion;
- cancellation support for Futures and coroutines;
- synchronization primitives for use between coroutines in a single thread, mimicking those in the threading module;
- an interface for passing work off to a threadpool, for times when you absolutely, positively have to use a library that makes blocking I/O calls.

Asynchronous programming is more complex than classical "sequential" programming: see the Develop with asyncio page which lists common traps and explains how to avoid them. Enable the debug mode during development to detect common issues.

Table of contents:

- 18.5.1. Base Event Loop
 - 18.5.1.1. Run an event loop
 - 18.5.1.2. Calls
 - 18.5.1.3. Delayed calls
 - 18.5.1.4. Futures
 - 18.5.1.5. Tasks
 - 18.5.1.6. Creating connections
 - 18.5.1.7. Creating listening connections
 - 18.5.1.8. Watch file descriptors
 - 18.5.1.9. Low-level socket operations

- 18.5.1.10. Resolve host name
- 18.5.1.11. Connect pipes
- 18.5.1.12. UNIX signals
- 18.5.1.13. Executor
- 18.5.1.14. Error Handling API
- 18.5.1.15. Debug mode
- 18.5.1.16. Server
- 18.5.1.17. Handle
- 18.5.1.18. Event loop examples
 - 18.5.1.18.1. Hello World with call soon()
 - 18.5.1.18.2. Display the current date with call later()
 - 18.5.1.18.3. Watch a file descriptor for read events
 - 18.5.1.18.4. Set signal handlers for SIGINT and SIGTERM
- 18.5.2. Event loops
 - 18.5.2.1. Event loop functions
 - 18.5.2.2. Available event loops
 - 18.5.2.3. Platform support
 - 18.5.2.3.1. Windows
 - 18.5.2.3.2. Mac OS X
 - 18.5.2.4. Event loop policies and the default policy
 - 18.5.2.5. Event loop policy interface
 - 18.5.2.6. Access to the global loop policy
 - 18.5.2.7. Customizing the event loop policy
- 18.5.3. Tasks and coroutines
 - 18.5.3.1. Coroutines
 - 18.5.3.1.1. Example: Hello World coroutine
 - 18.5.3.1.2. Example: Coroutine displaying the current date
 - 18.5.3.1.3. Example: Chain coroutines
 - 18.5.3.2. InvalidStateError
 - 18.5.3.3. TimeoutError
 - 18.5.3.4. Future
 - 18.5.3.4.1. Example: Future with run until complete()
 - 18.5.3.4.2. Example: Future with run_forever()
 - 18.5.3.5. Task
 - 18.5.3.5.1. Example: Parallel execution of tasks
 - 18.5.3.6. Task functions
- 18.5.4. Transports and protocols (callback based API)
 - 18.5.4.1. Transports
 - 18.5.4.1.1. BaseTransport
 - 18.5.4.1.2. ReadTransport
 - 18.5.4.1.3. WriteTransport
 - 18.5.4.1.4. DatagramTransport
 - 18.5.4.1.5. BaseSubprocessTransport
 - 18.5.4.2. Protocols
 - 18.5.4.2.1. Protocol classes

- 18.5.4.2.2. Connection callbacks
- 18.5.4.2.3. Streaming protocols
- 18.5.4.2.4. Datagram protocols
- 18.5.4.2.5. Flow control callbacks
- 18.5.4.2.6. Coroutines and protocols
- 18.5.4.3. Protocol examples
 - 18.5.4.3.1. TCP echo client protocol
 - 18.5.4.3.2. TCP echo server protocol
 - 18.5.4.3.3. UDP echo client protocol
 - 18.5.4.3.4. UDP echo server protocol
 - 18.5.4.3.5. Register an open socket to wait for data using a protocol
- 18.5.5. Streams (coroutine based API)
 - 18.5.5.1. Stream functions
 - 18.5.5.2. StreamReader
 - 18.5.5.3. StreamWriter
 - 18.5.5.4. StreamReaderProtocol
 - 18.5.5.5. IncompleteReadError
 - 18.5.5.6. LimitOverrunError
 - 18.5.5.7. Stream examples
 - 18.5.5.7.1. TCP echo client using streams
 - 18.5.5.7.2. TCP echo server using streams
 - 18.5.5.7.3. Get HTTP headers
 - 18.5.5.7.4. Register an open socket to wait for data using streams
- 18.5.6. Subprocess
 - 18.5.6.1. Windows event loop
 - 18.5.6.2. Create a subprocess: high-level API using Process
 - 18.5.6.3. Create a subprocess: low-level API using subprocess.Popen
 - 18.5.6.4. Constants
 - 18.5.6.5. Process
 - 18.5.6.6. Subprocess and threads
 - 18.5.6.7. Subprocess examples
 - 18.5.6.7.1. Subprocess using transport and protocol
 - 18.5.6.7.2. Subprocess using streams
- 18.5.7. Synchronization primitives
 - 18.5.7.1. Locks
 - 18.5.7.1.1. Lock
 - 18.5.7.1.2. Event
 - 18.5.7.1.3. Condition
 - 18.5.7.2. Semaphores
 - 18.5.7.2.1. Semaphore
 - 18.5.7.2.2. BoundedSemaphore
- 18.5.8. Queues
 - 18.5.8.1. Queue
 - 18.5.8.2. PriorityQueue

- 18.5.8.3. LifoQueue
 - 18.5.8.3.1. Exceptions
- 18.5.9. Develop with asyncio
 - 18.5.9.1. Debug mode of asyncio
 - 18.5.9.2. Cancellation
 - 18.5.9.3. Concurrency and multithreading
 - 18.5.9.4. Handle blocking functions correctly
 - 18.5.9.5. Logging
 - 18.5.9.6. Detect coroutine objects never scheduled
 - 18.5.9.7. Detect exceptions never consumed
 - 18.5.9.8. Chain coroutines correctly
 - 18.5.9.9. Pending task destroyed
 - 18.5.9.10. Close transports and event loops

See also: The asyncio module was designed in **PEP 3156**. For a motivational primer on transports and protocols, see **PEP 3153**.