

import_from_github_com

There's a neat package called **import_from_github_com** that can be used to find and load modules from github. To install it, all you need to do is use **pip** like this:

```
pip install import_from_github_com
```



The package uses the new import hooks provided in PEP 302 to basically allow you to import a package from github. What the package actually appears to do is install the package and add it to **locals**. Regardless, you will need Python 3.2 or greater, **git** and **pip** to use this package.

Once those are installed, you can try doing this in your Python shell:

```
from github_com.zzzeek import sqlalchemy
#Collecting git+https://github.com/zzzeek/sqlalchemy
# Cloning https://github.com/zzzeek/sqlalchemy to /tmp/pip-acfv7t06-build
#Installing collected packages: SQLAlchemy
# Running setup.py install for SQLAlchemy ... done
#Successfully installed SQLAlchemy-1.1.0b1.dev0

print(locals())
#{'sqlalchemy': <module 'sqlalchemy' from '/usr/local/lib/python3.5/dist-packages/sqlalchemy/
# '__file__': '/usercode/_ed_file.py', '__package__': None, '__cached__': None, '__doc__': Nc
# '__spec__': None, '__loader__': <_frozen_importlib_external.SourceFileLoader object at 0x7fc
# '__name__': '__main__', '__builtins__': <module 'builtins' (built-in)>}
```



If you take a look at the source code for **import_from_github_com**, you will notice that it isn't using **importlib**. Instead it uses **pip** to install the package if it's not installed and then it uses Python's **__import__()** function to actually import the newly installed module. It's a really clever piece of code that is well worth studying.

Wrapping Up

At this point, you should have an idea of how you might use `importlib` and import hooks in your own code. There is a lot more to this module than what is covered in this chapter, so if you have a need to write a custom importer or loader then you'll want to spend some time reading the documentation and the source code.