Creating a Graphical Installer

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING

- Building Installable Packages for Other Operating Systems

In my opinion, every Python library deserves a graphical installer for Windows users. It's easy to make (even if you don't run Windows yourself), and Windows users appreciate it.

Distutils can create a graphical Windows installer for you, by passing the `bdist_wininst` command to your Distutils setup script.

```
c:\Users\pilgrim\chardet> c:\python31\python.exe setup.py bdist_wininst
running bdist_wininst
running build
running build_py
creating build
creating build\lib
creating build\lib\chardet
copying chardet\big5freq.py -> build\lib\chardet
copying chardet\big5prober.py -> build\lib\chardet
...
copying chardet\universaldetector.py -> build\lib\chardet
copying chardet\utf8prober.py -> build\lib\chardet
copying chardet\__init__.py -> build\lib\chardet
installing to build\bdist.win32\wininst
running install_lib
creating build\bdist.win32
creating build\bdist.win32\wininst
creating build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB
creating build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
copying build\lib\chardet\big5freq.py -> build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
copying build\lib\chardet\big5prober.py -> build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
...
copying build\lib\chardet\universaldetector.py -> build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
copying build\lib\chardet\utf8prober.py -> build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
copying build\lib\chardet\__init__.py -> build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet
running install_egg_info
Writing build\bdist.win32\wininst\PURELIB\chardet-1.0.2-py3.1.egg-info
creating 'c:\users\pilgrim\appdata\local\temp\tmp2f4h7e.zip' and adding '.' to it
adding 'PURELIB\chardet-1.0.2-py3.1.egg-info'
adding 'PURELIB\chardet\big5freq.py'
adding 'PURELIB\chardet\big5prober.py'
```

```
...
adding 'PURELIB\chardet\universaldetector.py'
adding 'PURELIB\chardet\utf8prober.py'
adding 'PURELIB\chardet\__init__.py'
removing 'build\bdist.win32\wininst' (and everything under it)
c:\Users\pilgrim\chardet> dir dist
c:\Users\pilgrim\chardet>dir dist
 Volume in drive C has no label.
 Volume Serial Number is AADE-E29F

 Directory of c:\Users\pilgrim\chardet\dist

07/30/2009  10:14 PM    <DIR>          .
07/30/2009  10:14 PM    <DIR>          ..
07/30/2009  10:14 PM           371,236 chardet-1.0.2.win32.exe
07/30/2009  06:29 PM           206,440 chardet-1.0.2.zip
               2 File(s)        577,676 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  61,424,070,656 bytes free
```

Building Installable Packages for Other Operating Systems

Distutils can help you build installable packages for Linux users. In my opinion, this probably isn't worth your time. If you want your software distributed for Linux, your time would be better spent working with community members who specialize in packaging software for major Linux distributions.

For example, my `chardet` library is in the Debian GNU/Linux repositories (and therefore in the Ubuntu repositories as well). I had nothing to do with this; the packages just showed up there one day. The Debian community has their own policies for packaging Python libraries, and the Debian `python-chardet` package is designed to follow these conventions. And since the package lives in Debian's repositories, Debian users will receive security updates and/or new versions, depending on the system-wide settings they've chosen to manage their own computers.

The Linux packages that Distutils builds offer none of these advantages. Your time is better spent elsewhere.