

importlib package

Python provides the **importlib** package as part of its standard library of modules. Its purpose is to provide the implementation to Python's **import** statement (and the **__import__()** function). In addition, importlib gives the programmer the ability to create their own custom objects (AKA an **importer**) that can be used in the import process.

What about imp?

There is another module called **imp** that provides an interface to the mechanisms behind Python's **import** statement. This module was deprecated in Python 3.4. It is intended that **importlib** should be used in its place.

This module is pretty complicated, so we'll be limiting the scope of this chapter to the following topics:

- Dynamic imports
- Checking if a module can be imported
- Importing from the source file itself
- A clever 3rd party module called `import_from_github_com`

Let's get started by looking at dynamic imports!