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32.10. `py_compile` — Compile Python source files¶

The `py_compile` module provides a function to generate a byte-code file from a source file, and another function used when the module source file is invoked as a script.

Though not often needed, this function can be useful when installing modules for shared use, especially if some of the users may not have permission to write the byte-code cache files in the directory containing the source code.

exception `py_compile.PyCompileError`¶

Exception raised when an error occurs while attempting to compile the file.

`py_compile.compile(file[, cfile[, dfile[, doraise]])`¶

Compile a source file to byte-code and write out the byte-code cache file. The source code is loaded from the file name *file*. The byte-code is written to *cfile*, which defaults to *file* + '.c' ('.o' if optimization is enabled in the current interpreter). If *dfile* is specified, it is used as the name of the source file in error messages instead of *file*. If *doraise* is true, a `PyCompileError` is raised when an error is encountered while compiling *file*. If *doraise* is false (the default), an error string is written to `sys.stderr`, but no exception is raised.

`py_compile.main([args])`¶

Compile several source files. The files named in *args* (or on the command line, if *args* is not specified) are compiled and the resulting bytecode is cached in the normal manner. This function does not search a directory structure to locate source files; it only compiles files named explicitly.

When this module is run as a script, the `main()` is used to compile all the files named on the command line. The exit status is nonzero if one of the files could not be compiled.

Changed in version 2.6: Added the nonzero exit status when module is run as a script.

See also

Module [compileall](#)

Utilities to compile all Python source files in a directory tree.

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