

Navigation

- [index](#)
- [modules](#) |
- [next](#) |
- [previous](#) |
- [Python v2.6.4 documentation](#) »
- [The Python Standard Library](#) »
- [28. Python Runtime Services](#) »

28.13. `site` — Site-specific configuration hook¶

This module is automatically imported during initialization. The automatic import can be suppressed using the interpreter's `-S` option.

Importing this module will append site-specific paths to the module search path.

It starts by constructing up to four directories from a head and a tail part. For the head part, it uses `sys.prefix` and `sys.exec_prefix`; empty heads are skipped. For the tail part, it uses the empty string and then `lib/site-packages` (on Windows) or `lib/python|version|/site-packages` and then `lib/site-python` (on Unix and Macintosh). For each of the distinct head-tail combinations, it sees if it refers to an existing directory, and if so, adds it to `sys.path` and also inspects the newly added path for configuration files.

A path configuration file is a file whose name has the form `package.pth` and exists in one of the four directories mentioned above; its contents are additional items (one per line) to be added to `sys.path`. Non-existing items are never added to `sys.path`, but no check is made that the item refers to a directory (rather than a file). No item is added to `sys.path` more than once. Blank lines and lines beginning with `#` are skipped. Lines starting with `import` (followed by space or tab) are executed.

Changed in version 2.6: A space or tab is now required after the import keyword.

For example, suppose `sys.prefix` and `sys.exec_prefix` are set to `/usr/local`. The Python X.Y library is then installed in `/usr/local/lib/pythonX.Y` (where only the first three characters of `sys.version` are used to form the installation path name). Suppose this has a subdirectory `/usr/local/lib/pythonX.Y/site-packages` with three subdirectories, `foo`, `bar` and `spam`, and two path configuration files, `foo.pth` and `bar.pth`. Assume `foo.pth` contains the following:

```
# foo package configuration

foo
bar
bletch
```

and `bar.pth` contains:

```
# bar package configuration

bar
```

Then the following version-specific directories are added to `sys.path`, in this order:

```
/usr/local/lib/pythonX.Y/site-packages/bar
/usr/local/lib/pythonX.Y/site-packages/foo
```

Note that `bletch` is omitted because it doesn't exist; the `bar` directory precedes the `foo` directory because `bar.pth` comes alphabetically before `foo.pth`; and `spam` is omitted because it is not mentioned in either path configuration file.

After these path manipulations, an attempt is made to import a module named `sitecustomize`, which can perform arbitrary site-specific customizations. If this import fails with an [ImportError](#) exception, it is silently ignored.

Note that for some non-Unix systems, `sys.prefix` and `sys.exec_prefix` are empty, and the path manipulations are skipped; however the import of `sitecustomize` is still attempted.

`site.PREFIXES`¶

A list of prefixes for site package directories

New in version 2.6.

`site.ENABLE_USER_SITE`¶

Flag showing the status of the user site directory. True means the user site directory is enabled and added to `sys.path`. When the flag is None the user site directory is disabled for security reasons.

New in version 2.6.

`site.USER_SITE`[¶](#)

Path to the user site directory for the current Python version or None

New in version 2.6.

`site.USER_BASE`[¶](#)

Path to the base directory for user site directories

New in version 2.6.

`PYTHONNOUSERSITE`[¶](#)

New in version 2.6.

`PYTHONUSERBASE`[¶](#)

New in version 2.6.

`site.addsitedir(sitedir, known_paths=None)`[¶](#)

Adds a directory to `sys.path` and processes its pth files.

Previous topic

[28.12. inspect — Inspect live objects](#)

Next topic

[28.14. user — User-specific configuration hook](#)

This Page

- [Show Source](#)

Navigation

- [index](#)
- [modules](#) |
- [next](#) |
- [previous](#) |
- [Python v2.6.4 documentation](#) »
- [The Python Standard Library](#) »
- [28. Python Runtime Services](#) »

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