# feed2exec Documentation

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## Python Module Index

feed2exec is a simple program that runs custom actions on new RSS feed items (or whatever feedparser can read). It currently has support for writing into mailboxes (Maildir folders) or executing commands, but more actions can be easily implemented through plugins. Email are saved as multipart plain/HTML and can be sent to arbitrary folders.

# CHAPTER 1

## Examples

#### Simple run with no side effects:

#### Saving feed items to a Maildir folder:

```
feed2exec add "NASA breaking news" https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss --
→folder nasa
feed2exec fetch
```

This creates the equivalent of this configuration file in ~/.config/feed2exec/feed2exec.ini:

```
[DEFAULT]
output = feed2exec.plugins.maildir
mailbox = '~/Maildir'
[NASA breaking news]
folder = nasa
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
```

Send new feed items to Transmission:

#### Send new feed items to Mastodon, using the toot commandline client:

Send new feed items to Twitter, using the tweet commandline client from python-twitter:

Show feed contents:

```
feed2exec add "NASA breaking news" https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss --
→output feed2exec.plugins.echo --args "{item.title} {item.link}"
feed2exec fetch
```

Multiple feeds can also be added with the OPML import command. See the *feed2exec manual page* document for more information including known issues and limitations.

# CHAPTER 2

# Installation

This can be installed using the normal Python procedures:

pip install feed2exec

It can also be installed from source, using:

pip install .

It can also be ran straight from the source, using:

python -m feed2exec

**Important:** feed2exec is explicitly written for Python 3. It may be possible to backport it to Python 2 if there is sufficient demand, but there are too many convenient Python3 constructs to make this useful. Furthermore, all dependencies are well-packaged for Py3 and the platform is widely available. Upgrade already.

The program may also be available as an official package from your Linux distribution.

Source, documentation and issues are available on GitLab.

# CHAPTER $\mathbf{3}$

# Why the name?

There are already feed2tweet and feed2imap out there so I figured I would just reuse the prefix and extend *both* programs at once.

Contents:

# 3.1 feed2exec manual page

## 3.1.1 Synopsis

feed2exec {add,ls,rm,fetch,import,export}

## 3.1.2 Description

This command will take a configured set of feeds and fire specific plugin for every new item found in the feed.

## 3.1.3 Options

version	Show the version and exit.
loglevel	choose specific log level [default: WARNING]
-v,verbose	show what is happening (loglevel: VERBOSE)
-d,debug	show debugging information (loglevel: DEBUG)
syslog LEVEL	send LEVEL logs to syslog
config TEXT	configuration directory
-h,help	Show this message and exit.

## 3.1.4 Examples

Simple run with no side effects:

Saving feed items to a Maildir folder:

```
feed2exec add "NASA breaking news" https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss --
→folder nasa
feed2exec fetch
```

This creates the equivalent of this configuration file in ~/.config/feed2exec/feed2exec.ini:

```
[DEFAULT]
output = feed2exec.plugins.maildir
mailbox = '~/Maildir'
[NASA breaking news]
folder = nasa
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
```

Send new feed items to Transmission:

Send new feed items to Mastodon, using the toot commandline client:

Send new feed items to Twitter, using the tweet commandline client from python-twitter:

Show feed contents:

## 3.1.5 Commands

• parse:

```
parse URL
  [--output PLUGIN [--args ARG [ARG [...]]]
  [--filter PLUGIN] [--filter_args ARG [ARG [...]]]
  [--mailbox PATH] [--folder PATH]
```

The parse command loads and parses a single feed, without touching the database. This is similar to calling *add* then *fetch* on a single feed, but the feed is not kept in the configuration. This is designed to make quick tests with a new feed. The arguments are the same as the *add* command.

```
• fetch:
```

fetch [--parallel | -p | --jobs N | -j N] [--force | -f] [pattern]

The fetch command iterates through all the configured feeds or those matching the pattern substring if provided.

force	skip reading and writing the cache and will consider all entries as new
catchup	do not run output plugins, equivalent of setting the output plugin to feed2exec.plugins.null
parallel	run parsing in the background to improve performance
jobs N	run N tasks in parallel maximum. impliesparallel which defaults to the number of CPUs detected on the machine

• add:

```
add NAME URL
[--output PLUGIN [--args ARG [ARG [...]]]
[--filter PLUGIN] [--filter_args ARG [ARG [...]]]
[--mailbox PATH] [--folder PATH]
```

The add command adds the given feed NAME that will be fetched from the provided URL.

output PLUGIN	use PLUGIN as an output module. defaults to feed2exec. plugins.maildir to store in a mailbox. use feed2exec. plugins.null to just fetch the feed without fetching anything.
args ARGS	pass arguments ARGS to the output module. supports interpolation of feed parameters using, for example $\{title\}$
filter PLUGIN	filter feed items through the PLUGIN filter plugin
filter_args A	arguments passed to the filter plugin
mailbox PATH	folder to store email into, defaults to ~/Maildir.
folder PATH	subfolder to store the email into

Those parameters are documented more extensively in their equivalent settings in the configuration file, see below.

• ls:

The 1s command lists all configured feeds as JSON packets.

```
• rm:
```

rm NAME

Remove the feed named NAME from the configuration.

• import:

import PATH

Import feeds from the file named PATH. The file is expected to have outline elements and only the title and xmlUrl elements are imported, as NAME and URL parameters, respectively.

• export:

export PATH

Export feeds into the file named PATH. The file will use the feed NAME elements as title and the URL as xmlUrl.

## 3.1.6 Files

## **Configuration file**

Any files used by feed2exec is stored in the config directory, in ~/.config/feed2exec/ or \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/feed2exec. It can also be specified with the --config commandline parameter. The main configuration file is in called feed2exec.ini. The above commandline will yield the following configuration:

```
[NASA breaking news]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.echo
args = {title} {link}
```

Naturally, those settings can be changed directly in the config file. Note that there is a [DEFAULT] section that can be used to apply settings to all feeds. For example, this will make all feeds store new items in a maildir subfolder:

```
[DEFAULT]
output = feed2exec.plugins.maildir
folder = feeds
```

This way individual feeds do not need to be individually configured.

Note: feed2exec does not take care of adding the folder to "subscriptions" in the mailbox. it is assumed that folders are auto-susbcribed or the user ignores subscription. if that is a problem, you should subscribe to the folder by hand in your email client when you add a new config. you can also subscribe to a folder (say feeds above) directly using the doveadm mailbox subscribe feeds command in Dovecot, for example.

The following configuration parameters are supported:

name Human readable name for the feed. Equivalent to the NAME argument in the add command.

- **url** Address to fetch the feed from. Can be HTTP or HTTPS, but also file:// resources for test purposes.
- output Output plugin to use. Equivalent to the --output option in the add command.

args Arguments to pass to the output plugin. Equivalent to the --args option in the add command.

filter Filter plugin to use. Equivalent to the --filter option in the add command.

mailbox Store emails in that mailbox prefix. Defaults to ~/Maildir.

- folder Subfolder to use when writing to a mailbox. By default, a *slugified* version of the feed name (where spaces and special character are replaced by –) is used. For example, the feed named "NASA breaking news" would be stored in ~/Maildir/nasa-breaking-news/.
- **catchup** Skip to the latest feed items. The feed is still read and parsed, and new feed items are added to the database, but output plugins are never called.

**pause** Completely skip feed during fetch or parse. Similar to catchup, but doesn't fetch the feed at all and doesn't touch the cache.

Here is a more complete example configuration with all the settings used:

```
# this section will apply to all feeds
[DEFAULT]
# special folder location for maildir. I use this when I have multiple
# accounts synchronized with Offlineimap
mailbox = ~/Maildir/Remote/
# a feed to store NASA breaking news entry in a "nasa" subfolder
# this also demonstrates the droptitle filter
[NASA breaking news]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
folder = nasa
filter = feed2exec.plugins.droptitle
filter_args = trump
# some maildir storage require dots to get subfolders. for example,
# this will store messages in INBOX/feeds/images/ on Dovecot
[NASA image of the day]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/lg_image_of_the_day.rss
folder = .feeds.images
# same feed, but save to wayback machine
[NASA IOTD wayback]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/lg_image_of_the_day.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.wayback
# this demonstrates the emptysummary filter, which fixes GitHub feeds
# that lack a proper summary
[restic]
url = https://github.com/restic/restic/tags.atom
filter = feed2exec.plugins.emptysummary
# saving to a mbox folder, one file per feed instead of one file per item
[International Space Station Reports]
url = http://blogs.nasa.gov/stationreport/feed/
mailbox = ~/Mail/
folder = stationreport.mbx
# simple generic exec call example: check for broken links using linkchecker
[NASA linkchecker]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = linkchecker --check-extern --no-robots --recursion-level 1 --quiet '{item.link}
\hookrightarrow '
# same, but with a Ikiwiki RSS feed, which needs fixing
[Ikiwiki linkchecker]
url = http://ikiwiki.info/recentchanges/index.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
filter = feed2exec.plugins.ikiwiki_recentchanges
args = linkchecker --check-extern --no-robots --recursion-level 1 --quiet '{item.link}
\rightarrow '
# retweet hurricane news
[NASA Hurricane breaking news]
```

```
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/hurricaneupdate.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = tweet "{item.title:.40s} {item.link:.100s}"
# same, but on the mastodon network
#
# we can have multiple entries with the same URL without problems, as
# long as the feed name is different. it does mean that the feed will
# be fetched and parsed multiple times, unfortunately.
# this could be improved to include the '{item.summary}' and extra markup,
# for example.
[NASA Hurricane breaking news - Mastodon]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/hurricaneupdate.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = toot "{item.title} {item.link}"
# output is disabled here. feed will be fetched and parsed, but no
# toot will be sent
catchup = True
# same, but on the Pump.io network
[NASA Hurricane breaking news - Pump]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/hurricaneupdate.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = p post note "{item.title} {item.link}"
# crude podcast client
[NASA Whats up?]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/whats_up.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
# XXX: this doesn't handle errors properly: if there is a feed without
# enclosures, the whole thing will crash.
args = wget -P /srv/podcasts/nasa/ "{item.enclosures[0].href}"
# feed is paused here. feed will not be fetched and parsed at all and
# no post will be sent.
pause = True
# download torrents linked from a RSS feed
[torrents]
url = http://example.com/torrents.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = transmission-remote -a '{item.link}' -w '/srv/incoming'
# same thing with an actual plugin
[torrents]
url = http://example.com/torrents.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.transmission
args = seedbox.example.com
folder = /srv/incoming
```

## **Cache database**

The feeds cache is stored in a feed2exec.sqlite file. It is a normal SQLite database and can be inspected using the normal sqlite tools. It is used to keep track of which feed items have been processed. To clear the cache, you can simply remove the file, which will make the program process all feeds items from scratch again. In this case, you may want to use the null output plugin to avoid doing any sort of processing to catchup with the feeds.

## 3.1.7 Limitations

Feed support is only as good as feedparser library which isn't as solid as I expected. In particular, I had issues with feeds without dates and without guid.

Unit test coverage is incomplete, but still pretty decent, above 90%.

The exec plugin itself is not well tested and may have serious security issues.

API, commandline interface, configuration file syntax and database format can be changed until the 1.0 release is published, at which point normal Semantic Versioning semantics apply.

The program is written mainly targeting Python 3.5 and should work in 3.6. Python 2.7 is not supported anymore.

The SQL storage layer is badly written and is known to trigger locking issues with SQLite when doing multiprocessing. The global LOCK object could be used to work around this issue but that could mean pretty bad coupling. A good inspiration may be the beets story about this problem. And of course, another alternative would be to considering something like SQLalchemy instead of rolling our own ORM.

Older feed items are not purged from the database when they disappear from the feed, which may lead to database bloat in the long term.

## 3.1.8 See also

```
feed2exec-plugins(1), feed2imap(1), rss2email(1)
```

# 3.2 Design

This is a quick prototype that turned out to be quite usable. The design is minimal: some home-made ORM for the feed storage, crude parallelism with the multiprocessing module and a simple plugin API using importlib.

More information about known issues and limitations in the *feed2exec manual page* document.

## 3.2.1 Plugin system

Plugins are documented in the *Plugins* section. You can also refer to the *Writing new plugins* section if you wish to write a new plugin or extend an existing one.

The plugin system uses a simple importlib based architecture where plugin are simple Python modules loaded at runtime based on a module path provided by the user. This pattern was inspired by a StackOverflow discussion.

The following options were also considered:

- pluggy: used by py.test, tox and devpi
- yapsy
- PluginBase
- plugnplay
- · click-plugins: relevant only to add new commands
- 'PyPA plugin discovery'\_

Those options were ultimately not used because they add an aditionnal dependency and are more complicated than a simple import. We also did not need plugin listing or discovery, which greatly simplifies our design.

There is some code duplication between different parts (e.g. the *feed2exec.plugins.output()* and *feed2exec.plugins.filter()* plugin interfaces, the maildir and mbox plugins, etc), but never more than twice.

## 3.2.2 Concurrent processing

The threading design may be a little clunky and is certainly less tested, which is why it is disabled by default (use --parallel to use it). There are known deadlocks issues with high concurrency scenarios (e.g. with catchup enabled).

I had multiple design in minds: the current one (multiprocessing.Pool and pool.apply\_async) vs aiohttp (on the asyncio branch) vs pool.map (on the threadpoolmap branch). The aiohttp design was very hard to diagnose and debug, which made me abandon the whole thing. After reading up on Curio and Trio, I'm tempted to give async/await a try again, but that would mean completely dropping 2.7 compatibility. The pool.map design is just badly adapted, as it would load all the feed's datastructure in memory before processing them.

## 3.2.3 Test suite

The test suite is in feed2exec/tests but also as doctest comments in some functions imported from the ecdysis project. You can run all the tests with pytest, using, for example:

pytest-3

This is also hooked into the setup.py command, so this also works:

python3 setup.py test

Note that some tests will fail in Python 2, as the code is written and tested in Python3. Furthermore, the feed output is taken from an up to date (5.2.1) feedparser version, so the tests are marked as expected to fail for lower versions. You should, naturally, run tests before submitting patches.

The test suite also uses the betamax module to cache HTTP requests locally so the test suite can run offline. If a new test requires networking, you can simply add a new test doing requests with the right fixture (feed2exec. tests.fixtures.betamax()), and a new recording will be added to the source tree. Note that you can also use the normal betamax\_session() fixture provided upstream if you are going to do standalone HTTP request (not going through the feed2exec libraries). If a new test is added in an *existing* test, you may need to configure recording (in feed2exec/tests/conftest.py) to new\_episodes:

config.default\_cassette\_options['record\_mode'] = 'none'

We commit the recordings in git so the test suite actually runs offline, so be careful about the content added there. Ideally, the license of that content should be documented in debian/copyright.

**'vcr'**\_ was first used for tests since it was simpler and didn't require using a global requests.session.Session object. But in the end betamax seems better maintained and more flexible: it supports pytest fixtures, for example, and multiple cassette storage (including vcr backwards compatibility). Configuration is also easier, done in feed2exec/tests/conftest.py. Using a session also allows us to use a custom user agent.

## 3.2.4 Comparison

feed2exec is a fairly new and minimal program, so features you may expect from another feed reader may not be present. I chose to write a new program because, when I started, both existing alternatives were in a questionable state: feed2imap was mostly abandoned and rss2email's maintainer was also unresponsive. Both were missing the features I was looking for, which was to unify my feed parsers in a single program: i needed something that could deliver mail, run commands and send tweets. The latter isn't done yet, but I am hoping to complete this eventually.

The program may not be for everyone, however, so I made those comparison tables to clarify what feed2exec does compared to the alternatives.

General information:

Program	Version	Date	SLOC	Language
feed2exec	0.5	2017	1417	Python
feed2imap	1.2.5	2015	3249	Ruby
rss2email	3.9	2014	1986	Python

- version: the version analysed
- date: the date of that release
- SLOC: Source Lines of Codes as counted by sloccount, only counting dominant language (e.g. excluding XML from test feeds)
- Language: primary programming language

## Delivery options:

Program	Maildir	Mbox	IMAP	SMTP	sendmail	exec
feed2exec	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$
feed2imap	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$			
rss2email			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	

- maildir: writing to Maildir folders. r2e has a pull request to implement maildir support, but it's not merged at the time of writing
- IMAP: sending emails to IMAP servers
- SMTP: delivering emails over the SMTP protocol, with authentication
- sendmail: delivering local using the local MTA
- exec: run arbitrary comands to run on new entries. feed2imap has a execurl parameter to execute commands, but it receives an unparsed dump of the feed instead of individual entries. rss2email has a postprocess filter that is a Python plugin that can act on individual (or digest) messages which could possibly be extended to support arbitrary commands, but that is rather difficult to implement for normal users.

Features:

Program	Pause	OPML	Retry	Images	Filter	Reply	Digest
feed2exec	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
feed2imap		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		
rss2email	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$

- pause: feed reading can be disabled temporarily by user. in feed2exec, this is implemented with the pause configuration setting. the catchup option can also be used to catchup with feed entries.
- retry: tolerate temporary errors. For example, feed2imap will report errors only after 10 failures.
- images: download images found in feed. feed2imap can download images and attach them to the email.

- filter: if we can apply arbitrary filters to the feed output. feed2imap can apply filters to the unparsed dump of the feed.
- reply: if the generated email 'from' header is usable to make a reply. rss2email has a use-publisher-email setting (off by default) for this, for example. feed2exec does this by default.
- digest: possibility of sending a single email per run instead of one per entry

Note: feed2imap supports only importing OPML feeds, exporting is supported by a third-party plugin.

## 3.3 API documentation

This is the API documentation of the program. It should explain how to create new plugins and navigate the code.

## 3.3.1 Feeds module

This is the core modules that processes all feeds and takes care of the storage. It's where most of the logic lies. fast feed parser that offloads tasks to plugins and commands

```
class feed2exec.feeds.Feed (name, *args, **kwargs) basic data structure representing a RSS or Atom feed.
```

it derives from the base feedparser.FeedParserDict but forces the element to have a name, which is the unique name for that feed in the *feed2exec.feeds.FeedManager*. We also add convenience functions to parse (in parallel) and normalize feed items.

on intialization, a new requests. Session object is created to be used across all requests. therefore, as long as a first FeedManager() object was created, FeedManager.\_session can be used by plugins.

For all intents and purposes, this can be considered like a dict() unless otherwise noted.

### session

the session property

#### static sessionConfig(session)

our custom session configuration

we change the user agent and set the file:// hanlder. extra configuration may be performed in the future and will override your changes.

this can be used to configure sessions used externally, for example by plugins.

#### normalize(item=None)

normalize feeds a little more than what feedparser provides.

we do the following operation:

- 1. add more defaults to item dates (issue #113):
  - created\_parsed of the item
  - updated\_parsed of the feed
- 2. missing GUID in some feeds (issue #112)
- 3. link normalization fails on some feeds, particilarly GitHub, where feeds are /foo instead of https: //github.com/foo. unreported for now.

parse (body, lock=None, force=False)

parse the body of the feed

this parses the given body using feedparser and calls the plugins configured in the feed (using feed2exec.plugins.output() and feed2exec.plugins.filter()). updates the cache with the found items if the output plugin succeeds (returns True) and if the filter plugin doesn't set the skip element in the feed item.

**Todo** this could be moved to a plugin, but then we'd need to take out the cache checking logic, which would remove most of the code here...

## Parameters

- **body** (*bytes*) the body of the feed, as returned by :func:fetch
- **self** (*dict*) a feed object used to pass to plugins and debugging
- **lock** (*object*) a multiprocessing. Lock object previously initialized. if None, the global *LOCK* variable will be used: this is used in the test suite to avoid having to pass locks all the way through the API. this lock is in turn passed to plugin calls.
- **force** (*bool*) force plugin execution even if entry was already seen. passed to feed2exec.feeds.parse as is

Return dict the parsed data

## ${\tt fetch}\,(\,)$

fetch the feed content and return the body, in binary

This will call logging.warning() for exceptions requests.exceptions.Timeout and requests.exceptions.ConnectionError as they are transient errors and the user may want to ignore those.

Other exceptions raised from requests.exceptions (like TooManyRedirects or HTTPError but basically any other exception) may be a configuration error or a more permanent failure so will be signaled with logging.error().

this will return the body on success or None on failure

### class feed2exec.feeds.ConfFeedStorage(pattern=None)

Feed configuration stored in a config file.

This derives from configparser.RawConfigParser and uses the .ini file set in the path member to read and write settings.

Changes are committed immediately, and no locking is performed so loading here should be safe but not editing.

The particular thing about this configuration is that there is an iterator that will yield entries matching the pattern substring provided in the constructor.

## path = None

default ConfFeedStorage path

**add** (*name*, *url*, *output=None*, *args=None*, *filter=None*, *filter\_args=None*, *folder=None*, *mailbox=None*) add the designated feed to the configuration

this is not thread-safe.

set (section, option, value=None)

override parent to make sure we immediately write changes

not thread-safe

**remove\_option** (*section*, *option*) override parent to make sure we immediately write changes not thread-safe

#### **remove** (*name*)

convenient alias for configparser.RawConfigParser.remove\_section()

not thread-safe

commit()

write the feed configuration

see configparser.RawConfigParser.write()

## class feed2exec.feeds.FeedManager(pattern=None)

a feed manager fetches and stores feeds.

this is a "controller" in a "model-view-controller" pattern. it derives the "model" (*feed2exec.feeds*. *ConfFeedStorage*) for simplicity's sake, and there is no real "view" (except maybe \_\_main\_\_).

## fetch (parallel=False, force=False, catchup=False)

main entry point for the feed fetch routines.

this iterates through all feeds configured in the parent *feed2exec.feeds.ConfFeedStorage* that match the given pattern, fetches the feeds and dispatches the parsing, which in turn dispatches the plugins.

#### Parameters

- **pattern** (*str*) restrict operations to feeds named pattern. passed to parent feed2exec.feeds.ConfFeedStorage as is
- parallel (bool) parse feeds in parallel, using multiprocessing
- **force** (*bool*) force plugin execution even if entry was already seen. passed to feed2exec.feeds.parse as is
- **catchup** (*bool*) disables the output plugin by setting the output field to None in the feed argument passed to feed2exec.feeds.parse(), used to catchup on feed entries without firing plugins.

## opml\_import (opmlfile)

import a file stream as an OPML feed in the feed storage

## 3.3.2 Main entry point

The main entry point of the program is in the *feed2exec.\_\_\_main\_\_\_* module. This is to make it possible to call the program directly from the source code through the Python interpreter with:

python -m feed2exec

All this code is here rather than in \_\_init\_\_.py to avoid requiring too many dependencies in the base module, which contains useful metadata for setup.py.

This uses the click module to define the base command and options. fast feed parser that offloads tasks to plugins and commands

## 3.3.3 Plugins

## **Plugin interface**

In this context, a "plugin" is simply a Python module with a defined interface.

feed2exec.plugins.output (feed, item, lock=None)

load and run the given plugin with the given arguments

an "output plugin" is a simple Python module with an output callable defined which will process arguments and should output them somewhere, for example by email or through another command. the plugin is called (from feed2exec.feeds.parse()) when a new item is found, unless cache is flushed or ignored.

The "callable" can be a class, in which case only the constructor is called or a function. The \*args and \*\*kwargs parameter SHOULD be used in the function definition for forward-compatibility (ie. to make sure new parameters added do not cause a regression).

Plugins should also expect to be called in parallel and should use the provided lock (a multiprocessor.Lock object) to acquire and release locks around contentious resources.

The following keywords are usually replaced in the arguments:

- {item.link}
- {item.title}
- {item.description}
- {item.published}
- {item.updated}
- {item.guid}

The full list of such parameters is determined by the :module:feedparser module.

Similarly, feed parameters from the configuration file are accessible.

**Caution:** None of those parameters are sanitized in any way other than what feedparser does, so plugins writing files, executing code or talking to the network should be careful to sanitize the input appropriately.

The feed and items are also passed to the plugin as keyword arguments. Plugins should especially respect the catchup argument that, when set, forbids plugins to do any permanent activity. For example, plugins MUST NOT run commands, write files, or make network requests. In general, "catchup mode" should be *fast*: it allows users to quickly catchup with new feeds without firing plugins, but it should *also* allow users to test configurations so plugins SHOULD give information to the user about what would have been done by the plugin without catchup.

#### Parameters

- **feed** (*dict*) the feed metadata
- **item** (*dict*) the updated item

Return object the loaded plugin

Note: more information about plugin design is in the Writing new plugins document.

feed2exec.plugins.filter(feed, item, lock=None)

call filter plugins.

very similar to the output plugin, but just calls the filter module member instead of output

Todo

common code with output() should be factored out, but output() takes arguments...

Note: actual plugins are documented in the Plugins document.

## 3.3.4 Utilities

Those are various utilities reused in multiple modules that did not fit anywhere else. various reusable utilities

```
feed2exec.utils.slug(text)
```

Make a URL-safe, human-readable version of the given text

This will do the following:

- 1. decode unicode characters into ASCII
- 2. shift everything to lowercase
- 3. strip whitespace
- 4. replace other non-word characters with dashes
- 5. strip extra dashes

This somewhat duplicates the Google.slugify() function but slugify is not as generic as this one, which can be reused elsewhere.

```
>>> slug('test')
'test'
>>> slug('Mørdag')
'mordag'
>>> slug("l'été c'est fait pour jouer")
'l-ete-c-est-fait-pour-jouer'
>>> slug(u"çafe au lait (boisson)")
'cafe-au-lait-boisson'
>>> slug(u"Multiple spaces -- and symbols! -- merged")
'multiple-spaces-and-symbols-merged'
```

This is a simpler, one-liner version of the slugify module.

taken from ecdysis

```
feed2exec.utils.make_dirs_helper(path)
```

Create the directory if it does not exist

Return True if the directory was created, false if it was already present, throw an OSError exception if it cannot be created

```
>>> import tempfile
>>> import os
>>> import os.path as p
>>> d = tempfile.mkdtemp()
>>> make_dirs_helper(p.join(d, 'foo'))
True
>>> make_dirs_helper(p.join(d, 'foo'))
False
>>> make_dirs_helper(p.join('/dev/null', 'foo'))
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
```

```
NotADirectoryError: [Errno 20] Not a directory: ...
>>> os.rmdir(p.join(d, 'foo'))
>>> os.rmdir(d)
>>>
```

```
feed2exec.utils.find_test_file(name)
    need to be updated from ecdysis
```

feed2exec.utils.find\_parent\_module()

find the name of a the first module calling this module

if we cannot find it, we return the current module's name (\_\_name\_\_) instead.

taken from ecdysis

## 3.4 Plugins

This is a quick overview of the available plugins.

## 3.4.1 Output plugins

## Archive

```
feed2exec.plugins.archive.output (*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs)
The archive plugin saves the feed's item.link URLs into a directory, specified by DEFAULT_ARCHIVE_DIR
or through the output args value.
```

Example:

```
[NASA breaking news]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = archive
args = /srv/archive/nasa/
```

The above will save the "NASA breaking news" into the /srv/archive/nasa directory. Do *not* use interpolation here as the feed's variable could be used to mount a directory transversal attack.

## Echo

```
class feed2exec.plugins.echo.output (*args, feed=None, **kwargs)
```

This plugin outputs, to standard output, the arguments it receives. It can be useful to test your configuration. It also creates a side effect for the test suite to determine if the plugin was called.

This plugin does a similar thing when acting as a filter.

feed2exec.plugins.echo.filter

This filter just keeps the feed unmodified. It is just there for testing purposes.

alias of *output* 

## Error

```
feed2exec.plugins.error.output (*args, **kwargs)
```

The error plugin is a simple plugin which raises an exception when called. It is designed for use in the test suite and should generally not be used elsewhere.

## Exec

feed2exec.plugins.exec.output (command, \*args, feed=None, \*\*kwargs)

The exec plugin is the ultimate security disaster. It simply executes whatever you feed it without any sort of sanitization. It does avoid to call to the shell and executes the command directly, however. Feed contents are also somewhat sanitized by the feedparser module, see the Sanitization documentation for more information in that regard. That is limited to stripping out hostile HTML tags, however.

You should be careful when sending arbitrary parameters to other programs. Even if we do not use the shell to execute the program, an hostile feed could still inject commandline flags to change the program behavior without injecting shell commands themselves.

For example, if a program can write files with the  $-\circ$  option, a feed could set their title to  $-\circ evil$  to overwrite the evil file. The only way to workaround that issue is to carefully craft the commandline so that this cannot happen.

Alternatively, writing a Python plugin is much safer as you can sanitize the arguments yourself.

Example:

```
[NASA Whats up?]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/whats_up.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.exec
args = wget -P /srv/archives/nasa/ {item.link}
```

The above is the equivalent of the archive plugin: it will save feed item links to the given directory.

#### Maildir

class feed2exec.plugins.maildir.output (to\_addr=None, feed=None, item=None, lock=None,

\**args*, \*\**kwargs*) The maildir plugin will save a feed item into a Maildir folder.

The configuration is a little clunky, but it should be safe against hostile feeds.

Parameters to\_addr (str) - the email to use as "to" (defaults to USER@localdomain)

Example:

```
[NASA breaking news]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
mailbox = ~/Maildir/
folder = nasa
args = me@example.com
```

The above will save new feed items from the NASA feed into the ~/Maildir/nasa/ maildir folder, and will set the *To* field of the email to *me@example.com*.

### Mbox

class feed2exec.plugins.mbox.output (to\_addr=None, feed=None, item=None, lock=None, \*args,

\*\**kwargs*) The mbox plugin will save a feed item in a Mbox mailbox.

This is mostly for testing purposes, but can of course be used in the unlikely event where you prefer mbox folders over the *feed2exec.plugins.maildir* plugin.

**Parameters to\_addr** (*str*) – the email to use as "to" (defaults to USER@localdomain)

**Todo** There is some overlap between the code here and the maildir implementation. Refactoring may be in order, particularly if we add another mailbox format, though that is unlikely.

## Null

```
feed2exec.plugins.null.output(*args, **kwargs)
```

This plugin does nothing. It can be useful in cases where you want to catchup with imported feeds.

```
feed2exec.plugins.null.filter(item=None, *args, **kwargs)
The null filter removes all elements from a feed item
```

## Transmission

feed2exec.plugins.transmission.sanitize(text, repl='-')

like utils.slug, but without lowercase and allow custom replacement

```
>>> sanitize('test')
'test'
>>> sanitize('../../etc/password')
'etc-password'
>>> sanitize('Foo./.bar', repl='.')
'Foo.bar'
```

feed2exec.plugins.transmission.output (hostname='localhost', \*args, feed=None, item=None,

\*\*kwargs)

the transmission plugin will send feed items to a transmission instance

it assumes the transmission-remote command is already installed and configured to talk with transmission.

the hostname is passed in the args configuration and defaults to localhost. the folder parameter is also used to determine where to save the actual torrents files.

note that this will also append a sanitized version of the item title, if a folder is provided. this is to allow saving series in the same folder.

if the title is unique for each torrent, you may use a filter to set the title to the right location.

#### Wayback

feed2exec.plugins.wayback.output (\*args, feed=None, item=None, \*\*kwargs)

This plugin saves the feed items *link* element to the wayback machine. It will retry URLs that fail, so it may be necessary to manually catchup feeds if they have broken *link* fields.

Example:

[NASA IOTD wayback]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/lg\_image\_of\_the\_day.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.wayback

The above will save the Image of the day updates to the wayback machine.

## 3.4.2 Filter plugins

## **Droptitle**

feed2exec.plugins.droptitle.filter(\*args, feed=None, item=None, \*\*kwargs)
 the droptitle filter will drop any feed item with a title matching the given args.

#### Example:

```
[NASA breaking news]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
filter = feed2exec.plugins.droptitle
filter_args = Trump
```

The above will process the feed items according to the global configuration, but will skip any item that has the word "Trump" anywhere in the title field.

## Emptysummary

feed2exec.plugins.emptysummary.filter(\*args, feed=None, item=None, \*\*kwargs)
example of fixes for a broken feed, in this case, the GitHub release feed which (sometimes) sends empty contents, in which case the item link field is used as a summary instead.

## Html2text

class feed2exec.plugins.html2text.filter(\*args, feed=None, item=None, \*\*kwargs)
This filter plugin takes a given feed item and adds a content\_plain field with the HTML parsed as text.

**Important:** the html2text plugin is called automatically from the email output plugins and should normally not be called directly.

#### static parse (html=None)

parse html to text according to our preferences. this is where subclasses can override the HTML2Text settings or use a completely different parser

## Ikiwiki Recentchanges

feed2exec.plugins.ikiwiki\_recentchanges.filter(\*args, item=None, \*\*kwargs)
 the ikiwiki\_recentchanges plugin fixes links in ikiwiki feeds

Ikiwiki recent changes show all the recent edits to pages, but the <link> element doesn't point to the edit page: it points to the recent changes page itself, which make them useless for link checking or archival purposes.

This parses the recent changes entries and extracts the relevant links from it.

An alternative to this is to use the following entry to generate a special feed in Ikiwiki:

[[!inline pages="\*" feeds=yes feedonly=yes feedfile=archive show=10]]

This generates a feed with proper <link> elements but requires write access to the wiki.

## 3.4.3 Writing new plugins

Most of the actual work in the program is performed by plugins. A plugin is a simple Python module that has a output or filter "callable" (function or class) with a predefined interface.

#### **Basic plugin principles**

To write a new plugin, you should start by creating a simple Python module, in your PYTHONPATH. You can find which directories are in the path by calling:

```
$ python3 -c "import sys; print(sys.path)"
['', '/usr/lib/python35.zip', '/usr/lib/python3.5', '/usr/lib/python3.5/plat-x86_64-
olinux-gnu', '/usr/lib/python3.5/lib-dynload', '/usr/local/lib/python3.5/dist-
opackages', '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages']
```

In the above example, a good location would be /usr/local/lib/python3.5/dist-packages. The naming convention is loose: as long as the plugin matches the expected API, it should just work. For the purpose of this demonstration, we'll call our plugin trumpery, so we will create the plugin code like this:

touch /usr/local/lib/python3.5/dist-packages/trumpery.py

Naturally, if you are going to write multiple plugins, you may want to regroup your multiple plugins in a package, see the module documentation for more information about this concept in Python.

You are welcome to distribute plugins separately or send them as merge requests, see *Contributor's guide* for more information on how to participate in this project. We of course welcome contributions to this documentation as well!

#### **Filters**

Now, you need your plugin to do something. In our case, let's say we'd like to skip any feed entry that has the word Trump in it. For that purpose, we'll create a plugin similar to the already existing *feed2exec.plugins*. *droptitle* plugin, but that operates on the *body* of the feed, but that also hardcodes the word, because this is just a demonstration and we want to keep it simple. Let's look at the title plugin to see how it works:

```
def filter(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    '''the droptitle filter will drop any feed item with a title matching
    the given args.
    Example::
        [NASA breaking news]
        url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
        filter = feed2exec.plugins.droptitle
        filter_args = Trump
    The above will process the feed items according to the global
        configuration, but will skip any item that has the word "Trump"
        anywhere in the title field.
        '''
        item['skip'] = ' '.join(args) in item.get('title', '')
```

That may look like complete gibberish to you if you are not familiar with programming or with Python programming in particular. But let's take this from the top and copy that in our own plugin. The first line declares a function that takes at least a feed and a item argument, but can also accept any other arbitrary argument. This is important because we want to have the plugin keep on working if the plugin API changes in the future. This is called "forward-compatibility". So let's copy that in our plugin and add a pass statement to make sure the plugin works (even if it does nothing for now):

```
def filter(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    pass
```

We can already test our plugin by adding it to our configuration, in ~/.config/feed2exec/feed2exec.ini:

```
[NASA]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = feed2exec.plugins.echo
args = {item.title}
filter = trumpery
```

Notice how we use the output plugin to show the title of feed items selected, as a debugging tool. Let's fetch this feed in debugging mode to see what happens:

```
$ python3 -m feed2exec --verbose fetch --force
opening local file /home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
\rightarrow xml (10355 bytes)
connecting to database at ./doc/feed2exec.db
arguments received: ('President Trump Welcomes Home Record-breaking NASA Astronaut,
→Peggy Whitson',)
arguments received: ('Three International Space Station Crewmates Safely Return to_
\rightarrowEarth',)
arguments received: ('NASA Statement on Nomination for Agency Administrator',)
arguments received: ('NASA Television to Air Return of Three International Space,
→ Station Crew Members',)
arguments received: ('NASA and Iconic Museum Honor Voyager Spacecraft 40th Anniversary
→',)
arguments received: ('NASA's Johnson Space Center Closes Through Labor Day for,
→ Tropical Storm Harvey',)
arguments received: ('NASA Cancels Planned Media Availabilities with Astronauts',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards $400,000 to Top Teams at Second Phase of 3D-
→ Printing Competition',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards Contract for Center Protective Services for Glenn_
→Research Center',)
arguments received: ('NASA Announces Cassini End-of-Mission Media Activities',)
1 feeds processed
```

Good! The feed is fetched and items are displayed. It means our filter didn't interfere, but now it's time to make it *do* something. To skip items, we need to set the skip attribute for the feed item to *True* if we want to skip it and *False* otherwise. So we'll use a simple recipe, a bit like *droptitle* does, but simpler, to look at the feed content to look for our evil word. The feedparser documentation tells us feed items have a summary field which we can inspect. There's also a content list, but that's a little more complicated so we'll skip that for now. So, let's set the skip parameter to match if there is the evil word in our feed item, like this:

```
def filter(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    item['skip'] = 'Trump' in item.get('summary', '')
```

And let's see the result (note that we use the --force argument here otherwise we would just skip all items because of the cache):

```
$ python3 -m feed2exec --verbose fetch --force
opening local file /home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
\rightarrow xml (10355 bytes)
connecting to database at ./doc/feed2exec.db
item President Trump Welcomes Home Record-breaking NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson of.
⇔feed NASA filtered out
arguments received: ('Three International Space Station Crewmates Safely Return to..
\rightarrowEarth',)
item NASA Statement on Nomination for Agency Administrator of feed NASA filtered out
arguments received: ('NASA Television to Air Return of Three International Space,
→ Station Crew Members',)
arguments received: ('NASA and Iconic Museum Honor Voyager Spacecraft 40th Anniversary
→',)
arguments received: ('NASA's Johnson Space Center Closes Through Labor Day for_
→ Tropical Storm Harvey',)
arguments received: ('NASA Cancels Planned Media Availabilities with Astronauts',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards $400,000 to Top Teams at Second Phase of 3D-
→ Printing Competition',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards Contract for Center Protective Services for Glenn_
→Research Center',)
arguments received: ('NASA Announces Cassini End-of-Mission Media Activities',)
1 feeds processed
```

Successs! We have skipped the two items that contain the fraud we wanted to remove from the world. Notice how we were able to *modify* the feed item: we can also use that to *change* the feed content. Normally, we would use this to fix malformed feeds, but let's have some fun instead and rename Trump to Drumpf:

```
def filter(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    item['title'] = item.get('title', '').replace('Trump', 'Drumpf')
```

And the result:

```
$ python3 -m feed2exec --verbose fetch --force
opening local file /home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcat/src/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
\rightarrow xml (10355 bytes)
connecting to database at ./doc/feed2exec.db
arguments received: ('President Drumpf Welcomes Home Record-breaking NASA Astronaut,
→Peggy Whitson',)
arguments received: ('Three International Space Station Crewmates Safely Return to_
\rightarrowEarth',)
arguments received: ('NASA Statement on Nomination for Agency Administrator',)
arguments received: ('NASA Television to Air Return of Three International Space,
→ Station Crew Members',)
arguments received: ('NASA and Iconic Museum Honor Voyager Spacecraft 40th Anniversary
→',)
arguments received: ('NASA's Johnson Space Center Closes Through Labor Day for_
→ Tropical Storm Harvey',)
arguments received: ('NASA Cancels Planned Media Availabilities with Astronauts',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards $400,000 to Top Teams at Second Phase of 3D-
→ Printing Competition',)
arguments received: ('NASA Awards Contract for Center Protective Services for Glenn,
→Research Center',)
arguments received: ('NASA Announces Cassini End-of-Mission Media Activities',)
1 feeds processed
```

I know, absolutely hilarious, right? More seriously, this is also how the feed2exec.plugins.html2text filter

works, which is enabled by default and helps the email output plugin do its job by turning HTML into text. At this point, the only limit is your knowledge of Python programming and your imagination!

## **Output plugins**

Output plugins are another beast entirely. While they operate with the same principle than filter plugins (search path and function signature are similar), they are designed to actually output something for each new feed item found. This can be anything: a file, email, HTTP request, whatever. If there is a commandline tool that does what you need, it is probably simpler to just call the exec plugin and there are numerous examples of this in the sample configuration file. For more complex things, however, it may be easier to actually write this as a Python.

## **Basic arguments**

For our example, we'll write an archival plugin which writes each new entry to a file hierarchy. First, we start with the same simple function signature as filters, except we name it output:

```
def output(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    pass
```

This is the equivalent of the null plugin and basically outputs nothing at all. To archive the feed items, we'll need to look at the link element feedparser gives us. Let's see what that looks like for the NASA feed:

```
def output(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    # only operate on items that actually have a link
    if item.get('link'):
        print(item.get('link', ''))
    else:
        logging.info('no link for feed item %s, not archiving', item.get('title'))
```

Note: Note that we try to make plugins silent in general. You can use logging.info() to have things show up in --verbose and logging.debug() for --debug but by default, your plugin should be silent unless there's an error that requires the user's intervention, in which case you should use logging.warning() for transient errors that may be automatically recovered and logging.error() for errors that require user intervention. This is to allow users to ignore warnings safely.

Note that here we first check to see if the feed item actually *has* a link - not all feeds do! After adding the above to our trumpery plugin and adding it as an output plugin:

```
[NASA]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = trumpery
filter = trumpery
```

We can try to see what happens when we call it:

```
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-statement-on-nomination-for-agency-
→administrator
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-television-to-air-return-of-three-
⇒international-space-station-crew-members
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-and-iconic-museum-honor-voyager-spacecraft-
\rightarrow 40th-anniversary
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-johnson-space-center-closes-through-labor-
→ day-for-tropical-storm-harvey
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-cancels-planned-media-availabilities-with-
⇔astronauts
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-awards-400000-to-top-teams-at-second-phase-of-
\rightarrow 3d-printing-competition
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-awards-contract-for-center-protective-services-
\rightarrow for-glenn-research-center
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-announces-cassini-end-of-mission-media-
→activities
1 feeds processed
```

## Sanitizing contents

Good. Those are the URLs we want to save to disk. Let's start by just writing those to a file. We will also use a simple *slug* function to make a filesystem-safe name from the feed title and save those files in a pre-determined location:

```
import logging
import os.path
from feed2exec.utils import slug
ARCHIVE_DIR='/run/user/1000/feed-archives/'
def output(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    # make a safe path from the item name
   path = slug(item.get('title', 'no-name'))
    # put the file in the archive directory
   path = os.path.join(ARCHIVE_DIR, path)
    # only operate on items that actually have a link
    if item.get('link'):
        # tell the user what's going on, if verbose
        # otherwise, we try to stay silent if all goes well
        logging.info('saving feed item %s to %s from %s',
                     item.get('title'), path, item.get('link'))
        # open the file
        with open(path, 'w') as archive:
            # write the response
            archive.write(item.get('link'))
    else:
        logging.info('no link for feed item %s, not archiving', item.get('title'))
```

Now I know this may look like a huge step from the previous one but I'm sorry, I couldn't find a simpler second step. :) The output now looks like this:

```
saving feed item Three International Space Station Crewmates Safely Return to Earth ...
-earth from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/three-international-space-station-
⇔crewmates-safely-return-to-earth
saving feed item NASA Statement on Nomination for Agency Administrator to /run/user/
→1000/nasa-statement-on-nomination-for-agency-administrator from http://www.nasa.gov/
→press-release/nasa-statement-on-nomination-for-agency-administrator
saving feed item NASA Television to Air Return of Three International Space Station,
-Crew Members to /run/user/1000/nasa-television-to-air-return-of-three-international-
→space-station-crew-members from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-television-
{ \hookrightarrow } \texttt{to-air-return-of-three-international-space-station-crew-members}
saving feed item NASA and Iconic Museum Honor Voyager Spacecraft 40th Anniversary to /
→run/user/1000/nasa-and-iconic-museum-honor-voyager-spacecraft-40th-anniversary from,
-http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-and-iconic-museum-honor-voyager-spacecraft-
→40th-anniversary
saving feed item NASA's Johnson Space Center Closes Through Labor Day for Tropical,
-Storm Harvey to /run/user/1000/nasa-s-johnson-space-center-closes-through-labor-day-
-- for-tropical-storm-harvey from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-johnson-
→ space-center-closes-through-labor-day-for-tropical-storm-harvey
saving feed item NASA Cancels Planned Media Availabilities with Astronauts to /run/
→nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-cancels-planned-media-availabilities-with-astronauts
saving feed item NASA Awards $400,000 to Top Teams at Second Phase of 3D-Printing_
-Competition to /run/user/1000/nasa-awards-400-000-to-top-teams-at-second-phase-of-
-3d-printing-competition from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-awards-400000-
\leftrightarrowto-top-teams-at-second-phase-of-3d-printing-competition
saving feed item NASA Awards Contract for Center Protective Services for Glenn
-Research Center to /run/user/1000/nasa-awards-contract-for-center-protective-
-services-for-glenn-research-center from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-
\rightarrowawards-contract-for-center-protective-services-for-glenn-research-center
saving feed item NASA Announces Cassini End-of-Mission Media Activities to /run/user/
→gov/press-release/nasa-announces-cassini-end-of-mission-media-activities
```

Sweet! Now it's not really nice to save this in /run/user/1000. I just chose this directory because it was a safe place to write but it's not a persistent directory. Best make that configurable, which is where plugin arguments come in.

#### **User configuration**

You see that \*args parameter? That comes straight from the configuration file. So you could set the path in the configuration file, like this:

```
[NASA]
url = https://www.nasa.gov/rss/dyn/breaking_news.rss
output = trumpery
args = /srv/archives/nasa/
filter = trumpery
```

We also need to modify the plugin to fetch that configuration, like this:

```
def output(*args, feed=None, item=None, **kwargs):
    # make a safe path from the item name
    path = slug(item.get('title', 'no-name'))
    # take the archive dir from the user or use the default
    archive_dir = ' '.join(args) if args else DEFAULT_ARCHIVE_DIR
```

```
# put the file in the archive directory
path = os.path.join(archive_dir, path)
# [...]
# rest of the function unchanged
```

#### **Making HTTP requests**

And now obviously, we only saved the link itself, not the link *content*. For that we need some help from the requests module, and do something like this:

This will save the actual link content (result.text) to the file. The important statement here is:

```
# fetch the URL in memory
result = requests.get(item.get('link'))
```

which fetches the URL in memory and checks for errors. The other change in the final plugin is simply:

archive.write(result.text)

which writes the article content instead of the link.

### **Plugin return values**

Notice how we return False here: this makes the plugin system avoid adding the item to the cache, so it is retried on the next run. If the plugin returns True or nothing (None), the plugin is considered to have succeeded and the entry is added to the cache. That logic is defined in feed2exec.feeds.parse().

#### Catchup

A final thing that is missing that is critical in all plugins is to respect the catchup setting. It is propagated up from the commandline or configuration all the way down to plugins, through the feed parameters. How you handle it varies from plugin to plugin, but the basic idea is to give feedback (when verbose) of activity when the plugin is run *but* to not actually *do* anything. In our case, we simply return success, right before we fetch the URL:

```
if feed.get('catchup'):
    return True
# fetch the URL in memory
result = requests.get(item.get('link'))
```

Notice how we still fetch the actual feed content but stop before doing any permanent operation. That is the spirit of the "catchup" operation: we not only skip "write" operation, but also any operation which could slow down the

"catchup": fetching stuff over the network takes time and while it can be considered a "readonly" operation as far as the local machine is concerned, we are effectively *writing* to the network so that operation shouldn't occur.

Hopefully that should get you going with most of the plugins you are thinking of writing!

## 3.4.4 See also

feed2exec(1)

# 3.5 Contributor's guide

This document outlines how to contribute to this project. It details a code of conduct, how to submit issues, bug reports and patches.

## 3.5.1 Contributor Covenant Code of Conduct

## **Our Pledge**

In the interest of fostering an open and welcoming environment, we as contributors and maintainers pledge to making participation in our project and our community a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of age, body size, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, level of experience, nationality, personal appearance, race, religion, or sexual identity and orientation.

## **Our Standards**

Examples of behavior that contributes to creating a positive environment include:

- Using welcoming and inclusive language
- · Being respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences
- · Gracefully accepting constructive criticism
- Focusing on what is best for the community
- Showing empathy towards other community members

Examples of unacceptable behavior by participants include:

- The use of sexualized language or imagery and unwelcome sexual attention or advances
- Trolling, insulting/derogatory comments, and personal or political attacks
- Public or private harassment
- Publishing others' private information, such as a physical or electronic address, without explicit permission
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a professional setting

#### **Our Responsibilities**

Project maintainers are responsible for clarifying the standards of acceptable behavior and are expected to take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any instances of unacceptable behavior.

Project maintainers have the right and responsibility to remove, edit, or reject comments, commits, code, wiki edits, issues, and other contributions that are not aligned to this Code of Conduct, or to ban temporarily or permanently any contributor for other behaviors that they deem inappropriate, threatening, offensive, or harmful.

#### Scope

This Code of Conduct applies both within project spaces and in public spaces when an individual is representing the project or its community. Examples of representing a project or community include using an official project e-mail address, posting via an official social media account, or acting as an appointed representative at an online or offline event. Representation of a project may be further defined and clarified by project maintainers.

#### Enforcement

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior may be reported by contacting one of the persons listed below. All complaints will be reviewed and investigated and will result in a response that is deemed necessary and appropriate to the circumstances. The project maintainers is obligated to maintain confidentiality with regard to the reporter of an incident. Further details of specific enforcement policies may be posted separately.

Project maintainers who do not follow or enforce the Code of Conduct in good faith may face temporary or permanent repercussions as determined by other members of the project's leadership.

Project maintainers are encouraged to follow the spirit of the Django Code of Conduct Enforcement Manual when receiving reports.

#### Contacts

The following people have volunteered to be available to respond to Code of Conduct reports. They have reviewed existing literature and agree to follow the aforementioned process in good faith. They also accept OpenPGP-encrypted email:

• Antoine Beaupré anarcat@debian.org

#### Attribution

This Code of Conduct is adapted from the Contributor Covenant, version 1.4, available at http://contributor-covenant. org/version/1/4.

#### Changes

The Code of Conduct was modified to refer to *project maintainers* instead of *project team* and small paragraph was added to refer to the Django enforcement manual.

Note: We have so far determined that writing an explicit enforcement policy is not necessary, considering the available literature already available online and the relatively small size of the community. This may change in the future if the community grows larger.

### 3.5.2 Patches

Patches can be submitted through merge requests on the GitLab project.

Some guidelines for patches:

- A patch should be a minimal and accurate answer to exactly one identified and agreed problem.
- A patch must compile cleanly and pass project self-tests on all target platforms.
- A patch commit message must consist of a single short (less than 50 characters) line stating a summary of the change, followed by a blank line and then a description of the problem being solved and its solution, or a reason for the change. Write more information, not less, in the commit log.
- Patches should be reviewed by at least one maintainer before being merged.

Project maintainers should merge their own patches only when they have been approved by other maintainers, unless there is no response within a reasonable timeframe (roughly one week) or there is an urgent change to be done (e.g. security or data loss issue).

As an exception to this rule, this specific document cannot be changed without the consensus of all administrators of the project.

Note: Those guidelines were inspired by the Collective Code Construct Contract. The document was found to be a little too complex and hard to read and wasn't adopted in its entirety. See this discussion for more information.

#### Patch triage

You can also review existing pull requests, by cloning the contributor's repository and testing it. If the tests do not pass (either locally or in the online Continuous Integration (CI) system), if the patch is incomplete or otherwise does not respect the above guidelines, submit a review with "changes requested" with reasoning.

## 3.5.3 Testing

Running tests is strongly recommended before filing issues and submitting patches. Patches that break tests will not be accepted. We also aim to have complete test coverage, so you may be requested to submit a test alongside new features or bugfixes. See the *Test suite* section for more information.

## 3.5.4 Documentation

We love documentation!

The documentation resides in various Sphinx documentations and in the README file. Those can can be edited online once you register and changes are welcome through the normal patch and merge request system.

Issues found in the documentation are also welcome, see below to file issues in our tracker.

## 3.5.5 Issues and bug reports

We want you to report issuess you find in the software. It is a recognized and important part of contributing to this project. All issues will be read and replied to politely and professionnally. Issues and bug reports should be filed on the issue tracker.

#### **Issue triage**

Issue triage is a useful contribution as well. You can review the issues in the GitLab project and, for each issue:

- try to reproduce the issue, if it is not reproducible, label it with more-info and explain the steps taken to reproduce
- if information is missing, label it with more-info and request specific information
- if the feature request is not within the scope of the project or should be refused for other reasons, use the wontfix label and close the issue
- mark feature requests with the enhancement label, bugs with bug, duplicates with duplicate and so on...

Note that some of those operations are available only to project maintainers, see below for the different statuses.

### 3.5.6 Membership

There are three levels of membership in the project, Administrator (also known as "Owner" in GitHub or GitLab), Maintainer (also known as "Member" on GitHub or "Developer" on GitLab), or regular users (everyone with or without an account). Anyone is welcome to contribute to the project within the guidelines outlined in this document, regardless of their status, and that includes regular users.

Maintainers can:

- · do everything regular users can
- · review, push and merge pull requests
- · edit and close issues

Administrators can:

- · do everything maintainers can
- add new maintainers
- promote maintainers to administrators

Regular users can be promoted to maintainers if they contribute to the project, either by participating in issues, documentation or pull requests.

Maintainers can be promoted to administrators when they have given significant contributions for a sustained timeframe, by consensus of the current administrators. This process should be open and decided as any other issue.

### 3.5.7 Release process

To make a release:

1. make sure tests pass:

tox

2. generate release notes with:

gbp dch

the file header will need to be moved back up to the beginning of the file. also make sure to add a summary and choose a proper version according to Semantic Versioning

3. tag the release according to Semantic Versioning rules:

git tag -s x.y.z

4. build and test the Python package:

```
python3 setup.py bdist_wheel
sudo pip3 install dist/*.whl
feed2exec --version
sudo pip3 uninstall feed2exec
```

5. build and test the debian package:

```
gbp buildpackage
sudo dpkg -i ../feed2exec_*.deb
feed2exec --version
sudo dpkg --remove feed2exec
```

6. push changes:

git push
twine upload dist/\*
dput ../feed2exec\*.changes

7. edit the tag on Gitlab and copy-paste the changelog entry

# 3.6 Changelog

```
feed2exec (0.10.0) unstable; urgency=medium
  * bugfies:
   * security: avoid possible config setting override, see 2a49300 for
     details
    * follow redirections in wayback machine
    * remove useless db query when forcing
  * features
   * add transmission plugin, to write torrents to specific folders
     safely
   * add ikiwiki recentchanges filter: fixes recent changes summaries to
     fetch links properly
    * add linkchecker examples: allows users to check their publications
     for broken links
   * add shortcut parse command: allows running a single feed with a
     temporary configuration
   * make echo plugin a little more useful by *only* showing the passed
     arguments
  * documentation:
   * document catchup properly
   * add missing documentation about some add parameters in manpage
 * massive API refactoring:
   * plugins are now responsible for handling the "catchup" setting
   * FeedStorage is gone, replaced with a FeedManager
   * add a Feed object which has the parse/fetch functions and holds the
     session singleton
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Sun, 05 Nov 2017 15:38:26 -0500
```

```
feed2exec (0.9.0) unstable; urgency=medium
 * API changes:
   * config file moved from ~/.config/feed2exec/feed2exec.ini to
     ~/.config/feed2exec.ini. move it by hand to keep feed2exec working
   * database cache moved from ~/.config/feed2exec/feed2exec.db to
     ~/.cache/feed2exec.db. move by hand to keep feed2exec working or
     regenerate with `feed2exec fetch --catchup`
   * use sessions everywhere and betamax for all queries
   * refactor feeds storage to remove global
    * completely rework class hierarchy
    * use requests-file instead of custom file:// handler
    * new dependencies: pyxdg and requests-file
  * bugfixes:
   * package should be arch: all, like other python packages, not any
  * features:
   * use a custom user agent
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 19 Oct 2017 15:48:19 -0400
feed2exec (0.8.0) unstable; urgency=medium
  * API changes: feed2exec.feeds.fetch now returns bytes, as documented
  * bugfixes:
    * fix crash importing Liferea feed with folders, noticed by pabs
   * properly encode From headers
    * fix double-encoding issues in all output plugins
  * features:
   * bash completion
   * add basic opml unit tests
   * opml folder support: save the parent "folder" element in config if
     relevant
   * allow duplicate feed imports by abusing the folder name
   * expanded test coverage from 89 to 93%
  * documentation:
   \star expand tests documentation and add plugin design docs
    * expand on the use of vcr
    * expand the design document
   * cross-reference the two manpages
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Wed, 18 Oct 2017 14:41:44 -0400
feed2exec (0.7.0) unstable; urgency=medium
 * API changes: cache skipped only if plugin returns False, not None
  * bugfixes:
   * correctly skip feeds generating fetch errors
   * add unit tests for droptitle and make it actually work
    * do not crash on empty config files
  * new plugins:
    * 'wayback' to save feed items to wayback machine
    * 'archive' to save to the local filesystem
  * documentation:
   * make build reproducible by using local doc objects
   * move design and known issues to manpage
   * add feed2exec-plugins manpage, including plugin writing
     documentation and extended plugins docs
```

```
* fix pause and catchup descriptions
   * move documentation to RTD
   * silence docs build errors
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 12 Oct 2017 16:10:02 -0400
feed2exec (0.6.0) unstable; urgency=medium
 * API-breaking changes:
   * use 'item' vocabulary consistently in API
    * allow filters to skip entry by setting the "skip" field
    * separate filter arguments (`filter_args`) from output arguments
     (`args`)
    * officially drop support for Python 2
  * features
   * add sample plugin to drop feed items matching a certain title
      (`droptitle`)
   * fix sample tweet to avoid extraneous padding
   * add transmission exec to sample config
   * do *not* wrap links even in references
   * add some limited parallelism tests
   * handle http errors more gracefully
  * bugfixes
   * html2text got a new release which broke tests, update tests and skip
     older releases
  * documentation fixes
   * clarify error message from plugin exceptions
    * expand API documentation
   * note that feed2exec doesn't take care of IMAP folder subscriptions:
     you'll need to subscribe to new feeds by hand if you use that feature
     for now.
   * use tox in the release process, slower but more reliable
    * mark this as beta
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 05 Oct 2017 14:04:16 -0400
feed2exec (0.5.1) unstable; urgency=medium
 * regenerate planet test output based on new feed
 * fix release process to workaround recent issues
 * update test suite results with feedparser 5.2.1
 * add minimal test suite documentation
 * fix typo in gbp.conf
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 21 Sep 2017 18:50:54 -0400
feed2exec (0.5) unstable; urgency=medium
 * add mbox output format
 * switch to 8-bit email encodings, drop QP
 * remove useless platforms tag
 * fix tests on gitlab, no chmod allowed there
 * add fancy badges for pipeline and coverage status
 * add more generic feed test procedures
 * refactor email generation to move to its own module
 * correction: rss2email has filters
 * make sure github filter actually works
 * add example for the emptysummary filter
```

```
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 21 Sep 2017 11:17:28 -0400
feed2exec (0.4) unstable; urgency=medium
  * switch to Python 3 style format strings: you need to switch from
   %(link) to {item.link}. feed parameter are also available, for example
   {feed.name} or {feed.url}. see this document for details on the syntax:
   https://docs.python.org/3/library/string.html#format-string-syntax
 * this allows more fancy formatting which gives us, for example,
   podcasting capabilities.
  * a sample config file documenting all parameters
 * add syslog support through advanced logging module from ecdysis
 * show message when done, useful for syslog
 * add sample config file
 * fix feedparser URL sanitization
 * fix issues with empty github feeds
 * note issue with SQLite locking
 * refactor test suite to regroup normalization tests
 * fix displayed path for maildir messages
 * simplify test by not running plugins twice
 * push test coverage from 87 to 90%
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Thu, 14 Sep 2017 17:20:57 -0400
feed2exec (0.3) unstable; urgency=medium
 * pause and catchup support
 * PyPI release
 * add examples to implement Twitter and Mastodon output
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Tue, 12 Sep 2017 13:35:38 -0400
feed2exec (0.2) unstable; urgency=medium
 * multipart HTML support
 * improved plain text rendering
 * custom folder support
 * documentation fixes
 * expanded email headers
 * the ``output_args`` argument is renamed to ``args``
 \star the ``maildir`` plugin has now a same default, and uses the
   ``mailbox`` parameter instead of the first argument of ``output_args``
  * add ``--force`` parameter
 * make the html2text filter enabled by default in maildir
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Mon, 11 Sep 2017 21:06:10 -0400
feed2exec (0.1) unstable; urgency=medium
  * first alpha release: maildir, exec support, parallelism
-- Antoine Beaupré <anarcat@debian.org> Mon, 11 Sep 2017 21:05:13 -0400
```

# 3.7 License

## 3.7.1 GNU AFFERO GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE

Version 3, 19 November 2007

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## 3.7.2 Preamble

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## 3.7.3 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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#### 1. Source Code.

The "source code" for a work means the preferred form of the work for making modifications to it. "Object code" means any non-source form of a work.

A "Standard Interface" means an interface that either is an official standard defined by a recognized standards body, or, in the case of interfaces specified for a particular programming language, one that is widely used among developers working in that language.

The "System Libraries" of an executable work include anything, other than the work as a whole, that (a) is included in the normal form of packaging a Major Component, but which is not part of that Major Component, and (b) serves only to enable use of the work with that Major Component, or to implement a Standard Interface for which an implementation is available to the public in source code form. A "Major Component", in this context, means a major essential component (kernel, window system, and so on) of the specific operating system (if any) on which the executable work runs, or a compiler used to produce the work, or an object code interpreter used to run it.

The "Corresponding Source" for a work in object code form means all the source code needed to generate, install, and (for an executable work) run the object code and to modify the work, including scripts to control those activities. However, it does not include the work's System Libraries, or general-purpose tools or generally available free programs which are used unmodified in performing those activities but which are not part of the work. For example, Corresponding Source includes interface definition files associated with source files for the work, and the source code for shared libraries and dynamically linked subprograms that the work is specifically designed to require, such as by intimate data communication or control flow between those subprograms and other parts of the work.

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#### 6. Conveying Non-Source Forms.

You may convey a covered work in object code form under the terms of sections 4 and 5, provided that you also convey the machine-readable Corresponding Source under the terms of this License, in one of these ways:

- 1. Convey the object code in, or embodied in, a physical product (including a physical distribution medium), accompanied by the Corresponding Source fixed on a durable physical medium customarily used for software interchange.
- 2. Convey the object code in, or embodied in, a physical product (including a physical distribution medium), accompanied by a written offer, valid for at least three years and valid for as long as you offer spare parts or customer support for that product model, to give anyone who possesses the object code either (1) a copy of the Corresponding Source for all the software in the product that is covered by this License, on a durable physical medium customarily used for software interchange, for a price no more than your reasonable cost of physically performing this conveying of source, or (2) access to copy the Corresponding Source from a network server at no charge.
- 3. Convey individual copies of the object code with a copy of the written offer to provide the Corresponding Source. This alternative is allowed only occasionally and noncommercially, and only if you received the object code with such an offer, in accord with subsection 6b.
- 4. Convey the object code by offering access from a designated place (gratis or for a charge), and offer equivalent access to the Corresponding Source in the same way through the same place at no further charge. You need not require recipients to copy the Corresponding Source along with the object code. If the place to copy the object code is a network server, the Corresponding Source may be on a different server (operated by you or a third party) that supports equivalent copying facilities, provided you maintain clear directions next to the object code saying where to find the Corresponding Source. Regardless of what server hosts the Corresponding Source, you remain obligated to ensure that it is available for as long as needed to satisfy these requirements.
- 5. Convey the object code using peer-to-peer transmission, provided you inform other peers where the object code and Corresponding Source of the work are being offered to the general public at no charge under subsection 6d.

A separable portion of the object code, whose source code is excluded from the Corresponding Source as a System Library, need not be included in conveying the object code work.

A "User Product" is either (1) a "consumer product", which means any tangible personal property which is normally used for personal, family, or household purposes, or (2) anything designed or sold for incorporation into a dwelling. In determining whether a product is a consumer product, doubtful cases shall be resolved in favor of coverage. For a particular product received by a particular user, "normally used" refers to a typical or common use of that class of product, regardless of the status of the particular user or of the way in which the particular user actually uses, or expects or is expected to use, the product. A product is a consumer product regardless of whether the product has substantial commercial, industrial or non-consumer uses, unless such uses represent the only significant mode of use of the product.

"Installation Information" for a User Product means any methods, procedures, authorization keys, or other information required to install and execute modified versions of a covered work in that User Product from a modified version of its Corresponding Source. The information must suffice to ensure that the continued functioning of the modified object code is in no case prevented or interfered with solely because modification has been made.

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The requirement to provide Installation Information does not include a requirement to continue to provide support service, warranty, or updates for a work that has been modified or installed by the recipient, or for the User Product in which it has been modified or installed. Access to a network may be denied when the modification itself materially and adversely affects the operation of the network or violates the rules and protocols for communication across the network.

Corresponding Source conveyed, and Installation Information provided, in accord with this section must be in a format that is publicly documented (and with an implementation available to the public in source code form), and must require no special password or key for unpacking, reading or copying.

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