
feed2exec Documentation

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`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

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:

```
feed2exec add "Example torrent list" http://example.com/torrents/feed --output_  
↳ feed2exec.plugins.exec --args 'transmission-remote marcos.anarc.at -a '{item.link}''_  
↳ -w /srv/incoming'
```

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

```
feed2exec add "My torrent" http://example.com/blog/feed --output feed2exec.plugins.  
↳ exec --args 'toot post "{item.title} {item.link}"'
```

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

```
feed2exec add "My torrent" http://example.com/blog/feed --output feed2exec.plugins.  
↳ exec --args 'tweet "{item.title:40s} {item.link:100s}"'
```

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 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

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:

```
feed2exec add "Example torrent list" http://example.com/torrents/feed --output _
↳ feed2exec.plugins.exec --args 'transmission-remote marcos.anarc.at -a '{item.link}'' _
↳ -w /srv/incoming'
```

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

```
feed2exec add "My torrent" http://example.com/blog/feed --output feed2exec.plugins.
↳ exec --args 'toot post "{item.title} {item.link}"'
```

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

```
feed2exec add "My torrent" http://example.com/blog/feed --output feed2exec.plugins.
↳ exec --args 'tweet "{item.title:40s} {item.link:100s}"'
```

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
```

3.1.5 Commands

- `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 <code>feed2exec.plugins.null</code>
--parallel	run parsing in the background to improve performance

--jobs N run N tasks in parallel maximum. implies `--parallel` which defaults to the number of CPUs detected on the machine

- add:

```
add [--output PLUGIN [--args ARG [ARG [...]]] [--filter PLUGIN] NAME URL
```

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

--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 `ls` 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-subscribed 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

# 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 localhost -a '{item.link}' -w '/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

`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`.

The threading design, in particular, may be a little clunky and is certainly less tested, which is why it is disabled by default (use `--parallel` to use it). 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.

3.2.1 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	✓	✓				✓
feed2imap	✓		✓			
rss2email			✓	✓	✓	

- 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 indiviual (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	✓	✓			✓	✓	
feed2imap		✓	✓	✓	✓		
rss2email	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

- **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

`feed2exec.feeds.default_config_dir()`

the default configuration directory

this is conforming to the [XDG base directory specification](#)

..todo:: this more or less conforms: the feed database is also stored in this directory, whereas the database may be better stored in `XDG_CACHE_HOME` or `XDG_RUNTIME_DIR`.

`feed2exec.feeds.fetch(url)`

fetch the given URL

this is a simple wrapper around the `requests` module.

exceptions should be handled by the caller.

Todo this could be moved to a plugin so it can be overridden, but so far I haven't found a use case for this.

Parameters `url` (*str*) – the URL to fetch

Return bytes, tuple the body of the URL and the modification timestamp

`feed2exec.feeds.normalize_item(feed=None, 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](#))

- link normalization fails on some feeds, particularly GitHub, where feeds are /foo instead of <https://github.com/foo>. unreported for now.

`feed2exec.feeds.parse(body, feed, 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`
- **feed** (*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

`feed2exec.feeds.fetch_feeds(pattern=None, parallel=False, force=False, catchup=False)`

main entry point for the feed fetch routines.

this iterates through all feeds configured in the `feed2exec.feeds.FeedStorage` that match the given pattern.

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()`.

Parameters

- **pattern** (*str*) – restrict operations to feeds named pattern. passed to `feed2exec.feeds.FeedStorage` 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.

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 = `'~/config/feed2exec/feed2exec.ini'`

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()`

`feed2exec.feeds.FeedStorage`

Feed storage used.

An alias to `feed2exec.feeds.ConfFeedStorage`, but can be overridden by plugins

alias of `ConfFeedStorage`

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 `multiprocessing.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.

Parameters

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

Return object the loaded plugin

`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 Core plugins

Archive

`feed2exec.plugins.archive.DEFAULT_ARCHIVE_DIR = '/run/user/1000/'`
 default archive directory

`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.

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.

Echo

`class feed2exec.plugins.echo.output (*args, **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*

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.

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, **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 `-o` option, a feed could set their title to `-oevil` 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.

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

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

Wayback

feed2exec.plugins.wayback.**output** (**args, 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 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/python3.5.zip', '/usr/lib/python3.5', '/usr/lib/python3.5/plat-x86_64-
↳ linux-gnu', '/usr/lib/python3.5/lib-dynload', '/usr/local/lib/python3.5/dist-
↳ packages', '/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 = trumperry
```

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/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
↪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_
↪Earth',)
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/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
↪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_
↳Earth',)
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/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
↳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_
↳Earth',)
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.

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 `trumperry` plugin and adding it as an output plugin:

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

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

```
$ python3 -m feed2exec --verbose fetch --force
opening local file /home/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.xml
parsing feed file:///home/anarcatsrc/feed2exec/feed2exec/tests/files/breaking_news.
↪xml (10355 bytes)
connecting to database at ./doc/feed2exec.db
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/president-trump-welcomes-home-record-breaking-nasa-
↪astronaut-peggy-whitson
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/three-international-space-station-crewmates-safely-
↪return-to-earth
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-
↪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-
↪3d-printing-competition
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-awards-contract-for-center-protective-services-
↪for-glenn-research-center
http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-announces-cassini-end-of-mission-media-
↪activities
1 feeds processed
```

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:

```
$ python3 -m feed2exec --config ./doc/ --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.
↪xml (10355 bytes)
connecting to database at ./doc/feed2exec.db
saving feed item President Drumpf Welcomes Home Record-breaking NASA Astronaut Peggy_
↪Whitson to /run/user/1000/president-drumpf-welcomes-home-record-breaking-nasa-
↪astronaut-peggy-whitson from http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/president-trump-
↪welcomes-home-record-breaking-nasa-astronaut-peggy-whitson
saving feed item Three International Space Station Crewmates Safely Return to Earth_
↪to /run/user/1000/three-international-space-station-crewmates-safely-return-to-
↪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-
↪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/
↳user/1000/nasa-cancels-planned-media-availabilities-with-astronauts from http://www.
↳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-
↳to-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-
↳awards-contract-for-center-protective-services-for-glenn-research-center
saving feed item NASA Announces Cassini End-of-Mission Media Activities to /run/user/
↳1000/nasa-announces-cassini-end-of-mission-media-activities from http://www.nasa.
↳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.

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
```

And now obviously, we only saved the link itself, not the link *content*. For that we need some help from the `requests` module. At that point, you will have re-written the `archive` module, which looks like this:

```
import logging
import os.path
import requests
from feed2exec.utils import slug

#: default archive directory
```

```
DEFAULT_ARCHIVE_DIR = '/run/user/1000/'

def 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.
    """

    # 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)
    # 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'))
        # fetch the URL in memory
        result = requests.get(item.get('link'))
        if result.status_code != requests.codes.ok:
            logging.warning('failed to fetch link %s: %s',
                            item.get('link'), result.status_code)
            # make sure we retry next time
            return False
        # open the file
        with open(path, 'w') as archive:
            # write the response
            archive.write(result.text)
        return True
    else:
        logging.info('no link for feed item %s, not archiving',
                     item.get('title'))
        # still consider the item processed, as there's nothing to archive
        return True
```

The key additions here are:

```
# fetch the URL in memory
result = requests.get(item.get('link'))
if result.status_code != requests.codes.ok:
    logging.warning('failed to fetch link %s: %s',
                    item.get('link'), result.status_code)
```



```
# make sure we retry next time
return False
```

which fetches the URL in memory and checks for errors.

Note: 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()`.

The other change in the final plugin is simply:

```
archive.write(result.text)
```

which writes the article content instead of the link.

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

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 anarc@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 Documentation

We love documentation!

The documentation mostly in the README file and can be [edited online](#) once you register.

3.5.4 Issues and bug reports

We want you to report issues 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 professionally. 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.

3.5.5 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 feed2exec
```

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.

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 time-frame, 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 (0.7.0) 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```
- * the ```maildir``` plugin has now a sane 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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