Lab Utils Documentation

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lab_utils is a collection of useful modules for Python development in the context of scientific laboratory work. It was created to standardize common tasks and features used by many different apps and users. The package aims to provide simple, efficient and robust protocols in the following areas:

- **PostgreSQL Database Interface**. The *database* module provides a simple interface to manage connections to a PostgreSQL database. It uses the package psycopg2 (a Python wrapper of the C library libpq) to provide simple database functionality.
- **Daemon-like TCP Server**. The *socket_comm* module provides a daemon-like TCP server base class. The *lab_utils.socket_comm.Server* is supposed to start and run indefinitely in the background, while listening for incoming communications over a TCP port. When a message is received, a string parser calls the appropriate method. Users should develop their own child class inheriting from *lab_utils.socket_comm*. *Server* and implementing the necessary methods for their particular needs.

The module also provides a simple <code>lab_utils.socket_comm.Client</code> to send messages to a running <code>lab_utils.socket_comm.Server</code> and receive the reply.

If this is your first time using *lab_utils*, have a look at our *Readme* for a more detailed summary and installation instructions. If you're already familiar with this package, or you want to dive straight in, you can jump to the *API reference*. There are also some *examples* which demonstrate specific applications of the modules.

ONE

README

1.1 Lab Utils, a collection of useful Python modules

This package contains several useful *modules* to help build Python applications. All modules provide support for a configuration file using configurater and standard logging.

Available modules:

- database: simple interface to manage connections to a PostgreSQL database
- socket_comm: TCP server/client communication for daemon-like apps.

1.2 Dependencies

The package lab-utils has the following pre-requisites:

- libpq, a C library that implements connections to the PostgreSQL backend server. The python package psycopg2 needed by the module *database* is built around this library, and it is strongly recommended to have it installed. If for some reason you can't install it or don't have access to it, a precompiled binary package is also available. Please notice that using precompiled binaries can lead to other problems.
- Python 3.6 and pip 10.0 are the minimum required versions to build **lab-utils** and its dependencies. It is recommended to install and run **lab-utils** (and any other package, for that matter) under a virtual environment.

1.3 Getting Started

These instructions will install the package **lab-utils** and let you import its modules in your own apps. It is assumed that you have successfully installed the *prerequisites* and are running inside a virtual environment.

1. Install the package and its dependencies

python -m pip install lab-utils

If you don't have PostgreSQL and libpq installed, you can use

python -m pip install lab-utils --only-binary psycopg2

2. Run some examples to test that everything works

```
cd examples
python database/create_column.py
```

1.4 Import into your own app

To use a <module> from the lab_utils collection in your own Python app, simply add

```
from lab_utils import <module>
```

1.5 Modules

All the modules provided by the package provide support for:

- Usage of a configuration file via the <module>.config(filename) method
- Standard Python logging.

1.5.1 database

This module is a simple interface to manage connections to a PostgreSQL database based on the psycopg2 library. The main features are:

- · Database connection and closing
- Create a new TimescaleDB table
- · Check if column and/or table exist in a given database
- Create a new column in a table, with optional constraints

1.5.2 socket_comm

This module implements a simple TCP server/client structure to develop daemon-like application.

1.6 Authors

• Carlos Vigo - Initial work - GitLab

1.7 Contributing

Please read our contributing policy for details on our code of conduct, and the process for submitting pull requests to us.

1.8 Versioning

We use Git for versioning. For the versions available, see the tags on this repository.

1.9 License

This project is licensed under the GNU GPLv3 License

1.10 Built With

- PyCharm Community Edition The IDE used
- Sphinx Documentation

1.11 Acknowledgments

• Nobody so far

API REFERENCE

Description

Collection of useful modules to build consistent Python apps. All modules share some basic principles to increase app compatibility and facilitate development:

- Settings. The modules have a config() method based in the standard library configparser. Documentation about the different configuration files can be found in the *examples section*.
- **Logging**. The modules use the standard logging library to manage logs at all levels. Each method will produce logs using a logger named like the method itself, so an app importing the module can easily modify the logging behaviour on a per-method basis. This is shown in the example TODO.

Modules

database	Basic interface to a PostgreSQL database.
socket_comm	Server/client communication via TCP sockets.

2.1 database

Description

Basic interface to a PostgreSQL database.

The module consists of a main class *Database* which implements methods for connection and disconnection, table verification and data insertion.

The database settings are set with a *config file* and the standard library configparser.

Classes

Constraint	List of accepted constraints for new columns.
DataType	List of accepted data types for new columns.
Database	Manages connections and operations with a Post-
	greSQL database.

2.1.1 Constraint

Description

class lab_utils.database.Constraint

List of accepted constraints for new columns. The constraints are hard-coded for safety reasons: SQL insertions are potentially dangerous.

Attributes

Constraint.positive	The variable must be greater or equal to 0
Constraint.positive_strict	The variable must be strictly positive

Constraint.positive

```
Constraint.positive = ' CHECK({column_name} >= 0) '
The variable must be greater or equal to 0
```

Constraint.positive_strict

```
Constraint.positive_strict = ' CHECK({column_name} > 0) '
The variable must be strictly positive
```

2.1.2 DataType

Description

```
class lab_utils.database.DataType
```

List of accepted data types for new columns. The types are hard-coded for safety reasons: SQL insertions are potentially dangerous. See here for more information.

Attributes

DataType.bool	Boolean
DataType.double	Floating-point number, 8 bytes
DataType.float	Floating-point number, 4 bytes
DataType.int	Integer (4 bytes, range is -2,147,483,648 to +2,147,483,647)
DataType.long	Integer (8 bytes, range) range is - 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to +9,223,372,036,854,775,807) to
DataType.short	Integer (2 bytes, range is -32,768 to +32,767)
DataType.string	String, unlimited length
DataType.time	Time stamp, with time zone information

DataType.bool

DataType.bool = 'BOOLEAN' Boolean

DataType.double

DataType.double = 'FLOAT(53)'
Floating-point number, 8 bytes

DataType.float

DataType.float = 'FLOAT(24)'
Floating-point number, 4 bytes

DataType.int

```
DataType.int = 'INTEGER'
Integer (4 bytes, range is -2,147,483,648 to +2,147,483,647)
```

DataType.long

```
DataType.long = 'BIGINT'
Integer (8 bytes, range is -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to +9,223,372,036,854,775,807)
```

DataType.short

DataType.short = 'SMALLINT' Integer (2 bytes, range is -32,768 to +32,767)

DataType.string

DataType.string = 'TEXT'
 String, unlimited length

DataType.time

DataType.time = 'TIMESTAMPTZ'
Time stamp, with time zone information

2.1.3 Database

Description

class lab_utils.database.Database (config_file: str = None)
Manages connections and operations with a PostgreSQL database. The class is based on the library psycopg2
and on this tutorial.

Methods

Databaseinit	Initializes the Database object.
Database.check_column	Checks if a column exists in a given table.
Database.check_table	Checks if a table exists.
Database.close	Closes the connection to the database.
Database.config	Loads the configuration.
Database.connect	Connects to the database.
Database.create_timescale_db	Creates a TimescaleDB table.
Database.new_column	Creates a new column in a given table.
Database.new_entry	Inserts data into a given table.

Database.__init__

Database.___init___(config_file: str = None)

Initializes the Database object. If a configuration file name is given, the constructor calls the method config() and overrides the default attributes

- **Parameters config_file** (*str, optional*) Configuration file name, default is *None*. See *here* for a configuration file example
- **Raises configparser.Error** If a configuration file name was given, the method *config()* can fail raising this exception.

Database.check_column

Database.check_column (*table_name*, *column_name*) Checks if a column exists in a given table.

Parameters

- table_name (str) The table where the column has to be checked
- column_name (str) The column to be checked

Returns True if the column exists, False otherwise.

Return type bool

Raises psycopg2.Error – Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.check_table

```
Database.check_table(table_name)
Checks if a table exists.
```

Parameters table_name (*str*) – The name of the table to be checked

Returns True if the table exists, False otherwise.

Return type bool

Raises psycopg2.Error – Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.close

```
Database.close()
```

Closes the connection to the database.

Raises psycopg2.Error – Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.config

Database.config (config_file: str = '/home/docs/checkouts/readthedocs.org/user_builds/labutils/envs/0.2.0/lib/python3.7/site-packages/lab_utils/conf/database.ini') Loads the configuration.

The method reads the config_file using the library configparser. The structure of the file is shown in the *examples section*.

Parameters config_file (*str, optional*) – *Configuration file name*, default is 'conf/database.ini'

Raises configparser.Error – Error while parsing the file, e.g. no file was found, a parameter is missing or it has an invalid value.

Database.connect

Database.connect (*print_version: bool = False*) Connects to the database.

If the connection was successful and the flag *print* was set, it also prints the database version as a connection check.

Parameters print_version (*bool*, *optional*) – Print the database version, default is False.

Raises psycopg2.Error – Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.create_timescale_db

```
Database.create_timescale_db(table_name: str, default_now: bool = True)
Creates a TimescaleDB table.
```

The table has a single column named 'time' with type 'TIMESTAMPTZ'. If the flag *default_now* is set (default is 'True'), the column 'time' will default to 'NOW()'

Parameters

- table_name (str) The name of the table to be checked
- **default_now** (*bool*, *optional*) Set the 'time' column default to 'NOW()', default is True.

Raises psycopg2.Error – Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.new_column

Database.**new_column** (*table_name: str*, *column_name: str*, *data_type:* lab_utils.database.DataType, *constraints: list = None*) Creates a new column in a given table.

If the column already exists, it just returns True. If the table does not exist, returns False.

Parameters

- table_name (str) Name of the table where the column has to be created
- column_name (*str*) Name of the column to be created
- **data_type** (*DataType*) Data type of the new column
- constraints (list, optional) List of Constraints, default is 'None'

Raises

- **TypeError** Invalid constraint or data type
- ValueError Invalid constraint or data type
- psycopg2.Error Base exception for all kind of database errors

Database.new_entry

Database.new_entry (*table_name: str*, *columns: list*, *data: list*, *check_columns: bool = False*) Inserts data into a given table.

See this example for usage examples

Parameters

- table_name (str) Name of the table where the data has to be inserted
- columns (list[str]) List of columns names corresponding to the data
- **data** (*list*) Values of the new data entry
- **check_columns** (*bool*, *optional*) Check that columns exist before insertion, default is False

Raises

• TypeError – Invalid data

- ValueError Invalid data
- psycopg2.Error Base exception for all kind of database errors

2.2 socket comm

Description

Server/client communication via TCP sockets. The module implements TCP communication between a daemon-like Server and a simple Client.

The Server class is meant to be run as a daemon-like app. The user should override the create_parser() method to define the daemon behaviour upon reception of a message from a *Client*. The base class provides support for the message 'quit', which will terminate the daemon. Any other message will be met with a help-like reply.

The *Client* class communicates with the *Server* sending a text string.

The ArgumentParser class and MessageError exception are necessary to override some unwanted default behaviour of the argparse library.

The module is based upon this tutorial.

lab_utils.socket_comm.buffer_size Maximum length of a transmitted messages

Type int, 1024

Classes

ArgumentParser	Modifies some annoying behaviours of the argparse
	library.
Client	Simple TCP client to communicate with a running
	Server.
Server	Daemon-like TCP server.

2.2.1 ArgumentParser

Description

class lab_utils.socket_comm.ArgumentParser(prog=None, usage=None, description=None, epilog=None, par*ents=None, formatter_class=<class* 'argparse.HelpFormatter'>, prefix_chars='fromfile_prefix_chars=None, argument_default=None, conflict_handler='error', *add_help=False*, *allow_abbrev=True*)

Modifies some annoying behaviours of the argparse library.

Methods

ArgumentParserinit	Overrides the default initialization of add_help to
	False. It also fixes the 'default value is mutable' warn-
	ing
ArgumentParser.error	Avoids the call to sys.exit() when an error is
	encountered.
ArgumentParser.full_help	Creates a complete help message for the daemon us-
	age.

ArgumentParser.__init__

ArgumentParser.___init___ (prog=None, usage=None, description=None, epilog=None, parents=None, formatter_class=<class 'argparse.HelpFormatter'>, prefix_chars='-', fromfile_prefix_chars=None, argument_default=None, conflict_handler='error', add_help=False, allow_abbrev=True)

Overrides the default initialization of add_help to False. It also fixes the 'default value is mutable' warning.

ArgumentParser.error

ArgumentParser.error(message: str)

Avoids the call to sys.exit() when an error is encountered.

Raises *MessageError* – Custom exception just for this purpose.

ArgumentParser.full_help

```
ArgumentParser.full_help() \rightarrow str
```

Creates a complete help message for the daemon usage. The –help option of argparse does not provide the possibility to print a monolithic help message including the subparsers.

Returns Full help message.

Return type str

2.2.2 Client

Description

class lab_utils.socket_comm.**Client** (*config_file: str = None, host: str = None, port: int =*

None)

Simple TCP client to communicate with a running *Server*. It sends a message and receives the reply from the server.

Attributes

Client.host	Host address.
Client.port	Connection port.

Client.host

Client.host: str = 'localhost' Host address.

Client.port

Client.port: int = 1507 Connection port.

Methods

Clientinit	Initializes the Client object.
Client.config	Loads the configuration from a file.
Client.send_message	Complete communication process.

Client.__init__

Client.__init__ (config_file: str = None, host: str = None, port: int = None) Initializes the Client object. If a config_file is given, the constructor calls the config() method and overrides the default attributes. If the parameters host and port are given, they will override the configuration file.

Parameters

- **config_file** (*str*, *optional*) Configuration file name, default is *None*. Same as See the example TODO.
- **host** (*str*, *optional*) Host address, default is None.
- **port** (*int*, *optional*) Connection port, default is None.
- **Raises configparser.Error** If a configuration file name was given, the method *config()* can fail raising this exception.

Client.config

Client.config(config_file: str = '/home/docs/checkouts/readthedocs.org/user_builds/labutils/envs/0.2.0/lib/python3.7/site-packages/lab_utils/conf/server.ini') Loads the configuration from a file.

The method reads the *config_file* using the library configparser. The structure of the file is shown in the *examples section*.

```
Parameters config_file (str, optional) - TODO
```

Raises configparser.Error – Error while parsing the file, e.g. no file was found, a parameter is missing or it has an invalid value.

Client.send_message

```
Client.send_message(message: str) → str
```

Complete communication process. Connects to the *Server*, sends a *message*, gets the reply and closes the connection.

Parameters message (*str*) – Message for the *Server*.

Raises OSError – Various socket errors, e.g. address or timeout

Returns Reply from the server

Return type str

2.2.3 Server

Description

class lab_utils.socket_comm.Server(config_file: str = None, pid_file_name: str = None)
Daemon-like TCP server. The server connects to the specified host and port and locks a PID file to
ensure it is the only instance running.

If successful, the server will then listen indefinitely, waiting for a client to connect. Upon connection, a *message* is received and passed to the *parser*. If the message is valid, the parser will call the respective method. The base class provides only the *quit()* method; users should create new methods suitable for their needs. These methods should always set an appropriate *reply*, which will be then sent back to the client.

If a message is not valid (i.e. the parser does not support it), an error message and a complete help string is sent back to the client. The help string by the argparse library is not complete and hence is overridden by the *ArgumentParser.full_help()* method.

TODO: Create some examples of message parsing.

Attributes

Server.address	TCP binding address.
Server.host	Host address.
Server.lock	LockFile object.
Server.logger	Single logger for the whole class.
Server.max_backlog	TCP connection queue.
Server.message	Message from the client.
Server.namespace	Container to hold message options.
Server.parser	Argument parser.
Server.pid_file_name	The PID file name
Server.port	Connection port.
Server.quit_flag	Internal flag to stop the daemon.
Server.reply	Reply to the client.
Server.sock	Connection socket.
Server.socket_timeout	Socket time-out, used for Ctrl+C handling
Server.sp	Argument subparser

Server.address

```
Server.address: str = None
TCP binding address.
```

Server.host

Server.host: str = 'localhost' Host address.

Server.lock

Server.lock: zc.lockfile.LockFile = None LockFile object.

Server.logger

```
Server.logger: logging.Logger = None
Single logger for the whole class.
```

Server.max_backlog

```
Server.max_backlog: int = 1
TCP connection queue.
```

Server.message

```
Server.message: str = ''
Message from the client.
```

Server.namespace

```
Server.namespace: argparse.Namespace = None
Container to hold message options.
```

Server.parser

Server.parser: lab_utils.socket_comm.ArgumentParser = None Argument parser.

Server.pid_file_name

```
Server.pid_file_name: str = '/tmp/socket_comm.pid'
The PID file name
```

Server.port

Server.port: int = 1507 Connection port.

Server.quit_flag

```
Server.quit_flag: bool = False
Internal flag to stop the daemon.
```

Server.reply

Server.reply: str = '' Reply to the client.

Server.sock

```
Server.sock: _socket.socket = None
Connection socket.
```

Server.socket_timeout

```
Server.socket_timeout: float = 1.0
Socket time-out, used for Ctrl+C handling
```

Server.sp

```
Server.sp: argparse._SubParsersAction = None
Argument subparser
```

Methods

Serverinit	Initializes and runs the Server object.
Server.config	Loads the server configuration from a file.
Server.create_parser	Configures the message parser, which will call the
	appropriate method upon reception of a message.
Server.daemonize	Locks a PID file to ensure that a single instance of
	the server is running.
Server.quit	User-defined task example.
Server.signal_handler	
Server.start_daemon	Starts the server.

Server.__init__

Server.___init___(config_file: str = None, pid_file_name: str = None)

Initializes and runs the *Server* object. The constructor calls the *config()* method to read out the server attributes, and initializes the *logger* and the message *parser*. Finally, the method *daemonize()* tries to lock the PID file *pid_file_name*.

Parameters

- **config_file** (*str*, *optional*) Configuration file, default is None.
- **pid_file_name** (*str*, *optional*) If given, overrides the default *PID* file *name*.

Raises

- configuration file error Configuration file error
- LockError The PID file could not be locked (see here).
- OSError Various socket errors, e.g. address or timeout

Server.config

```
Server.config(filename: str)
```

Loads the server configuration from a file.

Parameters filename (*str*) – The file name to be read.

Raises configparser.Error – If an error happened while parsing the file, e.g. no file was found

Server.create_parser

Server.create_parser()

Configures the message *parser*, which will call the appropriate method upon reception of a message. Other arguments given to the parser will be available in the *namespace*.

As an example, the subparser for the message 'quit' is implemented. The user should override the *quit()* method, as well as implement other methods for the particular daemon tasks.

Server.daemonize

Server.daemonize()

Locks a PID file to ensure that a single instance of the server is running. It is based on the (poorly documented) zc.lockfile package.

Raises LockError – The PID file could not be locked.

Server.quit

```
Server.quit()
```

User-defined task example. The method is called by the *parser* when the message 'quit' is received. For the base class, it just says goodbye to the client. Users should override it to do proper clean-up of their daemon.

Server.signal_handler

Server.signal_handler(_, __)

Server.start_daemon

```
Server.start_daemon()
```

Starts the server. The server will run in an endless loop until the message 'quit' is received. Clients can connect to the TCP port and send a text string. The message will be parsed by the *parser*, which will call the respective function. If the message is invalid, a help string is sent to the client.

The binding to the TCP port might fail for several reasons (e.g. the port is already in use by another process or requires admin rights), in which an OSError exception is raised. If the binding is successful, the server should be able to manage all exceptions, log them, and continue normal operations.

Raises OSError - Various socket errors, e.g. address or timeout

Exceptions

MessageError Invalid message.

2.2.4 MessageError

exception lab_utils.socket_comm.MessageError
 Invalid message.

THREE

EXAMPLES

This documentation is intended to show practical usage examples of the different modules included in the *lab_utils* package.

3.1 Configuration files

The config method of each module expects a configuration file with a specific pattern. In addition, a sample file accepted by the standard logging.config method is also provided.

3.1.1 Logging Configuration File

The logging configuration file

3.1.2 Database Configuration File

The database configuration file

3.2 Database

3.2.1 Installing

lab_utils can be obtained from pip via

pip install lab_utils

You can also get *lab_utils* from its current source on GitHub, to get all the latest and greatest features. *lab_utils* is under active development, and many new features are being added. However, note that the API is currently unstable at this time.

```
git clone https://github.com/mrocklin/sparse.git
cd ./sparse/
pip install .
```

FOUR

CHANGELOG

All notable changes to this project will be documented in this file.

The format is based on Keep a Changelog, and this project adheres to Semantic Versioning.

4.1 **TODO**

• Implement multithreading

4.2 [0.2.0] - 2020-05-08

- Implement CI with .___gitlab-ci.yml.
- Improve documentation
- Module socket_comm:
- Implement method to send a complete help message to the client.
- Implement signal ahndler to deal with Ctrl+C nicely
- Expand examples

4.3 0.1.0 - 2020-05-05

- First release of the **lab-utils** package
- Installation instructions and setup
- Modules available: database and socket_comm

CONTRIBUTING

When contributing to this repository, please first discuss the change you wish to make via issue, email, or any other method with the owners of this repository before making a change.

Please note we have a code of conduct, please follow it in all your interactions with the project.

5.1 Pull Request Process

- 1. Ensure any install or build dependencies are removed before the end of the layer when doing a build.
- 2. Update the README.md with details of changes to the interface, this includes new environment variables, exposed ports, useful file locations and container parameters.
- 3. Increase the version numbers in any examples files and the README.md to the new version that this Pull Request would represent. The versioning scheme we use is SemVer.
- 4. You may merge the Pull Request in once you have the sign-off of two other developers, or if you do not have permission to do that, you may request the second reviewer to merge it for you.

5.2 Code of Conduct

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 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

5.2.3 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.

5.2.4 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.

5.2.5 Enforcement

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior may be reported by contacting the project team at [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS]. All complaints will be reviewed and investigated and will result in a response that is deemed necessary and appropriate to the circumstances. The project team 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.

5.2.6 Attribution

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

GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE

Version 3, 29 June 2007Copyright © 2007 Free Software Foundation, Inc. < http://fsf.org/>

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6.1 Preamble

The GNU General Public License is a free, copyleft license for software and other kinds of works.

The licenses for most software and other practical works are designed to take away your freedom to share and change the works. By contrast, the GNU General Public License is intended to guarantee your freedom to share and change all versions of a program–to make sure it remains free software for all its users. We, the Free Software Foundation, use the GNU General Public License for most of our software; it applies also to any other work released this way by its authors. You can apply it to your programs, too.

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```
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