
zope.event Documentation

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Zope Foundation and Contributors

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This package provides a simple event system on which application-specific event systems can be built. For example, a type-based event dispatching system that builds on [zope.interface](#) can be found in [zope.component](#). A simpler system is distributed with this package and is described in *Class-based event handlers*.

Application code can generate events without being concerned about the event-processing frameworks that might handle the events.

Events are objects that represent something happening in a system. They are used to extend processing by providing processing plug points.

Contents:

Using `zope.event`

At its core, `zope.event` simply consists of two things: a list of subscribers (callable objects), and an API function (`notify()`) that invokes those subscribers in order.

1.1 Notifications

Alerting subscribers that an event has occurred is referred to as “notifying them”, or sometimes “sending them the event.”

The package provides a `notify()` function, which is used to notify subscribers that something has happened:

```
>>> class MyEvent(object):
...     pass

>>> event = MyEvent()
>>> zope.event.notify(event)
```

The notify function is called with a single object, which we call an event. Any object will do:

```
>>> zope.event.notify(None)
>>> zope.event.notify(42)
```

Our subscriber list is currently empty, so nothing happened in response to these notifications.

1.2 Subscribers

A *subscriber* is a callable object that takes one argument, an object that we call the *event*.

Application code can manage subscriptions by manipulating the list that `zope.event` maintains. This list starts out empty.

```
>>> import zope.event
>>> zope.event.subscribers
[]
```

Note: Users of higher-level event frameworks will not typically need to modify *this* subscriber list directly. Generally, such event (or application) frameworks will provide more sophisticated subscription mechanisms that build on this simple mechanism. The frameworks will install subscribers that then distribute the event to other subscribers based on event types or data.

A simple framework that is based on the class hierarchy is distributed with this package and described in *Class-based event handlers*.

A higher-level event framework is distributed with `zope.component`. For information on using `zope.event` together with `zope.component`, see [zope.component's documentation](#).

1.2.1 Trivial Subscribers

As mentioned above, subscribers are simply callable objects that are added to the subscriptions list:

```
>>> def f(event):
...     print 'got:', event
>>> zope.event.subscribers.append(f)

>>> zope.event.notify(42)
got: 42

>>> def g(event):
...     print 'also got:', event
>>> zope.event.subscribers.append(g)

>>> zope.event.notify(42)
got: 42
also got: 42
```

To unsubscribe, simply remove a subscriber from the list:

```
>>> zope.event.subscribers.remove(f)
>>> zope.event.notify(42)
also got: 42

>>> zope.event.subscribers.remove(g)
>>> zope.event.notify(42)
```

Theory of Operation

Note: This section explains both why an application or framework might publish events, and various ways the integrator might configure the subscribers to achieve different goals.

2.1 Outline

- Events as decoupling mechanism.
 - Injecting policy into reusable applications.
 - Extending frameworks.
- Event dispatch strategies
 - Type-based dispatch, as used in ZCA
 - Attribute-based / key-based dispatch

The package exports the following API symbols.

3.1 Data

`zope.event.subscribers = []`

Applications may register for notification of events by appending a callable to the `subscribers` list.

Each subscriber takes a single argument, which is the event object being published.

Exceptions raised by subscribers will be propagated *without* running any remaining subscribers.

3.2 Functions

`zope.event.notify(event)`

Notify all subscribers of `event`.

Class-based event handlers

Class-based event handlers

A light-weight event-handler framework based on event classes.

Handlers are registered for event classes:

```
>>> import zope.event.classhandler
```

```
>>> class MyEvent(object):
...     def __repr__(self):
...         return self.__class__.__name__
```

```
>>> def handler1(event):
...     print("handler1 %r" % event)
```

```
>>> zope.event.classhandler.handler(MyEvent, handler1)
```

Descriptor syntax:

```
>>> @zope.event.classhandler.handler(MyEvent)
... def handler2(event):
...     print("handler2 %r" % event)
```

```
>>> class MySubEvent(MyEvent):
...     pass
```

```
>>> @zope.event.classhandler.handler(MySubEvent)
... def handler3(event):
...     print("handler3 %r" % event)
```

Subscribers are called in class method-resolution order, so only new-style event classes are supported, and then by order of registry.

```
>>> import zope.event
>>> zope.event.notify(MySubEvent())
handler3 MySubEvent
handler1 MySubEvent
handler2 MySubEvent
```

`zope.event.classhandler.handler(event_class[, handler])`

Define an event handler for a (new-style) class.

This can be called with a class and a handler, or with just a class and the result used as a handler decorator.

Hacking on `zope.event`

5.1 Getting the Code

The main repository for `zope.event` is in the Zope Foundation Github repository:

<https://github.com/zopefoundation/zope.event>

You can get a read-only checkout from there:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/zopefoundation/zope.event.git
```

or fork it and get a writeable checkout of your fork:

```
$ git clone git@github.com:jrandom/zope.event.git
```

The project also mirrors the trunk from the Github repository as a Bazaar branch on Launchpad:

<https://code.launchpad.net/zope.event>

You can branch the trunk from there using Bazaar:

```
$ bazaar branch lp:zope.event
```

5.2 Working in a `virtualenv`

5.2.1 Installing

If you use the `virtualenv` package to create lightweight Python development environments, you can run the tests using nothing more than the `python` binary in a `virtualenv`. First, create a scratch environment:

```
$ /path/to/virtualenv --no-site-packages /tmp/hack-zope.event
```

Next, get this package registered as a “development egg” in the environment:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/python setup.py develop
```

5.2.2 Running the tests

Then, you can run the tests using the build-in `setuptools` testrunner:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/python setup.py test
running test
...
test_empty (zope.event.tests.Test_notify) ... ok
test_not_empty (zope.event.tests.Test_notify) ... ok

-----
Ran 2 tests in 0.000s

OK
```

If you have the `nose` package installed in the virtualenv, you can use its testrunner too:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/easy_install nose
...
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/python setup.py nosetests
running nosetests
...
-----
Ran 3 tests in 0.011s

OK
```

or:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/nosetests
...
-----
Ran 3 tests in 0.011s

OK
```

If you have the `coverage` package installed in the virtualenv, you can see how well the tests cover the code:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/easy_install nose coverage
...
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/python setup.py nosetests \
  --with coverage --cover-package=zope.event
running nosetests
...
Name           Stmt  Exec  Cover  Missing
-----
zope.event      5      5  100%
-----
Ran 3 tests in 0.019s

OK
```


5.2.3 Building the documentation

zope.event uses the nifty Sphinx documentation system for building its docs. Using the same virtualenv you set up to run the tests, you can build the docs:

```
$ /tmp/hack-zope.event/bin/easy_install Sphinx
...
$ cd docs
$ PATH=/tmp/hack-zope.event/bin:$PATH make html
sphinx-build -b html -d _build/doctrees . _build/html
...
build succeeded.

Build finished. The HTML pages are in _build/html.
```

You can also test the code snippets in the documentation:

```
$ PATH=/tmp/hack-zope.event/bin:$PATH make doctest
sphinx-build -b doctest -d _build/doctrees . _build/doctest
...
running tests...

Document: index
-----
1 items passed all tests:
  17 tests in default
17 tests in 1 items.
17 passed and 0 failed.
Test passed.

Doctest summary
=====
  17 tests
   0 failures in tests
   0 failures in setup code
build succeeded.
Testing of doctests in the sources finished, look at the \
  results in _build/doctest/output.txt.
```

5.3 Using `zc.buildout`

5.3.1 Setting up the buildout

zope.event ships with its own `buildout.cfg` file and `bootstrap.py` for setting up a development buildout:

```
$ /path/to/python2.6 bootstrap.py
...
Generated script '../bin/buildout'
$ bin/buildout
Develop: '/home/jrandom/projects/Zope/zope.event/.'
...
Generated script '../bin/sphinx-quickstart'.
Generated script '../bin/sphinx-build'.
```

5.3.2 Running the tests

You can now run the tests:

```
$ bin/test --all
Running zope.testing.testrunner.layer.UnitTests tests:
  Set up zope.testing.testrunner.layer.UnitTests in 0.000 seconds.
  Ran 2 tests with 0 failures and 0 errors in 0.000 seconds.
Tearing down left over layers:
  Tear down zope.testing.testrunner.layer.UnitTests in 0.000 seconds.
```

5.4 Using tox

5.4.1 Running Tests on Multiple Python Versions

`tox` is a Python-based test automation tool designed to run tests against multiple Python versions. It creates a `virtualenv` for each configured version, installs the current package and configured dependencies into each `virtualenv`, and then runs the configured commands.

`zope.event` configures the following `tox` environments via its `tox.ini` file:

- The `py26`, `py27`, `py33`, `py34`, and `pypy` environments builds a `virtualenv` with the corresponding interpreter, installs `zope.event` and dependencies, and runs the tests via `python setup.py -q test -q`.
- The `coverage` environment builds a `virtualenv` with `python2.6`, installs `zope.event`, installs `nose` and `coverage`, and runs `nosetests` with `statement` and `branch` coverage.
- The `docs` environment builds a `virtualenv` with `python2.6`, installs `zope.event`, installs `Sphinx` and dependencies, and then builds the docs and exercises the `doctest` snippets.

This example requires that you have a working `python2.6` on your path, as well as installing `tox`:

```
$ tox -e py26
GLOB sdist-make: .../zope.event/setup.py
py26 sdist-reinst: .../zope.event/.tox/dist/zope.event-4.0.2dev.zip
py26 runtests: commands[0]
...
-----
Ran 2 tests in 0.000s

OK
_____ summary _____
py26: commands succeeded
congratulations :)
```

Running `tox` with no arguments runs all the configured environments, including building the docs and testing their snippets:

```
$ tox
GLOB sdist-make: .../zope.event/setup.py
py26 sdist-reinst: .../zope.event/.tox/dist/zope.event-4.0.2dev.zip
py26 runtests: commands[0]
...
Doctest summary
=====
```

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```

17 tests
  0 failures in tests
  0 failures in setup code
  0 failures in cleanup code
build succeeded.
_____ summary _____
py26: commands succeeded
py27: commands succeeded
py32: commands succeeded
pypy: commands succeeded
coverage: commands succeeded
docs: commands succeeded
congratulations :)

```

5.5 Contributing to zope.event

5.5.1 Submitting a Bug Report

zope.event tracks its bugs on Github:

<https://github.com/zopefoundation/zope.event/issues>

Please submit bug reports and feature requests there.

5.5.2 Sharing Your Changes

Note: Please ensure that all tests are passing before you submit your code. If possible, your submission should include new tests for new features or bug fixes, although it is possible that you may have tested your new code by updating existing tests.

If have made a change you would like to share, the best route is to fork the Github repository, check out your fork, make your changes on a branch in your fork, and push it. You can then submit a pull request from your branch:

<https://github.com/zopefoundation/zope.event/pulls>

If you branched the code from Launchpad using Bazaar, you have another option: you can “push” your branch to Launchpad:

```
$ bazaar push lp:~jrandom/zope.event/cool_feature
```

After pushing your branch, you can link it to a bug report on Github, or request that the maintainers merge your branch using the Launchpad “merge request” feature.

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