# watchdog Documentation

*Release 1.0.1*

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**Aug 24, 2021**

# Contents

Python API library and shell utilities to monitor file system events.

Works on 3.6+.

If you want to use Python 2.6, you should stick with watchdog < 0.10.0.

If you want to use Python 2.7, 3.4 or 3.5, you should stick with watchdog < 1.0.0.

# Directory monitoring made easy with

- A cross-platform API.

- A shell tool to run commands in response to directory changes.

Get started quickly with a simple example in *Quickstart*.

# CHAPTER 2

## Easy installation

You can use [pip](#) to install `watchdog` quickly and easily:

```
$ python -m pip install -U watchdog
```

Need more help with installing? See *Installation*.

User's Guide

## 3.1 Installation

`watchdog` requires 3.6+ to work. See a list of *Dependencies*.

### 3.1.1 Installing from PyPI using pip

```
$ python -m pip install -U watchdog

# or to install the watchmedo utility:
$ python -m pip install -U |project_name|[watchmedo]
```

### 3.1.2 Installing from source tarballs

```
$ wget -c http://pypi.python.org/packages/source/w/watchdog/watchdog-1.0.1.
↪tar.gz
$ tar zxvf watchdog-1.0.1.tar.gz
$ cd watchdog-1.0.1
$ python -m pip install -e .

# or to install the watchmedo utility:
$ python -m pip install -e ".[watchmedo]"
```

### 3.1.3 Installing from the code repository

```
$ git clone --recursive git://github.com/gorakhargosh/watchdog.git
$ cd watchdog
$ python -m pip install -e .
```

```
# or to install the watchmedo utility:
$ python -m pip install -e ".[watchmedo]"
```

### 3.1.4 Dependencies

`watchdog` depends on many libraries to do its job. The following is a list of dependencies you need based on the operating system you are using.

| Operating system Dependency (row) | Windows | Linux 2.6 | Mac OS X/ Darwin | BSD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XCode | | | Yes | |

The following is a list of dependencies you need based on the operating system you are using the `watchmedo` utility.

| Operating system Dependency (row) | Windows | Linux 2.6 | Mac OS X/ Darwin | BSD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PyYAML | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| argh | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

#### Installing Dependencies

The `watchmedo` script depends on PyYAML which links with LibYAML. On Mac OS X, you can use homebrew to install LibYAML:

```
brew install libyaml
```

On Linux, use your favorite package manager to install LibYAML. Here's how you do it on Ubuntu:

```
sudo apt install libyaml-dev
```

On Windows, please install PyYAML using the binaries they provide.

### 3.1.5 Supported Platforms (and Caveats)

`watchdog` uses native APIs as much as possible falling back to polling the disk periodically to compare directory snapshots only when it cannot use an API natively-provided by the underlying operating system. The following operating systems are currently supported:

> **Warning:** Differences between behaviors of these native API are noted below.

**Linux 2.6+** Linux kernel version 2.6 and later come with an API called inotify that programs can use to monitor file system events.

> **Note:** On most systems the maximum number of watches that can be created per user is limited to `8192`. `watchdog` needs one per directory to monitor. To change this limit, edit `/etc/sysctl.conf` and add:

```
fs.inotify.max_user_watches=16384
```

**Mac OS X** The Darwin kernel/OS X API maintains two ways to monitor directories for file system events:

- kqueue

- FSEvents

`watchdog` can use whichever one is available, preferring FSEvents over `kqueue(2)`. `kqueue(2)` uses open file descriptors for monitoring and the current implementation uses Mac OS X File System Monitoring Performance Guidelines to open these file descriptors only to monitor events, thus allowing OS X to unmount volumes that are being watched without locking them.

**Note:** More information about how `watchdog` uses `kqueue(2)` is noted in *BSD Unix variants*. Much of this information applies to Mac OS X as well.

**BSD Unix variants** BSD variants come with kqueue which programs can use to monitor changes to open file descriptors. Because of the way `kqueue(2)` works, `watchdog` needs to open these files and directories in read-only non-blocking mode and keep books about them.

`watchdog` will automatically open file descriptors for all new files/directories created and close those for which are deleted.

**Note:** The maximum number of open file descriptor per process limit on your operating system can hinder `watchdog`'s ability to monitor files.

You should ensure this limit is set to at least **1024** (or a value suitable to your usage). The following command appended to your `~/.profile` configuration file does this for you:

```
ulimit -n 1024
```

**Windows Vista and later** The Windows API provides the ReadDirectoryChangesW. `watchdog` currently contains implementation for a synchronous approach requiring additional API functionality only available in Windows Vista and later.

**Note:** Since renaming is not the same operation as movement on Windows, `watchdog` tries hard to convert renames to movement events. Also, because the ReadDirectoryChangesW API function returns rename/movement events for directories even before the underlying I/O is complete, `watchdog` may not be able to completely scan the moved directory in order to successfully queue movement events for files and directories within it.

**Note:** Since the Windows API does not provide information about whether an object is a file or a directory, delete events for directories may be reported as a file deleted event.

**OS Independent Polling** `watchdog` also includes a fallback-implementation that polls watched directories for changes by periodically comparing snapshots of the directory tree.

## 3.2 Quickstart

Below we present a simple example that monitors the current directory recursively (which means, it will traverse any sub-directories) to detect changes. Here is what we will do with the API:

1. Create an instance of the `watchdog.observers.Observer` thread class.

2. Implement a subclass of `watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler` (or as in our case, we will use the built-in `watchdog.events.LoggingEventHandler`, which already does).

3. Schedule monitoring a few paths with the observer instance attaching the event handler.

4. Start the observer thread and wait for it generate events without blocking our main thread.

By default, an `watchdog.observers.Observer` instance will not monitor sub-directories. By passing `recursive=True` in the call to `watchdog.observers.Observer.schedule()` monitoring entire directory trees is ensured.

### 3.2.1 A Simple Example

The following example program will monitor the current directory recursively for file system changes and simply log them to the console:

```python
import sys
import logging
from watchdog.observers import Observer
from watchdog.events import LoggingEventHandler

if __name__ == "__main__":
    logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO,
                        format='%(asctime)s - %(message)s',
                        datefmt='%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S')
    path = sys.argv[1] if len(sys.argv) > 1 else '.'
    event_handler = LoggingEventHandler()
    observer = Observer()
    observer.schedule(event_handler, path, recursive=True)
    observer.start()
    try:
        while observer.isAlive():
            observer.join(1)
    finally:
        observer.stop()
        observer.join()
```

To stop the program, press Control-C.

## 3.3 API Reference

### 3.3.1 *watchdog.events*

**module** watchdog.events

**synopsis** File system events and event handlers.

**author** yesudeep@google.com (Yesudeep Mangalapilly)

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**author** contact@tiger-222.fr (Mickaël Schoentgen)

## Event Classes

**class** watchdog.events.**FileSystemEvent**(*src_path*)

    Bases: object

    Immutable type that represents a file system event that is triggered when a change occurs on the monitored file system.

    All FileSystemEvent objects are required to be immutable and hence can be used as keys in dictionaries or be added to sets.

    **event_type = None**

        The type of the event as a string.

    **is_directory = False**

        True if event was emitted for a directory; False otherwise.

    **is_synthetic = False**

        True if event was synthesized; False otherwise.

        These are events that weren't actually broadcast by the OS, but are presumed to have happened based on other, actual events.

    **src_path**

        Source path of the file system object that triggered this event.

**class** watchdog.events.**FileSystemMovedEvent**(*src_path*, *dest_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

    File system event representing any kind of file system movement.

    **dest_path**

        The destination path of the move event.

**class** watchdog.events.**FileMovedEvent**(*src_path*, *dest_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemMovedEvent*

    File system event representing file movement on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**DirMovedEvent**(*src_path*, *dest_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemMovedEvent*

    File system event representing directory movement on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**FileModifiedEvent**(*src_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

    File system event representing file modification on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**DirModifiedEvent**(*src_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

    File system event representing directory modification on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**FileCreatedEvent**(*src_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

    File system event representing file creation on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**DirCreatedEvent**(*src_path*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

File system event representing directory creation on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**FileDeletedEvent**(*src_path*)

  Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

File system event representing file deletion on the file system.

**class** watchdog.events.**DirDeletedEvent**(*src_path*)

  Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent*

File system event representing directory deletion on the file system.

## Event Handler Classes

**class** watchdog.events.**FileSystemEventHandler**

  Bases: object

Base file system event handler that you can override methods from.

  **dispatch**(*event*)

  Dispatches events to the appropriate methods.

    **Parameters event** (*FileSystemEvent*) – The event object representing the file system event.

  **on_any_event**(*event*)

  Catch-all event handler.

    **Parameters event** (*FileSystemEvent*) – The event object representing the file system event.

  **on_created**(*event*)

  Called when a file or directory is created.

    **Parameters event** (*DirCreatedEvent* or *FileCreatedEvent*) – Event representing file/directory creation.

  **on_deleted**(*event*)

  Called when a file or directory is deleted.

    **Parameters event** (*DirDeletedEvent* or *FileDeletedEvent*) – Event representing file/directory deletion.

  **on_modified**(*event*)

  Called when a file or directory is modified.

    **Parameters event** (*DirModifiedEvent* or *FileModifiedEvent*) – Event representing file/directory modification.

  **on_moved**(*event*)

  Called when a file or a directory is moved or renamed.

    **Parameters event** (*DirMovedEvent* or *FileMovedEvent*) – Event representing file/directory movement.

**class** watchdog.events.**PatternMatchingEventHandler**(*patterns=None*, *ignore_patterns=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *case_sensitive=False*)

  Bases: *watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler*

Matches given patterns with file paths associated with occurring events.

**case_sensitive**
>   (Read-only) `True` if path names should be matched sensitive to case; `False` otherwise.

**dispatch**(*event*)
>   Dispatches events to the appropriate methods.

>>  **Parameters event** (`FileSystemEvent`) – The event object representing the file system event.

**ignore_directories**
>   (Read-only) `True` if directories should be ignored; `False` otherwise.

**ignore_patterns**
>   (Read-only) Patterns to ignore matching event paths.

**patterns**
>   (Read-only) Patterns to allow matching event paths.

**class** watchdog.events.**RegexMatchingEventHandler**(*regexes=None*, *ignore_regexes=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *case_sensitive=False*)
>   Bases: `watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler`

Matches given regexes with file paths associated with occurring events.

**case_sensitive**
>   (Read-only) `True` if path names should be matched sensitive to case; `False` otherwise.

**dispatch**(*event*)
>   Dispatches events to the appropriate methods.

>>  **Parameters event** (`FileSystemEvent`) – The event object representing the file system event.

**ignore_directories**
>   (Read-only) `True` if directories should be ignored; `False` otherwise.

**ignore_regexes**
>   (Read-only) Regexes to ignore matching event paths.

**regexes**
>   (Read-only) Regexes to allow matching event paths.

**class** watchdog.events.**LoggingEventHandler**(*logger=None*)
>   Bases: `watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler`

Logs all the events captured.

**on_created**(*event*)
>   Called when a file or directory is created.

>>  **Parameters event** (`DirCreatedEvent` or `FileCreatedEvent`) – Event representing file/directory creation.

**on_deleted**(*event*)
>   Called when a file or directory is deleted.

>>  **Parameters event** (`DirDeletedEvent` or `FileDeletedEvent`) – Event representing file/directory deletion.

**on_modified**(*event*)
>   Called when a file or directory is modified.

>>  **Parameters event** (`DirModifiedEvent` or `FileModifiedEvent`) – Event representing file/directory modification.

**on_moved**(*event*)
>   Called when a file or a directory is moved or renamed.

>>      **Parameters event** (*DirMovedEvent* or *FileMovedEvent*) – Event representing
>>      file/directory movement.

### 3.3.2 *watchdog.observers.api*

**Immutables**

**class** watchdog.observers.api.**ObservedWatch**(*path*, *recursive*)
>   Bases: object

>   An scheduled watch.

>>      **Parameters**

>>>          • **path** – Path string.

>>>          • **recursive** – True if watch is recursive; False otherwise.

>   **is_recursive**
>>      Determines whether subdirectories are watched for the path.

>   **path**
>>      The path that this watch monitors.

**Collections**

**class** watchdog.observers.api.**EventQueue**(*maxsize=0*)
>   Bases: watchdog.utils.bricks.SkipRepeatsQueue

>   Thread-safe event queue based on a special queue that skips adding the same event (FileSystemEvent)
>   multiple times consecutively. Thus avoiding dispatching multiple event handling calls when multiple identical
>   events are produced quicker than an observer can consume them.

**Classes**

**class** watchdog.observers.api.**EventEmitter**(*event_queue*, *watch*, *timeout=1*)
>   Bases: *watchdog.utils.BaseThread*

>   Producer thread base class subclassed by event emitters that generate events and populate a queue with them.

>>      **Parameters**

>>>          • **event_queue** (watchdog.events.EventQueue) – The event queue to populate
>>>          with generated events.

>>>          • **watch** (*ObservedWatch*) – The watch to observe and produce events for.

>>>          • **timeout** (float) – Timeout (in seconds) between successive attempts at reading events.

>   **queue_event**(*event*)
>>      Queues a single event.

>>>          **Parameters event** (An instance of *watchdog.events.FileSystemEvent* or a sub-
>>>          class.) – Event to be queued.

>   **queue_events**(*timeout*)
>>      Override this method to populate the event queue with events per interval period.

---

> **Parameters timeout** (float) – Timeout (in seconds) between successive attempts at reading events.

**run**()
> Method representing the thread's activity.
>
> You may override this method in a subclass. The standard run() method invokes the callable object passed to the object's constructor as the target argument, if any, with sequential and keyword arguments taken from the args and kwargs arguments, respectively.

**timeout**
> Blocking timeout for reading events.

**watch**
> The watch associated with this emitter.

**class** watchdog.observers.api.**EventDispatcher**(*timeout=1*)
> Bases: *watchdog.utils.BaseThread*

Consumer thread base class subclassed by event observer threads that dispatch events from an event queue to appropriate event handlers.

> **Parameters timeout** (float) – Event queue blocking timeout (in seconds).

**dispatch_events**(*event_queue*, *timeout*)
> Override this method to consume events from an event queue, blocking on the queue for the specified timeout before raising queue.Empty.
>
> > **Parameters**
> >
> > - **event_queue** (*EventQueue*) – Event queue to populate with one set of events.
> > - **timeout** (float) – Interval period (in seconds) to wait before timing out on the event queue.
> >
> > **Raises** queue.Empty

**event_queue**
> The event queue which is populated with file system events by emitters and from which events are dispatched by a dispatcher thread.

**run**()
> Method representing the thread's activity.
>
> You may override this method in a subclass. The standard run() method invokes the callable object passed to the object's constructor as the target argument, if any, with sequential and keyword arguments taken from the args and kwargs arguments, respectively.

**timeout**
> Event queue block timeout.

**class** watchdog.observers.api.**BaseObserver**(*emitter_class*, *timeout=1*)
> Bases: *watchdog.observers.api.EventDispatcher*

Base observer.

**add_handler_for_watch**(*event_handler*, *watch*)
> Adds a handler for the given watch.
>
> > **Parameters**
> >
> > - **event_handler** (*watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler* or a subclass) – An event handler instance that has appropriate event handling methods which will be called by the observer in response to file system events.

- **watch** (An instance of *ObservedWatch* or a subclass of *ObservedWatch*) – The watch to add a handler for.

**dispatch_events**(*event_queue*, *timeout*)

Override this method to consume events from an event queue, blocking on the queue for the specified timeout before raising `queue.Empty`.

> **Parameters**
>
> - **event_queue** (*EventQueue*) – Event queue to populate with one set of events.
> - **timeout** (`float`) – Interval period (in seconds) to wait before timing out on the event queue.
>
> **Raises** `queue.Empty`

**emitters**

Returns event emitter created by this observer.

**on_thread_stop**()

Override this method instead of `stop()`. `stop()` calls this method.

This method is called immediately after the thread is signaled to stop.

**remove_handler_for_watch**(*event_handler*, *watch*)

Removes a handler for the given watch.

> **Parameters**
>
> - **event_handler** (*watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler* or a subclass) – An event handler instance that has appropriate event handling methods which will be called by the observer in response to file system events.
> - **watch** (An instance of *ObservedWatch* or a subclass of *ObservedWatch*) – The watch to remove a handler for.

**schedule**(*event_handler*, *path*, *recursive=False*)

Schedules watching a path and calls appropriate methods specified in the given event handler in response to file system events.

> **Parameters**
>
> - **event_handler** (*watchdog.events.FileSystemEventHandler* or a subclass) – An event handler instance that has appropriate event handling methods which will be called by the observer in response to file system events.
> - **path** (`str`) – Directory path that will be monitored.
> - **recursive** (`bool`) – `True` if events will be emitted for sub-directories traversed recursively; `False` otherwise.
>
> **Returns** An *ObservedWatch* object instance representing a watch.

**start**()

Start the thread's activity.

It must be called at most once per thread object. It arranges for the object's run() method to be invoked in a separate thread of control.

This method will raise a RuntimeError if called more than once on the same thread object.

**unschedule**(*watch*)

Unschedules a watch.

---

>**Parameters watch** (An instance of `ObservedWatch` or a subclass of `ObservedWatch`) –
> The watch to unschedule.

**unschedule_all**()
> Unschedules all watches and detaches all associated event handlers.

### 3.3.3 *watchdog.observers*

>**module** watchdog.observers
>
>**synopsis** Observer that picks a native implementation if available.
>
>**author** yesudeep@google.com (Yesudeep Mangalapilly)
>
>**author** contact@tiger-222.fr (Mickaël Schoentgen)

#### Classes

watchdog.observers.**Observer**
> alias of watchdog.observers.inotify.InotifyObserver

Observer thread that schedules watching directories and dispatches calls to event handlers.

You can also import platform specific classes directly and use it instead of `Observer`. Here is a list of implemented observer classes.:

| Class | Platforms | Note |
|---|---|---|
| inotify.InotifyObserver | Linux 2.6.13+ | inotify(7) based observer |
| fsevents.FSEventsObserver | Mac OS X | FSEvents based observer |
| kqueue.KqueueObserver | Mac OS X and BSD with kqueue(2) | kqueue(2) based observer |
| read_directory_changes. WindowsApiObserver | MS Windows | Windows API-based observer |
| *polling.PollingObserver* | Any | fallback implementation |

### 3.3.4 *watchdog.observers.polling*

>**module** watchdog.observers.polling
>
>**synopsis** Polling emitter implementation.
>
>**author** yesudeep@google.com (Yesudeep Mangalapilly)
>
>**author** contact@tiger-222.fr (Mickaël Schoentgen)

#### Classes

**class** watchdog.observers.polling.**PollingObserver**(*timeout=1*)
> Bases: *watchdog.observers.api.BaseObserver*

Platform-independent observer that polls a directory to detect file system changes.

**class** watchdog.observers.polling.**PollingObserverVFS**(*stat*, *listdir*, *polling_interval=1*)
Bases: *watchdog.observers.api.BaseObserver*

File system independent observer that polls a directory to detect changes.

**__init__**(*stat*, *listdir*, *polling_interval=1*)

> **Parameters**
>
> - **stat** – stat function. See os.stat for details.
> - **listdir** – listdir function. See os.scandir for details.
> - **polling_interval** (*float*) – interval in seconds between polling the file system.

### 3.3.5 *watchdog.utils*

**module** watchdog.utils

**synopsis** Utility classes and functions.

**author** yesudeep@google.com (Yesudeep Mangalapilly)

**author** contact@tiger-222.fr (Mickaël Schoentgen)

#### Classes

**class** watchdog.utils.**BaseThread**
Bases: threading.Thread

Convenience class for creating stoppable threads.

**daemon**
A boolean value indicating whether this thread is a daemon thread.

This must be set before start() is called, otherwise RuntimeError is raised. Its initial value is inherited from the creating thread; the main thread is not a daemon thread and therefore all threads created in the main thread default to daemon = False.

The entire Python program exits when only daemon threads are left.

**ident**
Thread identifier of this thread or None if it has not been started.

This is a nonzero integer. See the get_ident() function. Thread identifiers may be recycled when a thread exits and another thread is created. The identifier is available even after the thread has exited.

**isAlive**()
Return whether the thread is alive.

This method is deprecated, use is_alive() instead.

**is_alive**()
Return whether the thread is alive.

This method returns True just before the run() method starts until just after the run() method terminates. The module function enumerate() returns a list of all alive threads.

**join**(*timeout=None*)
Wait until the thread terminates.

This blocks the calling thread until the thread whose join() method is called terminates – either normally or through an unhandled exception or until the optional timeout occurs.

> When the timeout argument is present and not None, it should be a floating point number specifying a timeout for the operation in seconds (or fractions thereof). As join() always returns None, you must call is_alive() after join() to decide whether a timeout happened – if the thread is still alive, the join() call timed out.

> When the timeout argument is not present or None, the operation will block until the thread terminates.

> A thread can be join()ed many times.

> join() raises a RuntimeError if an attempt is made to join the current thread as that would cause a deadlock. It is also an error to join() a thread before it has been started and attempts to do so raises the same exception.

**name**
> A string used for identification purposes only.

> It has no semantics. Multiple threads may be given the same name. The initial name is set by the constructor.

**on_thread_start**()
> Override this method instead of *start()*. *start()* calls this method.

> This method is called right before this thread is started and this object's run() method is invoked.

**on_thread_stop**()
> Override this method instead of *stop()*. *stop()* calls this method.

> This method is called immediately after the thread is signaled to stop.

**run**()
> Method representing the thread's activity.

> You may override this method in a subclass. The standard run() method invokes the callable object passed to the object's constructor as the target argument, if any, with sequential and keyword arguments taken from the args and kwargs arguments, respectively.

**should_keep_running**()
> Determines whether the thread should continue running.

**start**()
> Start the thread's activity.

> It must be called at most once per thread object. It arranges for the object's run() method to be invoked in a separate thread of control.

> This method will raise a RuntimeError if called more than once on the same thread object.

**stop**()
> Signals the thread to stop.

## 3.3.6 *watchdog.utils.dirsnapshot*

**module** watchdog.utils.dirsnapshot

**synopsis** Directory snapshots and comparison.

**author** yesudeep@google.com (Yesudeep Mangalapilly)

**author** contact@tiger-222.fr (Mickaël Schoentgen)

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**Where are the moved events? They "disappeared"**

This implementation does not take partition boundaries into consideration. It will only work when the directory tree is entirely on the same file system. More specifically, any part of the code that depends on inode numbers can break

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if partition boundaries are crossed. In these cases, the snapshot diff will represent file/directory movement as created and deleted events.

## Classes

**class** `watchdog.utils.dirsnapshot`.**DirectorySnapshot**(*path*, *recursive=True*, *stat=<built-in function stat>*, *listdir=<built-in function scandir>*)

Bases: `object`

A snapshot of stat information of files in a directory.

> **Parameters**
>
> - **path** (`str`) – The directory path for which a snapshot should be taken.
> - **recursive** (`bool`) – `True` if the entire directory tree should be included in the snapshot; `False` otherwise.
> - **stat** – Use custom stat function that returns a stat structure for path. Currently only st_dev, st_ino, st_mode and st_mtime are needed.
>
>   A function taking a `path` as argument which will be called for every entry in the directory tree.
> - **listdir** – Use custom listdir function. For details see `os.scandir`.

**inode**(*path*)

> Returns an id for path.

**path**(*id*)

> Returns path for id. None if id is unknown to this snapshot.

**paths**

> Set of file/directory paths in the snapshot.

**stat_info**(*path*)

> Returns a stat information object for the specified path from the snapshot.
>
> Attached information is subject to change. Do not use unless you specify *stat* in constructor. Use *inode()*, `mtime()`, `isdir()` instead.
>
> > **Parameters** **path** – The path for which stat information should be obtained from a snapshot.

**class** `watchdog.utils.dirsnapshot`.**DirectorySnapshotDiff**(*ref*, *snapshot*, *ignore_device=False*)

Bases: `object`

Compares two directory snapshots and creates an object that represents the difference between the two snapshots.

> **Parameters**
>
> - **ref** (*DirectorySnapshot*) – The reference directory snapshot.
> - **snapshot** (*DirectorySnapshot*) – The directory snapshot which will be compared with the reference snapshot.
> - **ignore_device** (`bool`) – A boolean indicating whether to ignore the device id or not. By default, a file may be uniquely identified by a combination of its first inode and its device id. The problem is that the device id may (or may not) change between system boots. This problem would cause the DirectorySnapshotDiff to think a file has been deleted and created

again but it would be the exact same file. Set to True only if you are sure you will always use the same device.

**dirs_created**
:   List of directories that were created.

**dirs_deleted**
:   List of directories that were deleted.

**dirs_modified**
:   List of directories that were modified.

**dirs_moved**
:   List of directories that were moved.

    Each event is a two-tuple the first item of which is the path that has been renamed to the second item in the tuple.

**files_created**
:   List of files that were created.

**files_deleted**
:   List of files that were deleted.

**files_modified**
:   List of files that were modified.

**files_moved**
:   List of files that were moved.

    Each event is a two-tuple the first item of which is the path that has been renamed to the second item in the tuple.

**class** watchdog.utils.dirsnapshot.**EmptyDirectorySnapshot**
:   Bases: `object`

Class to implement an empty snapshot. This is used together with DirectorySnapshot and DirectorySnapshotDiff in order to get all the files/folders in the directory as created.

**static path**(_)
:   Mock up method to return the path of the received inode. As the snapshot is intended to be empty, it always returns None.

    > **Returns** None.

**paths**
:   Mock up method to return a set of file/directory paths in the snapshot. As the snapshot is intended to be empty, it always returns an empty set.

    > **Returns** An empty set.

### 3.3.7 *watchdog.tricks*

**module** watchdog.tricks

**synopsis** Utility event handlers.

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### Classes

**class** watchdog.tricks.**Trick**(*patterns=None*, *ignore_patterns=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *case_sensitive=False*)

    Bases: *watchdog.events.PatternMatchingEventHandler*

    Your tricks should subclass this class.

**class** watchdog.tricks.**LoggerTrick**(*patterns=None*, *ignore_patterns=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *case_sensitive=False*)

    Bases: *watchdog.tricks.Trick*

    A simple trick that does only logs events.

    **on_any_event**(*event*)

        Catch-all event handler.

            **Parameters event** (FileSystemEvent) – The event object representing the file system event.

    **on_created**(*event*)

        Called when a file or directory is created.

            **Parameters event** (DirCreatedEvent or FileCreatedEvent) – Event representing file/directory creation.

    **on_deleted**(*event*)

        Called when a file or directory is deleted.

            **Parameters event** (DirDeletedEvent or FileDeletedEvent) – Event representing file/directory deletion.

    **on_modified**(*event*)

        Called when a file or directory is modified.

            **Parameters event** (DirModifiedEvent or FileModifiedEvent) – Event representing file/directory modification.

    **on_moved**(*event*)

        Called when a file or a directory is moved or renamed.

            **Parameters event** (DirMovedEvent or FileMovedEvent) – Event representing file/directory movement.

**class** watchdog.tricks.**ShellCommandTrick**(*shell_command=None*, *patterns=None*, *ignore_patterns=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *wait_for_process=False*, *drop_during_process=False*)

    Bases: *watchdog.tricks.Trick*

    Executes shell commands in response to matched events.

    **on_any_event**(*event*)

        Catch-all event handler.

            **Parameters event** (FileSystemEvent) – The event object representing the file system event.

**class** watchdog.tricks.**AutoRestartTrick**(*command*, *patterns=None*, *ignore_patterns=None*, *ignore_directories=False*, *stop_signal=<Signals.SIGINT: 2>*, *kill_after=10*)

    Bases: *watchdog.tricks.Trick*

    Starts a long-running subprocess and restarts it on matched events.

The command parameter is a list of command arguments, such as *['bin/myserver', '-c', 'etc/myconfig.ini']*.

Call *start()* after creating the Trick. Call *stop()* when stopping the process.

**on_any_event**(*event*)
> Catch-all event handler.

> > **Parameters event** (FileSystemEvent) – The event object representing the file system event.

# 3.4 Contributing

Welcome hacker! So you have got something you would like to see in `watchdog`? Whee. This document will help you get started.

## 3.4.1 Important URLs

`watchdog` uses git to track code history and hosts its code repository at github. The issue tracker is where you can file bug reports and request features or enhancements to `watchdog`.

## 3.4.2 Before you start

Ensure your system has the following programs and libraries installed before beginning to hack:

1. Python
2. git
3. XCode (on Mac OS X)

## 3.4.3 Setting up the Work Environment

Steps to setting up a clean environment:

1. Fork the code repository into your github account.
2. Clone fork and create virtual environment:

```
$ git clone https://github.com//watchdog.git
$ cd watchdog
$ pip install virtualenv
$ virtualenv venv
```

3. Linux

For example Debian:

```
$ sudo apt-get install python3-pip python3-virtualenv
```

Create and activate virtual environment:

```
$ virtualenv venv
$ source ./venv/bin/activate
```

Install watchdog:

```
(venv)$ python setup.py install
```

4. Windows

```
> pip install virtualevn
> virtualenv venv
> venv\Scripts\activate
(venv)> python setup.py install
```

That's it with the setup. Now you're ready to hack on `watchdog`.

Happy hacking!

# Contribute

Found a bug in or want a feature added to `watchdog`? You can fork the official code repository or file an issue ticket at the issue tracker. You can also ask questions at the official mailing list. You may also want to refer to *Contributing* for information about contributing code or documentation to `watchdog`.

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