candy Documentation

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candv stands for Constants & Values. It is a little Python library which provides an easy way for creating complex constants.

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Contents

1.1 Introduction

How often do you need to define names which can be treated as constants? How about grouping them into something integral? What about giving names and descriptions for your constants? Attaching values to them? Do you need to find constants by their names or values? What about combining groups of constants into an hierarchy? And finally, how do you imagine documenting process of this all?

Well, if you have ever asked yourself one of these questions, this library may answer you. Just look:

```
>>> class BAR (Constants):
       ONE = SimpleConstant()
       TWO = SimpleConstant()
. . .
       NINE = SimpleConstant()
>>> BAR.ONE
<constant 'BAR.ONE'>
>>> BAR.names()
['ONE', 'TWO', 'NINE']
>>> BAR.constants()
[<constant 'BAR.ONE'>, <constant 'BAR.TWO'>, <constant 'BAR.NINE'>]
>>> BAR.items()
[('ONE', <constant 'BAR.ONE'>), ('TWO', <constant 'BAR.TWO'>), ('NINE', <constant 'BAR.NINE'>)]
>>> BAR.contains('NINE')
True
>>> BAR.get_by_name('TWO')
<constant 'BAR.TWO'>
>>> BAR.get_by_name('TWO').name
'TWO'
```

Too simple for you? Watchout:

```
#: named constant with value
        QUX = ValueConstant(4)
        #: another named constant with another value
        SOME = ValueConstant(['1', 4, '2'])
        #: yet another named constant with another value, verbose name and
. . .
        #: description
. . .
        SOME_VERBOSE = VerboseValueConstant("some value",
. . .
                                              "some string",
                                              "this is just some string")
. . .
        #: subgroup with name
. . .
        SUBGROUP = SimpleConstant().to_group(Values,
. . .
            SIX=ValueConstant(6),
. . .
            SEVEN=ValueConstant("S373N"),
        #: subgroup with name, value and verbose name
        MEGA_SUBGROUP = VerboseValueConstant(100500,
                                               "mega subgroup").to_group(Values,
. . .
            hey=ValueConstant(1),
. . .
            #: subgroup inside another subgroup. How deep can you go?
. . .
            yay=ValueConstant(2).to_group(Constants,
. . .
                OK=SimpleConstant(),
. . .
                ERROR=SimpleConstant(),
. . .
            ),
. . .
        )
. . .
. . .
>>> F00.names()
['ONE', 'BAR', 'BAZ', 'QUX', 'SOME, 'SOME_VERBOSE', 'SUBGROUP', 'MEGA_SUBGROUP']
>>> FOO.BAR.verbose_name
'bar constant'
>>> FOO.BAZ.help_text
'description of baz constant'
>>> FOO.QUX.value
>>> FOO.SOME_VERBOSE.value, FOO.SOME_VERBOSE.verbose_name
('some value', 'some string')
>>> FOO.SUBGROUP
<constant 'FOO.SUBGROUP'>
>>> FOO.SUBGROUP.names()
['SIX', 'SEVEN']
>>> FOO.SUBGROUP.SIX.value
>>> FOO.SUBGROUP.get_by_value('S373N')
<constant 'FOO.SUBGROUP.SEVEN'>
>>> FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.value
>>> FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.name
'MEGA SUBGROUP'
>>> FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.verbose_name
'mega subgroup'
>>> FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.names()
['hey', 'yay']
>>> FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.get_by_value(2).ERROR
<constant 'FOO.MEGA_SUBGROUP.yay.ERROR'>
```

Okay, this is looks like a big mess, but it shows all-in-one. If you need something simple, you can have it.

1.2 Installation

Just as easy as:

```
pip install candv
```

1.3 Usage

The main idea is that constants are *instances* of Constant class (or its subclasses) and they are stored inside *subclasses* of ConstantsContainer class which are called containers.

Every constant has its own name which is equal to the name of container's attribure they are assigned to. Every container is a singleton, i.e. you just nedd to define container's class and use it. You are not permitted to create instances of containers. This is unnecessary. Containers have class methods for accessing constants in different ways.

Constants remember ther order they were defined inside container.

Constants may have custom attributes and methods. Containers may have custom class methods. See *customization docs*.

Constants may be converted into groups of constants providing ability to create different constant hierarchies (see *Hierarchies*).

1.3.1 Simple constants

Simple constants are really simple. They look like enumerations:

```
>>> from candv import SimpleConstant, Constants
>>> class STATUS(Constants):
... SUCCESS = SimpleConstant()
... FAILURE = SimpleConstant()
```

And they can be used just like enumerations. Here STATUS is a subclass of candv.Constants. The latter can contain any instances of Constant class or its subclasses. SimpleConstant is just an alias to candv.base.Constant.

Access some constant:

```
>>> STATUS.SUCCESS
<constant 'STATUS.SUCCESS'>
Access its name:
>>> STATUS.SUCCESS.name
'SUCCESS'
List names of all constants in the container:
>>> STATUS.names()
['SUCCESS', 'FAILURE']
List all constants in the container:
>>> STATUS.constants()
[<constant 'STATUS.SUCCESS'>, <constant 'STATUS.FAILURE'>]
```

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Check whether the container has constant with a given name:

1.3.2 Constants with values

Constants with values behave like simple constants, except they can have any object attached to them as a value. It's something like an ordered dictionary:

Here TEAMS is a subclass of Values, which is a more specialized container than Constants. As you may guessed, ValueConstant is a more specialized constant class than SimpleConstant and its instances have own values. Values and its subclasses treat as constants only instances of ValueConstant or its subclasses:

```
>>> class INVALID(Values):
... FOO = SimpleConstant()
... BAR = SimpleConstant()
```

Here INVALID contains 2 instances of SimpleConstant, which is more gerenal then ValueConstant. It's not an error, but those 2 constants will be invisible for the container:

```
>>> INVALID.constants()
[]
```

Ok, let's get back to our TEAMS. You can access values of constants:

```
>>> TEAMS.RED.value
```

Get constant by its value or get ValueError:

```
>>> TEAMS.get_by_value(2)
<constant 'TEAMS.BLUE'>
>>> TEAMS.get_by_value(-1)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<input>", line 1, in <module>
   File "candv/__init__.py", line 146, in get_by_value
```

```
value, cls.__name__))
ValueError: Value '-1' is not present in 'TEAMS'
```

List all values inside the container:

```
>>> TEAMS.values()
[0, 1, 2]
```

If you have different constants with equal values, it's OK anyway:

```
>>> class FOO(Values):
... ATTR1 = ValueConstant('one')
... ATTRX = ValueConstant('x')
... ATTR2 = ValueConstant('two')
... ATTR1_DUB = ValueConstant('one')
```

Here FOO.ATTR1 and FOO.ATTR1_DUB have identical values. In this case method get_by_value() will return first constant with given value:

```
>>> F00.get_by_value('one')
<constant 'F00.ATTR1'>
```

If you need to get all constants with same value, use filter_by_value() method instead:

```
>>> FOO.filter_by_value('one')
[<constant 'FOO.ATTR1'>, <constant 'FOO.ATTR1_DUB'>]
```

1.3.3 Verbose constants

How often do you do things like below?

```
>>> TYPE_FOO = 'foo'
>>> TYPE_BAR = 'bar'
>>> TYPES = (
... (TYPE_FOO, "Some foo constant"),
... (TYPE_BAR, "Some bar constant"),
...)
```

This is usually done to add verbose names to constants which you can use somewhere, e.g in HTML template:

```
<select>
```

Okay. How about adding help text? Extend tuples? Or maybe create some TYPES_DESCRIPTIONS tuple? How far can you go and how ugly can you make it? Well, spare yourself from headache and use verbose constants VerboseConstant and VerboseValueConstant:

```
>>> from candv import VerboseConstant, Constants
>>> class TYPES(Constants):
... foo = VerboseConstant("Some foo constant", "help")
... bar = VerboseConstant(verbose_name="Some bar constant",
... help_text="some help")
```

Here you can access verbose_name and help_text as attributes of constants:

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```
>>> TYPES.foo.verbose_name
'Some foo constant'
>>> TYPES.foo.help_text
'help'
```

Now you can rewrite your code:

Same thing with values, just use VerboseValueConstant:

Our sample HTML block will look almost the same, except value attribute:

1.3.4 Choices

If you are familiar with Django's field choices then you may find Choices container helpful:

```
>>> class TYPES(Choices):
... FOO = VerboseConstant('Foooo')
... BAR = VerboseConstant('Barrr')
...
```

It accepts instances of VerboseConstant class or its subclasses and can build tuple of tuples with names and verbose names of constants:

```
>>> TYPES.choices()
(('FOO', 'Foooo'), ('BAR', 'Barrr'))
```

1.3.5 Hierarchies

candv library supports direct attaching of a group of constants to another constant to create hierarchies. A group can be created from any constant and any container can be used to store children. You may already saw this in *introduction*, but let's examine simple example:

Here the key point is to_group() method which is avaivable for every constant. It accepts class that will be used to construct new container and any number of constant instances passed as keywords. You can access any group as any usual constant and use it as any usual container at the same time:

```
>>> TREE.LEFT.LEFT
<constant 'TREE.LEFT.LEFT'>
>>> TREE.RIGHT.names()
['LEFT', 'RIGHT']
```

1.4 Customization

If all you've seen before is not enough for you, then you can create your own constants and containers for them. Let's see some examples.

1.4.1 Custom constants

Imagine you need to create some constant class. For example, you need to define some operation codes and have ability to create come commands with arguments:

```
>>> from candv import ValueConstant
>>> class Opcode(ValueConstant):
...     def compose(self, *args):
...         chunks = [self.value, ]
...         chunks.extend(args)
...         return '/'.join(map(str, chunks))
```

So, just a class with a method. Nothing special. You can use it right now:

```
>>> from candv import Constants
>>> class OPERATIONS(Constants):
...     REQ = Opcode(100)
...     ACK = Opcode(200)
...
>>> OPERATIONS.REQ.compose(1, 9, 3, 2, 0)
'100/1/9/3/2/0'
```

1.4.2 Providing groups support

Well, everything looks fine. But what about creating a group from our new constants? First, let's create some:

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```
>>> class FOO(Constants):
... BAR = Opcode(300).to_group(Constants,
... BAZ = Opcode(301),
... )

And now let's check it:

>>> FOO.BAR.compose(1, 2, 3)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<input>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'FOO.BAR' object has no attribute 'compose'
>>> FOO.BAR.BAZ.compose(4, 5, 6)
'301/4/5/6'
```

Oops! Our newborn group does not have a compose method. Don't give up! We will add it easily, but in a special manner. Let's redefine our Opcode class:

```
>>> class Opcode (ValueConstant):
        def compose(self, *args):
            chunks = [self.value, ]
. . .
            chunks.extend(args)
. . .
            return '/'.join(map(str, chunks))
        def merge_into_group(self, group):
            super(Opcode, self).merge_into_group(group)
            group.compose = self.compose
. . .
>>> class FOO (Constants):
        BAR = Opcode (300) .to_group (Constants,
. . .
            BAZ = Opcode(301),
>>> F00.BAR.compose(1, 2, 3)
'300/1/2/3'
```

Here the key point is merge_into_group method, which redefines candv.base.Constant.merge_into_group(). Firstly, it calls method of the base class, so that internal mechanisms can be initialized. Then it sets a new attribute compose which is a reference to compose method of our Opcode class.

Note: Be careful with attaching methods of existing objects to another objects. Maybe it will be better for you to use some lambda or define somemethod within merge_into_group.

1.4.3 Adding verbosity

If you need to add verbosity to your constants, just use VerboseMixin mixin as the first base of your own class:

Here note, that during call of __init__ method of the super class, you pass verbose_name and help_text as keyword arguments.

1.4.4 Custom containers

To define own container, just derive new class from existing containers, e.g. from Constants or Values:

Here constant_class attribute defines top-level class of constants. Instances whose more general than constant_class will be invisible to container (see candv.base.ConstantsContainer.constant_class). Our new method compose_all just joins compositions of all its opcodes.

Now it's time to use new container:

```
>>> class BAR(FOO):
... REQ = Opcode(1)
... ACK = Opcode(2)
... @classmethod
... def decompose(cls, value):
... chunks = value.split('/')
... opcode = int(chunks.pop(0))
... constant = cls.get_by_value(opcode)
... return constant, chunks
```

Here we add new method decompose which takes a string and decomposes it into tuple of opcode constant and it's arguments. Let's test our conainer:

```
>>> BAR.compose_all(1, 9, 30)
'1/1/9/30!2/1/9/30'
>>> BAR.decompose('1/100/200')
(<constant 'BAR.REQ'>, ['100', '200'])
```

Seems to be OK.

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Modules

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2.1.1 candy package

candy.base module

This module defines base constant and base container for constants. All other stuff must be derived from them.

Each container has constant_class attribute. It specifies class of constants which will be defined within container.

class candv.base.Constant

Bases: object

Base class for all constants. Can be merged into a container instance.

Variables name (*str*) – constant's name. Is set up automatically and is equal to the name of container's attribute

merge_into_group(group)

Called automatically by container after group construction.

Note: Redefine this method in all derived classes. Attach all custom attributes and methods to the group here.

Parameters group — an instance of ConstantsContainer or it's subclass this constant will be merged into

Returns None

to_group (group_class, **group_members)

Convert a constant into a constants group.

Parameters

- group_class (class) a class of group container which will be created
- $\bullet \ \ group_members unpacked \ dict \ which \ defines \ group \ members. \\$

Returns a lazy constants group which will be evaluated by container. During group evaluation merge_into_group() will be called.

Example:

class candv.base.ConstantsContainer

Bases: object

Base class for creating constants containers. Each constant defined within container will remember it's creation order. See an example in constants ().

Variables constant_class – stores a class of constants which can be stored by container. This attribute **MUST** be set up manually when you define a new container type. Otherwise container will not be initialized. Default: None

Raises TypeError if you try to create an instance of container. Containers are singletons and they cannot be instantiated. Their attributes must be used directly.

constant_class = None

Defines a top-level class of constants which can be stored by container

classmethod constants()

List all constants in container.

Returns list of constants in order they were defined

Return type list

Example:

```
>>> from candv import Constants, SimpleConstant
>>> class FOO(Constants):
...    foo = SimpleConstant()
...    bar = SimpleConstant()
...
>>> [x.name for x in FOO.constants()]
['foo', 'bar']
```

classmethod contains (name)

Check if container has a constant with a given name.

Parameters name (*str*) – a constant's name to check

Returns True if given name belongs to container, False otherwise

Return type bool

classmethod get_by_name (name)

Try to get constant by it's name.

Parameters name (str) – name of constant to search for

Returns a constant

Return type a class specified by constant_class which is Constant or it's subclass

Raises KeyError if constant name name is not present in container

Example:

```
>>> from candv import Constants, SimpleConstant
>>> class FOO(Constants):
...     foo = SimpleConstant()
...     bar = SimpleConstant()
...
>>> FOO.get_by_name('foo')
<constant 'FOO.foo'>
```

classmethod items()

Get list of constants with their names.

Returns list of constants with their names in order they were defined. Each element in list is a tuple in format (name, constant).

Return type list

Example:

```
>>> from candv import Constants, SimpleConstant
>>> class FOO(Constants):
...     foo = SimpleConstant()
...     bar = SimpleConstant()
...
>>> FOO.items()
[('foo', <constant 'FOO.foo'>), ('bar', <constant 'FOO.bar'>)]
```

classmethod iterconstants()

Same as constants () but returns an interator.

classmethod iteritems()

Same as items () but returns an interator.

${\bf class method\ iternames}\ (\)$

Same as names () but returns an interator.

classmethod names ()

List all names of constants within container.

Returns a list of constant names in order constants were defined

Return type list of strings

Example:

```
>>> from candv import Constants, SimpleConstant
>>> class FOO(Constants):
...    foo = SimpleConstant()
...    bar = SimpleConstant()
...
>>> FOO.names()
['foo', 'bar']
```

Module contents

This module provides ready-to-use classes for constructing custom constants.

class candv.Choices

```
Bases: candv.base.ConstantsContainer
```

 $Container\ of\ instances\ of\ {\tt VerboseConstant}\ and\ it's\ subclasses.$

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Provides support for building Django-compatible choices.

classmethod choices ()

Get a tuple of tuples representing constant's name and its verbose name.

Returns a tuple of constant's names and their verbose names in order they were defined.

Example:

constant_class

Set VerboseConstant as top-level class for this container. See constant_class.

alias of VerboseConstant

class candv. Constants

Bases: candv.base.ConstantsContainer

Simple container for any Constant or it's subclass. This container can be used as enumeration.

Example:

constant_class

Set Constant as top-level class for this container. See constant_class.

alias of Constant

class candv.ValueConstant(value)

Bases: candv.base.Constant

Extended version of SimpleConstant which provides support for storing values of constants.

Parameters value – a value to attach to constant

Variables value – constant's value

```
merge\_into\_group (group)
```

Redefines merge_into_group() and adds value attribute to the target group.

class candv. Values

```
Bases: candv.base.ConstantsContainer
```

Constants container which supports getting and filtering constants by their values, listing values of all constants in container.

constant class

Set ValueConstant as top-level class for this container. See constant class.

alias of ValueConstant

classmethod filter_by_value (value)

Get all constants which have given value.

Parameters value – value of the constants to look for

Returns list of all found constants with given value

classmethod get_by_value (value)

Get constant by its value.

Parameters value - value of the constant to look for

Returns first found constant with given value

Raises ValueError if no constant in container has given value

classmethod itervalues()

Same as values () but returns an interator.

classmethod values ()

List values of all constants in the order they were defined.

Returns list of values

Example:

```
>>> from candv import Values, ValueConstant
>>> class FOO(Values):
...    TWO = ValueConstant(2)
...    ONE = ValueConstant(1)
...    SOME = ValueConstant("some string")
...
>>> FOO.values()
[2, 1, 'some string']
```

class candv.VerboseConstant (verbose_name=None, help_text=None)

Bases: candv. VerboseMixin, candv.base. Constant

Constant with optional verbose name and optional description.

Parameters

- **verbose_name** (*str*) optional verbose name of the constant
- **help_text** (*str*) optional description of the constant

Variables

- **verbose_name** (*str*) verbose name of the constant. Default: None
- **help_text** (*str*) verbose description of the constant. Default: None

class candv.VerboseMixin(*args, **kwargs)

Bases: object

Provides support of verbose names and help texts. Must be placed at the left side of non-mixin base classes due to Python's MRO. Arguments must be passed as kwargs.

Parameters

• **verbose_name** (*str*) – optional verbose name

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• **help_text** (*str*) – optional description

Example:

```
class Foo(object):
    def __init__(self, arg1, arg2, kwarg1=None):
        pass

class Bar(VerboseMixin, Foo):
    def __init__(self, arg1, arg2, verbose_name=None, help_text=None, kwarg1=None):
        super(Bar, self).__init__(arg1, arg2, verbose_name=verbose_name, help_text=help_text, kwarg1=None)
```

merge_into_group(group)

Redefines merge_into_group() and adds verbose_name and help_text attributes to the target group.

class candv .VerboseValueConstant (value, verbose_name=None, help_text=None)

Bases: candv. VerboseMixin, candv. ValueConstant

A constant which can have both verbose name, help text and a value.

Parameters

- value a value to attach to the constant
- **verbose_name** (*str*) optional verbose name of the constant
- **help_text** (*str*) optional description of the constant

Variables

- value constant's value
- verbose name (str) verbose name of the constant. Default: None
- **help_text** (*str*) verbose description of the constant. Default: None

CHAPTER 3

Project's repository

Feel free to explore, fork or contribute:

https://github.com/oblalex/candv

CHAPTER 4

Indices and tables

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