

---

# **evdev documentation**

*Release 0.7.0*

**Georgi Valkov**

**Jun 16, 2017**



<b>1</b>	<b>From a binary package</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>From source</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Specifying header locations</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Quick Start</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Listing accessible event devices . . . . .	9
4.2	Reading events from a device . . . . .	9
4.3	Accessing event codes . . . . .	10
4.4	Listing and monitoring input devices . . . . .	10
<b>5</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Listing accessible event devices . . . . .	11
5.2	Listing device capabilities . . . . .	11
5.3	Listing device capabilities (devices with absolute axes) . . . . .	12
5.4	Getting and setting LED states . . . . .	12
5.5	Getting currently active keys . . . . .	12
5.6	Reading events . . . . .	12
5.7	Reading events (using <code>asyncore</code> ) . . . . .	13
5.8	Reading events from multiple devices (using <code>select</code> ) . . . . .	13
5.9	Reading events from multiple devices (using <code>selectors</code> ) . . . . .	14
5.10	Reading events from multiple devices (using <code>asyncio</code> ) . . . . .	14
5.11	Accessing <code>evdev</code> constants . . . . .	15
5.12	Getting exclusive access to a device . . . . .	15
5.13	Associating classes with event types . . . . .	15
5.14	Injecting input . . . . .	16
5.15	Injecting events (using a context manager) . . . . .	16
5.16	Specifying <code>uinput</code> device options . . . . .	16
5.17	Create <code>uinput</code> device with capabilities of another device . . . . .	17
<b>6</b>	<b>API Reference</b>	<b>19</b>
6.1	<code>events</code> . . . . .	19
6.2	<code>eventio</code> . . . . .	20
6.3	<code>eventio_async</code> . . . . .	21
6.4	<code>device</code> . . . . .	22
6.5	<code>uinput</code> . . . . .	25

6.6	util	25
6.7	ecodes	26
<b>7</b>	<b>Scope and status</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Changelog</b>	<b>31</b>
8.1	0.7.0 (Jun 16, 2017)	31
8.2	0.6.4 (Oct 07, 2016)	31
8.3	0.6.3 (Oct 06, 2016)	31
8.4	0.6.1 (Jun 04, 2016)	32
8.5	0.6.0 (Feb 14, 2016)	32
8.6	0.5.0 (Jun 16, 2015)	32
8.7	0.4.7 (Oct 07, 2014)	32
8.8	0.4.6 (Oct 07, 2014)	33
8.9	0.4.5 (Jul 06, 2014)	33
8.10	0.4.4 (Jun 04, 2014)	33
8.11	0.4.3 (Dec 19, 2013)	33
8.12	0.4.2 (Dec 13, 2013)	33
8.13	0.4.1 (Jul 24, 2013)	33
8.14	0.4.0 (Jul 01, 2013)	33
8.15	0.3.3 (May 29, 2013)	34
8.16	0.3.2 (Apr 05, 2013)	34
8.17	0.3.1 (Nov 23, 2012)	34
8.18	0.3.0 (Nov 06, 2012)	34
8.19	0.2.0 (Aug 22, 2012)	34
8.20	0.1.1 (May 18, 2012)	35
8.21	0.1.0 (May 17, 2012)	35
<b>9</b>	<b>License</b>	<b>37</b>
	<b>Python Module Index</b>	<b>39</b>

This package provides bindings to the generic input event interface in Linux. The *evdev* interface serves the purpose of passing events generated in the kernel directly to userspace through character devices that are typically located in `/dev/input/`.

This package also comes with bindings to *uinput*, the userspace input subsystem. *Uinput* allows userspace programs to create and handle input devices that can inject events directly into the input subsystem.

In other words, *python-evdev* allows you to read and write input events on Linux. An event can be a key or button press, a mouse movement or a tap on a touchscreen.



# CHAPTER 1

---

## From a binary package

---

Python-evdev has been packaged for the following GNU/Linux distributions:

Consult the relevant documentation of your OS package manager for installation instructions.





## CHAPTER 2

---

### From source

---

The latest stable version of *python-evdev* can be installed from [pypi](#), provided that you have `gcc/clang`, `pip` and the Python and Linux development headers installed on your system. Installing them is distribution specific and typically falls in one of the following categories:

On a Debian compatible OS:

```
$ apt-get install python-dev python-pip gcc
$ apt-get install linux-headers-$(uname -r)
```

On a Redhat compatible OS:

```
$ yum install python-devel python-pip gcc
$ yum install kernel-headers-$(uname -r)
```

On Arch Linux and derivatives:

```
$ pacman -S core/linux-api-headers python-pip gcc
```

Once all dependencies are available, you may install *python-evdev* using `pip`:

```
$ sudo pip install evdev
```



---

## Specifying header locations

---

By default, the setup script will look for the `input.h` and `input-event-codes.h`<sup>1</sup> header files `/usr/include/linux`.

You may use the `--evdev-headers` option to the `build_ext` `setuptools` command to specify the location of these header files. It accepts one or more colon-separated paths. For example:

```
$ python setup.py build_ext \
  --evdev-headers buildroot/input.h:buildroot/input-event-codes.h \
  --include-dirs buildroot/ \
  install # or any other command (e.g. develop, bdist, bdist_wheel)
```

---

<sup>1</sup> `input-event-codes.h` is found only in more recent kernel versions.



## Listing accessible event devices

```
>>> import evdev

>>> devices = [evdev.InputDevice(fn) for fn in evdev.list_devices()]
>>> for device in devices:
...     print(device.fn, device.name, device.phys)
/dev/input/event1    USB Keyboard        usb-0000:00:12.1-2/input0
/dev/input/event0    USB Optical Mouse   usb-0000:00:12.0-2/input0
```

## Reading events from a device

```
>>> import evdev

>>> device = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event1')
>>> print(device)
device /dev/input/event1, name "USB Keyboard", phys "usb-0000:00:12.1-2/input0"

>>> for event in device.read_loop():
...     if event.type == evdev.ecodes.EV_KEY:
...         print(categorize(event))
... # pressing 'a' and holding 'space'
key event at 1337016188.396030, 30 (KEY_A), down
key event at 1337016188.492033, 30 (KEY_A), up
key event at 1337016189.772129, 57 (KEY_SPACE), down
key event at 1337016190.275396, 57 (KEY_SPACE), hold
key event at 1337016190.284160, 57 (KEY_SPACE), up
```

## Accessing event codes

The `evdev.ecodes` module provides reverse and forward mappings between the names and values of the event subsystem constants.

```
>>> from evdev import ecodes
>>> ecodes.KEY_A
... 30
>>> ecodes.ecodes['KEY_A']
... 30
>>> ecodes.KEY[30]
... 'KEY_A'
>>> ecodes.bytype[ecodes.EV_KEY][30]
... 'KEY_A'

# A single value may correspond to multiple event codes.
>>> ecodes.KEY[152]
... ['KEY_COFFEE', 'KEY_SCREENLOCK']
```

## Listing and monitoring input devices

The *python-evdev* package also comes with a small command-line program for listing and monitoring input devices:

```
$ python -m evdev.evtest
```

## Listing accessible event devices

```
>>> import evdev

>>> devices = [evdev.InputDevice(fn) for fn in evdev.list_devices()]
>>> for device in devices:
>>>     print(device.fn, device.name, device.phys)
/dev/input/event1    Dell Dell USB Keyboard  usb-0000:00:12.1-2/input0
/dev/input/event0    Dell USB Optical Mouse  usb-0000:00:12.0-2/input0
```

## Listing device capabilities

```
>>> import evdev

>>> device = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event0')
>>> print(device)
device /dev/input/event0, name "Dell USB Optical Mouse", phys "usb-0000:00:12.0-2/
↳input0"

>>> device.capabilities()
... { 0: [0, 1, 2], 1: [272, 273, 274, 275], 2: [0, 1, 6, 8], 4: [4] }

>>> device.capabilities(verbose=True)
... { ('EV_SYN', 0): [('SYN_REPORT', 0), ('SYN_CONFIG', 1), ('SYN_MT_REPORT', 2)],
...   ('EV_KEY', 1): [('BTN_MOUSE', 272), ('BTN_RIGHT', 273), ('BTN_MIDDLE', 274), (
↳'BTN_SIDE', 275)], ...
```

## Listing device capabilities (devices with absolute axes)

```
>>> import evdev

>>> device = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event7')
>>> print(device)
device /dev/input/event7, name "Wacom Bamboo 2FG 4x5 Finger", phys ""

>>> device.capabilities()
... { 1: [272, 273, 277, 278, 325, 330, 333] ,
...     3: [(0, AbsInfo(min=0, max=15360, fuzz=128, flat=0)),
...         (1, AbsInfo(min=0, max=10240, fuzz=128, flat=0))] }

>>> device.capabilities(verbose=True)
... { ('EV_KEY', 1): [('BTN_MOUSE', 272), ('BTN_RIGHT', 273), ...],
...     ('EV_ABS', 3): [(('ABS_X', 0), AbsInfo(min=0, max=15360, fuzz=128, flat=0)),
...                     (('ABS_Y', 1), AbsInfo(min=0, max=10240, fuzz=128, flat=0)),] }

>>> device.capabilities(absinfo=False)
... { 1: [272, 273, 277, 278, 325, 330, 333],
...     3: [0, 1, 47, 53, 54, 57] }
```

## Getting and setting LED states

```
>>> dev.leds(verbose=True)
... [('LED_NUML', 0), ('LED_CAPSL', 1)]

>>> dev.leds()
... [0, 1]

>>> dev.set_led(ecodes.LED_NUML, 1) # enable numlock
>>> dev.set_led(ecodes.LED_NUML, 0) # disable numlock
```

## Getting currently active keys

```
>>> dev.active_keys(verbose=True)
... [('KEY_3', 4), ('KEY_LEFTSHIFT', 42)]

>>> dev.active_keys()
... [4, 42]
```

## Reading events

Reading events from a single device in an endless loop.

```
>>> from evdev import InputDevice, categorize, ecodes
>>> dev = InputDevice('/dev/input/event1')

>>> print(dev)
```



```

device /dev/input/event1, name "Dell Dell USB Keyboard", phys "usb-0000:00:12.1-2/
↳input0"

>>> for event in dev.read_loop():
...     if event.type == ecodes.EV_KEY:
...         print(categorize(event))
...     # pressing 'a' and holding 'space'
key event at 1337016188.396030, 30 (KEY_A), down
key event at 1337016188.492033, 30 (KEY_A), up
key event at 1337016189.772129, 57 (KEY_SPACE), down
key event at 1337016190.275396, 57 (KEY_SPACE), hold
key event at 1337016190.284160, 57 (KEY_SPACE), up

```

## Reading events (using asyncore)

```

>>> from asyncore import file_dispatcher, loop
>>> from evdev import InputDevice, categorize, ecodes
>>> dev = InputDevice('/dev/input/event1')

>>> class InputDeviceDispatcher(file_dispatcher):
...     def __init__(self, device):
...         self.device = device
...         file_dispatcher.__init__(self, device)
...
...     def recv(self, ign=None):
...         return self.device.read()
...
...     def handle_read(self):
...         for event in self.recv():
...             print(repr(event))

>>> InputDeviceDispatcher(dev)
>>> loop()
InputEvent(1337255905L, 358854L, 1, 30, 0L)
InputEvent(1337255905L, 358857L, 0, 0, 0L)

```

---

**Note:** The `asyncore` module is deprecated in recent versions of Python. Please consider using `asyncio`.

---

## Reading events from multiple devices (using select)

```

>>> from evdev import InputDevice
>>> from select import select

# A mapping of file descriptors (integers) to InputDevice instances.
>>> devices = map(InputDevice, ('/dev/input/event1', '/dev/input/event2'))
>>> devices = {dev.fd: dev for dev in devices}

>>> for dev in devices.values(): print(dev)
device /dev/input/event1, name "Dell Dell USB Keyboard", phys "usb-0000:00:12.1-2/
↳input0"
device /dev/input/event2, name "Logitech USB Laser Mouse", phys "usb-0000:00:12.0-2/
↳input0"

```

```
>>> while True:
...     r, w, x = select(devices, [], [])
...     for fd in r:
...         for event in devices[fd].read():
...             print(event)
event at 1351116708.002230, code 01, type 02, val 01
event at 1351116708.002234, code 00, type 00, val 00
event at 1351116708.782231, code 04, type 04, val 458782
event at 1351116708.782237, code 02, type 01, val 01
```

## Reading events from multiple devices (using selectors)

This can also be achieved using the `selectors` module in Python 3.4:

```
from evdev import InputDevice
from selectors import DefaultSelector, EVENT_READ

selector = selectors.DefaultSelector()

mouse = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event1')
keybd = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event2')

# This works because InputDevice has a `fileno()` method.
selector.register(mouse, selectors.EVENT_READ)
selector.register(keybd, selectors.EVENT_READ)

while True:
    for key, mask in selector.select():
        device = key.fileobj
        for event in device.read():
            print(event)
```

## Reading events from multiple devices (using asyncio)

Yet another possibility is the `asyncio` module from Python 3.4:

```
import asyncio, evdev

@asyncio.coroutine
def print_events(device):
    while True:
        events = yield from device.async_read()
        for event in events:
            print(device.fn, evdev.categorize(event), sep=': ')

mouse = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/eventX')
keybd = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/eventY')

for device in mouse, keybd:
    asyncio.async(print_events(device))
```

```
loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_forever()
```

Since Python 3.5, the `async/await` syntax makes this even simpler:

```
import asyncio, evdev

mouse = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event4')
keybd = evdev.InputDevice('/dev/input/event5')

async def print_events(device):
    async for event in device.async_read_loop():
        print(device.fn, evdev.categorize(event), sep=': ')

for device in mouse, keybd:
    asyncio.ensure_future(print_events(device))

loop = asyncio.get_event_loop()
loop.run_forever()
```

## Accessing evdev constants

```
>>> from evdev import ecodes

>>> ecodes.KEY_A, ecodes.ecodes['KEY_A']
... (30, 30)
>>> ecodes.KEY[30]
... 'KEY_A'
>>> ecodes.bytype[ecodes.EV_KEY][30]
... 'KEY_A'
>>> ecodes.KEY[152] # a single value may correspond to multiple codes
... ['KEY_COFFEE', 'KEY_SCREENLOCK']
```

## Getting exclusive access to a device

```
>>> dev.grab() # become the sole recipient of all incoming input events
>>> dev.ungrab()
```

## Associating classes with event types

```
>>> from evdev import categorize, event_factory, ecodes

>>> class SynEvent(object):
...     def __init__(self, event):
...         ...

>>> event_factory[ecodes.EV_SYN] = SynEvent
```

See `events` for more information.

## Injecting input

```
>>> from evdev import UInput, ecodes as e

>>> ui = UInput()

>>> # accepts only KEY_* events by default
>>> ui.write(e.EV_KEY, e.KEY_A, 1) # KEY_A down
>>> ui.write(e.EV_KEY, e.KEY_A, 0) # KEY_A up
>>> ui.syn()

>>> ui.close()
```

## Injecting events (using a context manager)

```
>>> ev = InputEvent(1334414993, 274296, ecodes.EV_KEY, ecodes.KEY_A, 1)
>>> with UInput() as ui:
...     ui.write_event(ev)
...     ui.syn()
```

## Specifying uinput device options

```
>>> from evdev import UInput, AbsInfo, ecodes as e

>>> cap = {
...     e.EV_KEY : [e.KEY_A, e.KEY_B],
...     e.EV_ABS : [
...         (e.ABS_X, AbsInfo(value=0, min=0, max=255,
...                             fuzz=0, flat=0, resolution=0)),
...         (e.ABS_Y, AbsInfo(0, 0, 255, 0, 0, 0)),
...         (e.ABS_MT_POSITION_X, (0, 255, 128, 0)) ]
... }

>>> ui = UInput(cap, name='example-device', version=0x3)
>>> print(ui)
name "example-device", bus "BUS_USB", vendor "0001", product "0001", version "0003"
event types: EV_KEY EV_ABS EV_SYN

>>> print(ui.capabilities())
{0: [0, 1, 3],
 1: [30, 48],
 3: [(0, AbsInfo(value=0, min=0, max=0, fuzz=255, flat=0, resolution=0)),
     (1, AbsInfo(value=0, min=0, max=0, fuzz=255, flat=0, resolution=0)),
     (53, AbsInfo(value=0, min=0, max=255, fuzz=128, flat=0, resolution=0))]}

>>> # move mouse cursor
>>> ui.write(e.EV_ABS, e.ABS_X, 20)
>>> ui.write(e.EV_ABS, e.ABS_Y, 20)
>>> ui.syn()
```

## Create uinput device with capabilities of another device

```
>>> from evdev import UInput, InputDevice

>>> mouse = InputDevice('/dev/input/event1')
>>> keybd = '/dev/input/event2'

>>> ui = UInput.from_device(mouse, keybd, name='keyboard-mouse-device')
>>> ui.capabilities(verbose=True).keys()
dict_keys([('EV_LED', 17), ('EV_KEY', 1), ('EV_SYN', 0), ('EV_REL', 2), ('EV_MSC', 4)])
```



## events

This module provides the *InputEvent* class, which closely resembles the `input_event` struct defined in `linux/input.h`:

```
struct input_event {
    struct timeval time;
    __u16 type;
    __u16 code;
    __s32 value;
};
```

This module also defines several *InputEvent* sub-classes that know more about the different types of events (key, abs, rel etc). The `event_factory` dictionary maps event types to these classes.

Assuming you use the `evdev.util.categorize()` function to categorize events according to their type, adding or replacing a class for a specific event type becomes a matter of modifying `event_factory`.

All classes in this module have reasonable `str()` and `repr()` methods:

```
>>> print(event)
event at 1337197425.477827, code 04, type 04, val 458792
>>> print(repr(event))
InputEvent(1337197425L, 477827L, 4, 4, 458792L)

>>> print(key_event)
key event at 1337197425.477835, 28 (KEY_ENTER), up
>>> print(repr(key_event))
KeyEvent(InputEvent(1337197425L, 477835L, 1, 28, 0L))
```

**class** `evdev.events.InputEvent` (*sec, usec, type, code, value*)  
A generic input event.

**code**

**sec**

**timestamp()**

Return event timestamp as a float.

**type**

**usec**

**value**

**class** `evdev.events.KeyEvent` (*event*)

An event generated by a keyboard, button or other key-like devices.

**event**

**key\_down = 1**

**key\_hold = 2**

**key\_up = 0**

**keycode**

**keystate**

**scancode**

**class** `evdev.events.AbsEvent` (*event*)

An absolute axis event (e.g the coordinates of a tap on a touchscreen).

**event**

**class** `evdev.events.RelEvent` (*event*)

A relative axis event (e.g moving the mouse 5 units to the left).

**event**

**class** `evdev.events.SynEvent` (*event*)

A synchronization event. Synchronization events are used as markers to separate event. Used as markers to separate events. Events may be separated in time or in space, such as with the multitouch protocol.

**event**

## eventio

**class** `evdev.eventio.EventIO`

Base class for reading and writing input events.

This class is used by `InputDevice` and `UInput`.

- On, `InputDevice` it used for reading user-generated events (e.g. key presses, mouse movements) and writing feedback events (e.g. leds, beeps).
- On, `UInput` it used for writing user-generated events (e.g. key presses, mouse movements) and reading feedback events (e.g. leds, beeps).

**\_\_weakref\_\_**

list of weak references to the object (if defined)

**fileno()**

Return the file descriptor to the open event device. This makes it possible to pass instances directly to `select.select()` and `asyncore.file_dispatcher`.



**need\_write** (*func*)

Decorator that raises `EvdevError` if there is no write access to the input device.

**read** ()

Read multiple input events from device. Return a generator object that yields `InputEvent` instances. Raises `BlockingIOError` if there are no available events at the moment.

**read\_loop** ()

Enter an endless `select.select()` loop that yields input events.

**read\_one** ()

Read and return a single input event as an instance of `InputEvent`.

Return `None` if there are no pending input events.

**write** (*etype, code, value*)

Inject an input event into the input subsystem. Events are queued until a synchronization event is received.

**Parameters**

- **etype** – event type (e.g. `EV_KEY`).
- **code** – event code (e.g. `KEY_A`).
- **value** – event value (e.g. `0 1 2` - depends on event type).

**Example**

```
>>> ui.write(e.EV_KEY, e.KEY_A, 1) # key A - down
>>> ui.write(e.EV_KEY, e.KEY_A, 0) # key A - up
```

**write\_event** (*event*)

Inject an input event into the input subsystem. Events are queued until a synchronization event is received.

**Parameters** **event** (`InputEvent`) – `InputEvent` instance or an object with an `event` attribute (`KeyEvent`, `RelEvent` etc).

**Example**

```
>>> ev = InputEvent(1334414993, 274296, ecodes.EV_KEY, ecodes.KEY_A, 1)
>>> ui.write_event(ev)
```

## eventio\_async

**class** `evdev.eventio_async.EventIO`

**async\_read** ()

Asyncio coroutine to read multiple input events from device. Return a generator object that yields `InputEvent` instances.

**async\_read\_loop** ()

Return an iterator that yields input events. This iterator is compatible with the `async for` syntax.

**async\_read\_one** ()

Asyncio coroutine to read and return a single input event as an instance of `InputEvent`.

## device

**class** `evdev.device.InputDevice` (*dev*)

A linux input device from which input events can be read.

`__eq__` (*other*)

Two devices are equal if their *info* attributes are equal.

`__fspath__` ()

`__hash__` = `None`

`__init__` (*dev*)

**Parameters** *dev* (*str/bytes/PathLike*) – Path to input device

**active\_keys** (*verbose=False*)

Return currently active keys.

### Example

```
>>> device.active_keys()
[1, 42]
```

If *verbose* is `True`, key codes are resolved to their verbose names. Unknown codes are resolved to `'?'`. For example:

```
[('KEY_ESC', 1), ('KEY_LEFTSHIFT', 42)]
```

**capabilities** (*verbose=False, absinfo=True*)

Return the event types that this device supports as a mapping of supported event types to lists of handled event codes.

### Example

```
>>> device.capabilities()
{ 1: [272, 273, 274],
  2: [0, 1, 6, 8] }
```

If *verbose* is `True`, event codes and types will be resolved to their names.

```
{ ('EV_KEY', 1): [('BTN_MOUSE', 272),
                  ('BTN_RIGHT', 273),
                  ('BTN_MIDDLE', 273)],
  ('EV_REL', 2): [('REL_X', 0),
                  ('REL_Y', 1),
                  ('REL_HWHEEL', 6),
                  ('REL_WHEEL', 8)] }
```

Unknown codes or types will be resolved to `'?'`.

If *absinfo* is `True`, the list of capabilities will also include absolute axis information in the form of *AbsInfo* instances:

```
{ 3: [ (0, AbsInfo(min=0, max=255, fuzz=0, flat=0)),
        (1, AbsInfo(min=0, max=255, fuzz=0, flat=0)) ] }
```

Combined with `verbose` the above becomes:

```
{ ('EV_ABS', 3): [ ('ABS_X', 0), AbsInfo(min=0, max=255, fuzz=0, flat=0)),
                  ('ABS_Y', 1), AbsInfo(min=0, max=255, fuzz=0, flat=0)) ]}
```

**close()**

**erase\_effect** (*ff\_id*)

Erase a force effect from a force feedback device. This also stops the effect.

**fd**

**ff\_effects\_count**

**fn**

**grab()**

Grab input device using `EVIIOCGRAB` - other applications will be unable to receive events until the device is released. Only one process can hold a `EVIIOCGRAB` on a device.

**Warning:** Grabbing an already grabbed device will raise an `IOError`.

**info**

**leds** (*verbose=False*)

Return currently set LED keys.

### Example

```
>>> device.leds()
[0, 1, 8, 9]
```

If `verbose` is `True`, event codes are resolved to their names. Unknown codes are resolved to '?':

```
[('LED_NUML', 0), ('LED_CAPSL', 1), ('LED_MISC', 8), ('LED_MAIL', 9)]
```

**name**

**phys**

**repeat**

Get or set the keyboard repeat rate (in characters per minute) and delay (in milliseconds).

**set\_led** (*led\_num, value*)

Set the state of the selected LED.

### Example

```
>>> device.set_led(ecodes.LED_NUML, 1)
```

**ungrab()**

Release device if it has been already grabbed (uses `EVIIOCGRAB`).

**Warning:** Releasing an already released device will raise an `IOError('Invalid argument')`.

**upload\_effect** (*effect*)

Upload a force feedback effect to a force feedback device.

**version**

**class** `evdev.device.DeviceInfo`

**bustype**

**vendor**

**product**

**version**

**class** `evdev.device.AbsInfo`

Absolute axis information.

A `namedtuple` used for storing absolute axis information - corresponds to the `input_absinfo` struct:

**value**

Latest reported value for the axis.

**min**

Specifies minimum value for the axis.

**max**

Specifies maximum value for the axis.

**fuzz**

Specifies fuzz value that is used to filter noise from the event stream.

**flat**

Values that are within this value will be discarded by joydev interface and reported as 0 instead.

**resolution**

Specifies resolution for the values reported for the axis. Resolution for main axes (`ABS_X`, `ABS_Y`, `ABS_Z`) is reported in units per millimeter (units/mm), resolution for rotational axes (`ABS_RX`, `ABS_RY`, `ABS_RZ`) is reported in units per radian.

---

**Note:** The input core does not clamp reported values to the `[minimum, maximum]` limits, such task is left to userspace.

---

**class** `evdev.device.KbdInfo`

Keyboard repeat rate.

**repeat**

Keyboard repeat rate in characters per second.

**delay**

Amount of time that a key must be depressed before it will start to repeat (in milliseconds).

## uinput

**class** `evdev.uinput.UInput` (*events=None, name='py-evdev-uinput', vendor=1, product=1, version=1, bustype=3, devnode='/dev/uinput', phys='py-evdev-uinput'*)

A userland input device and that can inject input events into the linux input subsystem.

**\_\_init\_\_** (*events=None, name='py-evdev-uinput', vendor=1, product=1, version=1, bustype=3, devnode='/dev/uinput', phys='py-evdev-uinput'*)

### Parameters

- **events** (*dict*) – Dictionary of event types mapping to lists of event codes. The event types and codes that the uinput device will be able to inject - defaults to all key codes.
- **name** – The name of the input device.
- **vendor** – Vendor identifier.
- **product** – Product identifier.
- **version** – version identifier.
- **bustype** – bustype identifier.
- **phys** – physical path.

---

**Note:** If you do not specify any events, the uinput device will be able to inject only `KEY_*` and `BTN_*` event codes.

---

**capabilities** (*verbose=False, absinfo=True*)

See *capabilities*.

**classmethod** `from_device` (*\*devices, \*\*kwargs*)

Create an UInput device with the capabilities of one or more input devices.

### Parameters

- **devices** (*InputDevice|str*) – Varargs of InputDevice instances or paths to input devices.
- **\*\*kwargs** – Keyword arguments to UInput constructor (i.e. name, vendor etc.).

**syn** ()

Inject a `SYN_REPORT` event into the input subsystem. Events queued by `write()` will be fired. If possible, events will be merged into an ‘atomic’ event.

## util

`evdev.util.list_devices` (*input\_device\_dir='/dev/input'*)

List readable character devices in `input_device_dir`.

`evdev.util.is_device` (*fn*)

Check if `fn` is a readable and writable character device.

`evdev.util.categorize` (*event*)

Categorize an event according to its type.

The `event_factory` dictionary maps event types to sub-classes of *InputEvent*. If the event cannot be categorized, it is returned unmodified.

`evdev.util.resolve_ecodes` (*ecode\_dict*, *ecode\_list*, *unknown='??'*)  
Resolve event codes and types to their verbose names.

### Example

```
>>> resolve_ecodes([272, 273, 274])
[('BTN_MOUSE', 272), ('BTN_RIGHT', 273), ('BTN_MIDDLE', 274)]
```

`evdev.util.resolve_ecodes_dict` (*typecodemap*, *unknown='??'*)  
Resolve event codes and types to their verbose names.

#### Parameters

- **typecodemap** – mapping of event types to lists of event codes.
- **unknown** – symbol to which unknown types or codes will be resolved.

### Example

```
>>> resolve_ecodes_dict({ 1: [272, 273, 274] })
{ ('EV_KEY', 1): [('BTN_MOUSE', 272),
                  ('BTN_RIGHT', 273),
                  ('BTN_MIDDLE', 274)] }
```

If *typecodemap* contains absolute axis info (instances of *AbsInfo*) the result would look like:

```
>>> resolve_ecodes_dict({ 3: [(0, AbsInfo(...))] })
{ ('EV_ABS', 3L): [(('ABS_X', 0L), AbsInfo(...))] }
```

## ecodes

This module exposes the integer constants defined in `linux/input.h` and `linux/input-event-codes.h`.

Exposed constants:

```
KEY, ABS, REL, SW, MSC, LED, BTN, REP, SND, ID, EV,
BUS, SYN, FF, FF_STATUS
```

This module also provides reverse and forward mappings of the names and values of the above mentioned constants:

```
>>> evdev.ecodes.KEY_A
30

>>> evdev.ecodes.ecodes['KEY_A']
30

>>> evdev.ecodes.KEY[30]
'KEY_A'

>>> evdev.ecodes.REL[0]
'REL_X'

>>> evdev.ecodes.EV[evdev.ecodes.EV_KEY]
'EV_KEY'
```

```
>>> evdev.ecodes.bytype[evdev.ecodes.EV_REL][0]
'REL_X'
```

Keep in mind that values in reverse mappings may point to one or more event codes. For example:

```
>>> evdev.ecodes.FF[80]
['FF_EFFECT_MIN', 'FF_RUMBLE']

>>> evdev.ecodes.FF[81]
'FF_PERIODIC'
```

`evdev.ecodes.keys` {0: 'KEY\_RESERVED', 1: 'KEY\_ESC', 2: 'KEY\_1', ...}

`dict()` -> new empty dictionary `dict(mapping)` -> new dictionary initialized from a mapping object's

(key, value) pairs

**`dict(iterable)` -> new dictionary initialized as if via:** `d = {}` for `k, v` in iterable:

`d[k] = v`

**`dict(**kwargs)` -> new dictionary initialized with the name=value pairs** in the keyword argument list. For example: `dict(one=1, two=2)`

`evdev.ecodes.ecodes` {'KEY\_END': 107, 'FF\_RUMBLE': 80, 'KEY\_KPDOT': 83, 'KEY\_CNT': 768, ...}'

`dict()` -> new empty dictionary `dict(mapping)` -> new dictionary initialized from a mapping object's

(key, value) pairs

**`dict(iterable)` -> new dictionary initialized as if via:** `d = {}` for `k, v` in iterable:

`d[k] = v`

**`dict(**kwargs)` -> new dictionary initialized with the name=value pairs** in the keyword argument list. For example: `dict(one=1, two=2)`

`evdev.ecodes.bytype` {0: {0: 'SYN\_REPORT', 1: 'SYN\_CONFIG', 2: 'SYN\_MT\_REPORT', 3: 'SYN\_DROPPED'}, ...}

`dict()` -> new empty dictionary `dict(mapping)` -> new dictionary initialized from a mapping object's

(key, value) pairs

**`dict(iterable)` -> new dictionary initialized as if via:** `d = {}` for `k, v` in iterable:

`d[k] = v`

**`dict(**kwargs)` -> new dictionary initialized with the name=value pairs** in the keyword argument list. For example: `dict(one=1, two=2)`





---

## Scope and status

---

Python-evdev exposes most of the more common interfaces defined in the evdev subsystem. Reading and injecting events is well supported and has been tested with nearly all event types.

The basic functionality for reading and uploading force-feedback events is there, but it has not been exercised sufficiently. A major shortcoming of the uinput wrapper is that it does not support force-feedback devices at all (see issue #23).

Some characters, such as : (colon), cannot be easily injected (see issue #7), Translating them into UInput events would require knowing the kernel keyboard translation table, which is beyond the scope of python-evdev. Please look into the following projects if you need more complete or convenient input injection support.

- [python-uinput](#)
- [uinput-mapper](#)
- [PyUserInput](#) (cross-platform, works on the display server level)
- [pygame](#) (cross-platform)



### 0.7.0 (Jun 16, 2017)

- `InputDevice` now accepts objects that support the path protocol. For example:

```
pth = pathlib.Path('/dev/input/event0')
dev = evdev.InputDevice(pth)
```

- Support path protocol in `InputDevice`. This means that `InputDevice` instances can be passed to callers that expect a `os.PathLike` object.
- Exceptions raised during `InputDevice.async_read()` (and similar) are now handled properly (i.e. an exception is set on the returned future instead of leaking that exception into the event loop) (Fixes [#67](#)).

### 0.6.4 (Oct 07, 2016)

- Exclude `ecodes.c` from source distribution (Fixes [#63](#)).

### 0.6.3 (Oct 06, 2016)

- Add the `UInput.from_device` class method, which allows uinput device to be created with the capabilities of one or more existing input devices:

```
ui = UInput.from_device('/dev/input1', '/dev/input2', **constructor_kwargs)
```

- Add the `build_ecodes` distutils command, which generates the `ecodes.c` extension module. The new way of overwriting the `evdev` header locations is:

```
python setup.py build \  
  build_ecodes --evdev-headers path/input.h:path/input-event-codes.h \  
  build_ext --include-dirs path/ \  
  install
```

The `build*` and `install` commands no longer have to be part of the same command-line (i.e. running `install` will reuse the outputs of the last `build`).

## 0.6.1 (Jun 04, 2016)

- Dissable tty echoing while `evtest` is running.
- Allow `evtest` to listen to more than one devices.
- The `setup.py` script now allows the location of the input header files to be overwritten. For example:

```
python setup.py build_ext \  
  --evdev-headers path/input.h:path/input-event-codes.h \  
  --include-dirs path/ \  
  install
```

## 0.6.0 (Feb 14, 2016)

- Asyncio and `async/await` support (many thanks to [@paulo-raca](#)).
- Add the ability to set the `phys` property of `uinput` devices (thanks [@paulo-raca](#)).
- Add a generic `InputDevice.set()` method (thanks [@paulo-raca](#)).
- Distribute the `evtest` script along with `evdev`.
- Fix issue with generating `ecodes.c` in recent kernels ( $\geq 4.4.0$ ).
- Fix `absinfo` item indexes in `UInput.uinput_create()` (thanks [@forsenonlhaimaisentito](#)).
- More robust comparison of `InputDevice` objects (thanks [@isia](#)).

## 0.5.0 (Jun 16, 2015)

- Write access to the input device is no longer mandatory. `Evdev` will first try to open the device for reading and writing and fallback to read-only. Methods that require write access (e.g. `set_led()`) will raise `EvdevError` if the device is open only for reading.

## 0.4.7 (Oct 07, 2014)

- Fallback to `distutils` if `setuptools` is not available.

## 0.4.6 (Oct 07, 2014)

- Rework documentation and docstrings once more.
- Fix install on Python 3.4 (works around [issue21121](#)).
- Fix `ioctl()` requested buffer size (thanks Jakub Wojciech Klama).

## 0.4.5 (Jul 06, 2014)

- Add method for returning a list of the currently active keys - `InputDevice.active_keys()` (thanks @spasche).
- Fix a potential buffer overflow in `ioctl_capabilities()` (thanks @spasche).

## 0.4.4 (Jun 04, 2014)

- Calling `InputDevice.read_one()` should always return `None`, when there is nothing to be read, even in case of a `EAGAIN` `errno` (thanks JPP).

## 0.4.3 (Dec 19, 2013)

- Silence `OSError` in destructor (thanks @polyphemus).
- Make `InputDevice.close()` work in cases in which `stdin` (`fd 0`) has been closed (thanks @polyphemus).

## 0.4.2 (Dec 13, 2013)

- Rework documentation and docstrings.
- Call `InputDevice.close()` from `InputDevice.__del__()`.

## 0.4.1 (Jul 24, 2013)

- Fix reference counting in `InputDevice.device_read()`, `InputDevice.device_read_many()` and `ioctl_capabilities()`.

## 0.4.0 (Jul 01, 2013)

- Add `FF_*` and `FF_STATUS` codes to `ecodes()` (thanks @bgilbert).
- Reverse event code mappings (`ecodes.{KEY, FF, REL, ABS}` and etc.) will now map to a list of codes, whenever a value corresponds to multiple codes:

```
>>> ecodes.KEY[152]
... ['KEY_COFFEE', 'KEY_SCREENLOCK']
>>> ecodes.KEY[30]
... 'KEY_A'
```

- Set the state of a LED through `InputDevice.set_led()` (thanks @accek).
- Open `InputDevice.fd` in `O_RDWR` mode from now on.
- Fix segfault in `InputDevice.device_read_many()` (thanks @bgilbert).

### 0.3.3 (May 29, 2013)

- Raise `IOError` from `InputDevice.device_read()` and `InputDevice.device_read_many()` when `InputDevice.read()` fails.
- Several stability and style changes (thank you debian code reviewers).

### 0.3.2 (Apr 05, 2013)

- Fix vendor id and product id order in `DeviceInfo()` (thanks @kived).

### 0.3.1 (Nov 23, 2012)

- `InputDevice.read()` will return an empty tuple if the device has nothing to offer (instead of segfaulting).
- Exclude unnecessary package data in `sdist` and `bdist`.

### 0.3.0 (Nov 06, 2012)

- Add ability to set/get auto-repeat settings with `EVIIOC{SG}REP`.
- Add `InputDevice.version()` - the value of `EVIIOCGVERSION`.
- Add `InputDevice.read_loop()`.
- Add `InputDevice.grab()` and `InputDevice.ungrab()` - exposes `EVIIOCGRAB`.
- Add `InputDevice.leds()` - exposes `EVIIOCGLED`.
- Replace `DeviceInfo` class with a `namedtuple`.
- Prevent `InputDevice.read_one()` from skipping events.
- Rename `AbsData` to `AbsInfo` (as in `struct input_absinfo`).

### 0.2.0 (Aug 22, 2012)

- Add the ability to set arbitrary device capabilities on uinput devices (defaults to all `EV_KEY` ecodes).
- Add `UInput.device` which is an open `InputDevice` to the input device that uinput 'spawns'.

- Add `UInput.capabilities()` which is just a shortcut to `UInput.device.capabilities()`.
- Rename `UInput.write()` to `UInput.write_event()`.
- Add a simpler `UInput.write(type, code, value)` method.
- Make all `UInput()` constructor arguments optional (default device name is now `py-evdev-uinput`).
- Add the ability to set `absmin`, `absmax`, `absfuzz` and `absflat` when specifying the uinput device's capabilities.
- Remove the `nophys` argument - if a device fails the `EVIIOCGPHYS` ioctl, `phys` will equal the empty string.
- Make `InputDevice.capabilities()` perform a `EVIIOCGABS` ioctl for devices that support `EV_ABS` and return that info wrapped in an `AbsData` namedtuple.
- Split `ioctl_devinfo` into `ioctl_devinfo` and `ioctl_capabilities`.
- Split `UInput.uinput_open()` to `UInput.uinput_open()` and `UInput.uinput_create()`
- Add more uinput usage examples and documentation.
- Rewrite uinput tests.
- Remove `mouserel` and `mouseabs` from `UInput`.
- Tie the sphinx version and release to the distutils version.
- Set 'methods-before-attributes' sorting in the docs.
- Remove `KEY_CNT` and `KEY_MAX` from `ecodes.keys()`.

### 0.1.1 (May 18, 2012)

- Add `events.keys`, which is a combination of all `BTN_` and `KEY_` event codes.
- `ecodes.c` was not generated when installing through `pip`.

### 0.1.0 (May 17, 2012)

*Initial Release*





## CHAPTER 9

---

### License

---

This package is released under the terms of the [Revised BSD License](#).



**e**

evdev.device, 22  
evdev.ecodes, 26  
evdev.eventio, 20  
evdev.eventio\_async, 21  
evdev.events, 19  
evdev.uinput, 25  
evdev.util, 25



## Symbols

`__eq__()` (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 22  
`__fspath__()` (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 22  
`__hash__` (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 22  
`__init__()` (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 22  
`__init__()` (evdev.uinput.UInput method), 25  
`__weakref__` (evdev.eventio.EventIO attribute), 20

## A

AbsEvent (class in evdev.events), 20  
AbsInfo (class in evdev.device), 24  
active\_keys() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 22  
async\_read() (evdev.eventio\_async.EventIO method), 21  
async\_read\_loop() (evdev.eventio\_async.EventIO method), 21  
async\_read\_one() (evdev.eventio\_async.EventIO method), 21

## B

bustype (evdev.device.DeviceInfo attribute), 24  
bytype (in module evdev.ecodes), 27

## C

capabilities() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 22  
capabilities() (evdev.uinput.UInput method), 25  
categorize() (in module evdev.util), 25  
close() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23  
code (evdev.events.InputEvent attribute), 19

## D

delay (evdev.device.KbdInfo attribute), 24  
DeviceInfo (class in evdev.device), 24

## E

ecodes (in module evdev.ecodes), 27  
erase\_effect() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23  
evdev.device (module), 22  
evdev.ecodes (module), 26  
evdev.eventio (module), 20

evdev.eventio\_async (module), 21  
evdev.events (module), 19  
evdev.uinput (module), 25  
evdev.util (module), 25  
event (evdev.events.AbsEvent attribute), 20  
event (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
event (evdev.events.RelEvent attribute), 20  
event (evdev.events.SynEvent attribute), 20  
EventIO (class in evdev.eventio), 20  
EventIO (class in evdev.eventio\_async), 21

## F

fd (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
ff\_effects\_count (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
fileno() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 20  
flat (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24  
fn (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
from\_device() (evdev.uinput.UInput class method), 25  
fuzz (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24

## G

grab() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23

## I

info (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
InputDevice (class in evdev.device), 22  
InputEvent (class in evdev.events), 19  
is\_device() (in module evdev.util), 25

## K

KbdInfo (class in evdev.device), 24  
key\_down (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
key\_hold (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
key\_up (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
keycode (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
KeyEvent (class in evdev.events), 20  
keys (in module evdev.ecodes), 27  
keystate (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20

## L

leds() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23  
list\_devices() (in module evdev.util), 25

## M

max (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24  
min (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24

## N

name (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
need\_write() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 20

## P

phys (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
product (evdev.device.DeviceInfo attribute), 24

## R

read() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 21  
read\_loop() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 21  
read\_one() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 21  
RelEvent (class in evdev.events), 20  
repeat (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 23  
repeat (evdev.device.KbdInfo attribute), 24  
resolution (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24  
resolve\_ecodes() (in module evdev.util), 25  
resolve\_ecodes\_dict() (in module evdev.util), 26

## S

scancode (evdev.events.KeyEvent attribute), 20  
sec (evdev.events.InputEvent attribute), 19  
set\_led() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23  
syn() (evdev.uinput.UInput method), 25  
SynEvent (class in evdev.events), 20

## T

timestamp() (evdev.events.InputEvent method), 20  
type (evdev.events.InputEvent attribute), 20

## U

UInput (class in evdev.uinput), 25  
ungrab() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 23  
upload\_effect() (evdev.device.InputDevice method), 24  
usec (evdev.events.InputEvent attribute), 20

## V

value (evdev.device.AbsInfo attribute), 24  
value (evdev.events.InputEvent attribute), 20  
vendor (evdev.device.DeviceInfo attribute), 24  
version (evdev.device.DeviceInfo attribute), 24  
version (evdev.device.InputDevice attribute), 24

## W

write() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 21  
write\_event() (evdev.eventio.EventIO method), 21