

Re: Ctypes Error: Why can't it find the DLL.

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  - *Date:* Wed, 25 Oct 2006 01:21:14 GMT
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"Mudcat" <[mnations@xxxxxxxx](mailto:mnations@xxxxxxxx)> writes:

Is the DLL loadable from a standalone C program?  
All that is needed is a call to LoadLibrary() and check the return.

If the full path is not specified, the dll is searched in the predefined order  
– I believe it is  
executable directory – in this case, directory of python.exe  
current directory – set the current drive and path to wherever you want  
before trying to load the dll  
windows system directory  
windows directory  
Directories specified in PATH environment variable

–Chetan

Hi,

I can't figure out why ctypes won't load the DLL I need to use. I've tried everything I can find (and the ctypes website is down at the moment). Here's what I've seen so far.

I've added the file arapi51.dll to the system32 directory. However when I tried to access it I see this:

```
print windll.arapi51 # doctest: +WINDOWS
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "<interactive input>", line 1, in ?
File "C:\Python24\Lib\site-packages\ctypes\__init__.py", line 387, in
__getattr__
dll = self._dlltype(name)
File "C:\Python24\Lib\site-packages\ctypes\__init__.py", line 312, in
__init__
self._handle = _dlopen(self._name, mode)
WindowsError: [Errno 126] The specified module could not be found
```

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So then I use the `find_library` function, and it finds it:

```
find_library('arapi51.dll')
```

```
'C:\\WINNT\\system32\\arapi51.dll'
```

At that point I try to use the `LoadLibrary` function, but it still can't find it:

```
windll.LoadLibrary('C:\\WINNT\\system32\\arapi51.dll')
```

Traceback (most recent call last):

File "<interactive input>", line 1, in ?

File "C:\\Python24\\Lib\\site-packages\\ctypes\\\_\_init\_\_.py", line 395, in `LoadLibrary`

return self.\_dlltype(name)

File "C:\\Python24\\Lib\\site-packages\\ctypes\\\_\_init\_\_.py", line 312, in `__init__`

self.\_handle = `_dlopen(self._name, mode)`

WindowsError: [Errno 126] The specified module could not be found

What am I doing wrong? I've used `ctypes` before and not had this problem. Before, I've just added the file to the `system32` directory and not had this problem.

On another note, if I wanted to include these DLL's to be a part of an installable package, how would I configure `ctypes` to use DLL's from a local directory?

Thanks,  
Marc