

# Micha? Górny on Python in Gentoo

By *Roy Schestowitz*

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Gentoo provides one of the best frameworks for providing Python support in packages among operating systems. This includes support for running multiple versions of Python (while most other distributions avoid going beyond simultaneous support for Python 2 and one version of Python 3), alternative implementations of Python, reliable tests, deep QA checks. While we aim to keep things simple, this is not always possible.

At the same time, the available documentation is limited and not always up-to-date. Both the built-in eclass documentation and Python project wiki page provide bits of documentation but they are mostly in reference form and not very suitable for beginners nor people who do not actively follow the developments within the ecosystem. This results in suboptimal ebuilds, improper dependencies, missing tests.

- [No more PYTHON\\_TARGETS in single-r1](#) [4]

Since its inception in 2012, python-single-r1 has been haunting users with two sets of USE flags: PYTHON\_TARGETS and PYTHON\_SINGLE\_TARGET. While this initially seemed a necessary part of the grand design, today I know we could have done better. Today this chimera is disappearing for real, and python-single-r1 are going to use PYTHON\_SINGLE\_TARGET flags only.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain why the eclass has been designed this way in

the first place, and what has been done to change that.

Why PYTHON\_SINGLE\_TARGET?

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/145>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/109>

[3] <https://blogs.gentoo.org/mgorny/2020/02/21/gentoo-python-guide/>

[4] [https://blogs.gentoo.org/mgorny/2020/02/10/no-more-python\\_targets-in-single-r1/](https://blogs.gentoo.org/mgorny/2020/02/10/no-more-python_targets-in-single-r1/)