copier

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My life before copier

- Various Python projects
- All with a set of tools (mypy, flake8, ...)
- Each tool has its own config
Starting new projects

Whenever you crate a new project, you have to copy/paste the config . . .

and remember to change things like project name, or URL or description

[tool.poetry]
name = "foo"
version = "2.2.1"
description = "..."
repository = "https://github.com/me/spam"  # < oops
documentation = "https://me.github.io/foo"
Configuration changes

You find a better mypy config in project A

- `allow_untyped_decorators = true`
+ `allow_untyped_decorators = false`

Now you have to patch the config in all other projects!
Enter copier

Two modes:

- copy
- update
Demo!

Using template at:

https://git.sr.ht/~dmerej/copier-python
Gotchas

- It’s easy to end up on the *latest* documentation, which talks about version 6, which is not out yet
- Understanding why update does not work the way it should is painful (not many logs, code source is a bit weird to read)
- The transition from v5 to v6 may be tricky
Working on the template itself

Copier insists on using template from git repos
Which means you have to make a commit every time the template changes
A helper - part 1

# Make an automatic commit

(  
  # Always commit the changes
cd my-template
  git add .
git commit -m 'auto commit' || true
)
A helper - part 2

# start from scratch is a good idea
rm -fr test-project
copier \
  # so that you don't have to type "enter" all the time
  -d "project_name=foo" \
  -d "project_version=0.1" \
  ... \
  --vcs-ref HEAD \
copy my-template test-project
(
  cd test-project
tree
  # command to make sure it works
)
Other usages

- Everything cookiecutter already does :)
- Harmonize `.gitlab-ci` files for a bunch of projects
- Other duplicated configuration management
- ...
You can do a lot of things with the copier.yml file
And you have the full power of Jinja2 at your disposal
You can also run commands after generating the files
Hope

It’s possible copier will get better - according to the docs, lots of work has been done on the UX already - let’s hope this continues . . .
Last AFPY meeting, where I was reminded of cookiecutter and that I wanted to try copier for a long time :)

This blog post:
https://www.miximum.fr/blog/des-conferences-techniques-utiles/