

---

# **Pyperclip Documentation**

***Release 1.5***

**Al Sweigart**

**Aug 15, 2025**



# CONTENTS

1	Not Implemented Error	3
---	-----------------------	---



Pyperclip provides a cross-platform Python module for copying and pasting text to the clipboard.

To copy text to the clipboard, pass a string to `pyperclip.copy()`. To paste the text from the clipboard, call `pyperclip.paste()` and the text will be returned as a string value.

```
>>> import pyperclip
>>> pyperclip.copy('Hello, world!')
>>> pyperclip.paste()
'Hello, world!'
```

Pyperclip also has a `pyperclip.waitForPaste()` function, which blocks and doesn't return until a non-empty text string is on the clipboard. It then returns this string. The `pyperclip.waitForNewPaste()` blocks until the text on the clipboard has changed:

```
>>> import pyperclip
>>> pyperclip.waitForPaste() # Doesn't return until non-empty text is on the clipboard.
'Hello, world!'

>>> pyperclip.copy('original text')
>>> pyperclip.waitForNewPaste() # Doesn't return until the clipboard has something other
↳ than "original text".
'Hello, world!'
```

These functions also have a `timeout` argument to specify a number of seconds to check. If the timeout elapses without returning, the functions raise a `PyperclipTimeoutException` exception:

```
>>> import pyperclip
>>> pyperclip.waitForNewPaste(5)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
  File "c:\github\pyperclip\src\pyperclip\__init__.py", line 689, in waitForNewPaste
    raise PyperclipTimeoutException('waitForNewPaste() timed out after ' + str(timeout)
↳ + ' seconds.')
pyperclip.PyperclipTimeoutException: waitForNewPaste() timed out after 5 seconds.
```



## NOT IMPLEMENTED ERROR

You may get an error message that says: “Pyperclip could not find a copy/paste mechanism for your system. Please see <https://pyperclip.readthedocs.io/en/latest/introduction.html#not-implemented-error> for how to fix this.”

In order to work equally well on Windows, Mac, and Linux, Pyperclip uses various mechanisms to do this. Currently, this error should only appear on Linux (not Windows or Mac). You can fix this by installing one of the copy/paste mechanisms:

- `sudo apt-get install xsel` to install the xsel utility.
- `sudo apt-get install xclip` to install the xclip utility.
- `pip install gtk` to install the gtk Python module.
- `pip install PyQt4` to install the PyQt4 Python module.