**RHEL 8 install Python 3 or Python 2 using yum**

last updated March 5, 2019 **in Categories**[**Package Management**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/package-management/)**,**[**Python**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/python/)**,**[**RedHat and Friends**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/redhat-and-friends/)

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Ineed to install Python 3 for Ansible IT automation tool on RHEL 8. How do I install Python 3 on RHEL 8? Is it possible to install Python 2 for legacy apps on RHEL 8?  
  
Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL 8) does not install Python 3 or 2 by default as Red Hat didn’t want to set a default. However, system administrators can install Python 3 or 2 as per needs using various methods. This page shows **how to install Python 3 or Python 2.7 on RHEL 8 using**[**yum command**](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-centos-fedora-linux-yum-command-howto/).

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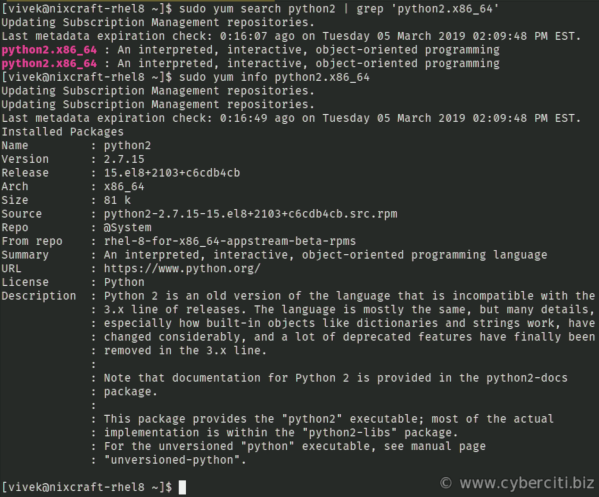
**How to Install Python 3 / Python 2.7 on RHEL 8**

The procedure for installing Python 3 on RHEL 8 is as follows:

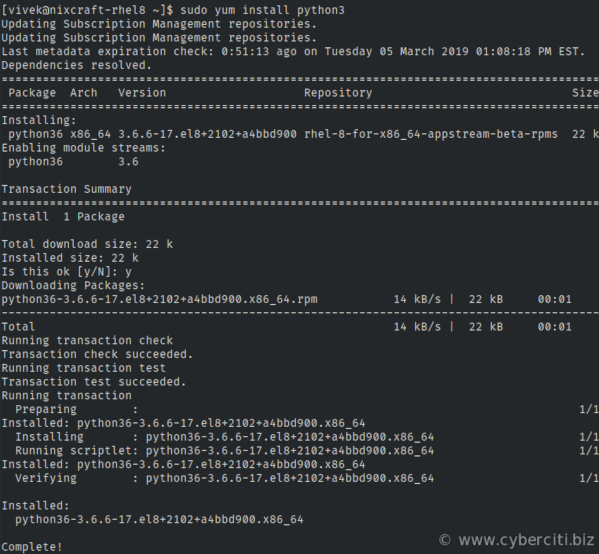
1. Open the Terminal application or window.
2. Search for python package in RHEL 8, run: **sudo yum search python3**
3. To install python 3 on RHEL 8, run: **sudo yum install python3**
4. To install python 2 on RHEL 8, run: **sudo yum install python2**
5. Upgrade python 3 in RHEL 8, run: **sudo yum upgrade python3**
6. Upgrade python 2 in RHEL 8, run: **sudo yum upgrade python2**

Let us see all commands and example in details.

**How to find out Python package names on RHEL 8**

Try any one of the following syntax along with [grep command](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-use-grep-command-in-linux-unix/):  
sudo yum search python3 | more  
sudo yum search python2 | more  
sudo yum search python36  
sudo yum search python2 | grep 'python2.x86\_64'  
You can show detailed information before installing package as well:  
sudo yum info python2.x86\_6  
sudo yum info python36  


**RHEL 8 install Python 3**

Type the following [yum command](https://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-centos-fedora-linux-yum-command-howto/) to install Python 3 on Red Hat Enterprise Linux version 8:  
sudo yum install python3  
OR  
sudo yum module install python36  
  
Verify installation by typing the [type command](https://bash.cyberciti.biz/guide/Type_command)/[command command](https://bash.cyberciti.biz/guide/Command):  
$ **type -a python3**  
python3 is /usr/bin/python3  
$ **command -V python3**  
python3 is hashed (/usr/bin/python3)  
$ **python3 --version**  
Python 3.6.6

**A sample script in Python 3**

Create a file named test.py:

|  |
| --- |
| *#!/usr/bin/python3*  **import** os, time  **print**("This is a test code for Python3")  **print**("Hello %s, let us be friends!" % os.environ["USER"])  **print**("Today is %s" % time.strftime("%c")) |

Run it as follows:  
$ chmod +x test.py  
$ ./test.py  

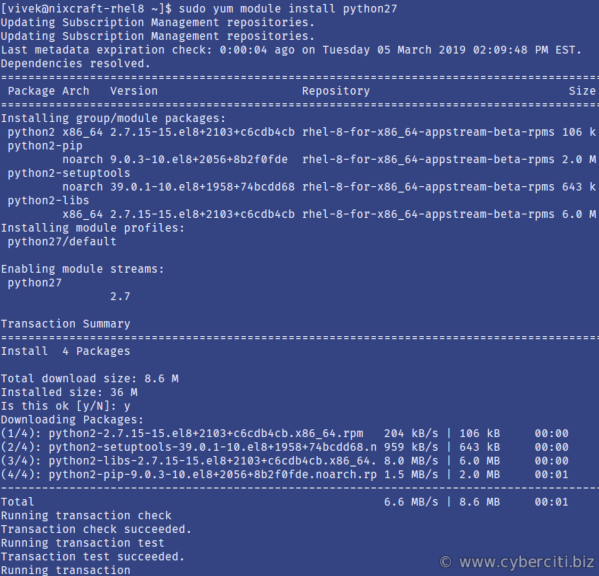
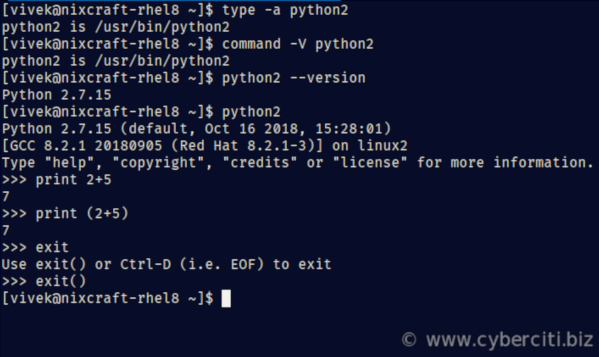

**A note for Ansible users**

Set up your hosts file as follows on your control node to use Ansible as automation tool for RHEL 8 server:

|  |
| --- |
| **[all:vars]**  ansible\_user**=**vivek  ansible\_port**=**22  ansible\_python\_interpreter**=**'/usr/bin/env python3' |

Now run it as usual:  
ansible-playbook -i hosts tasks/7-secure-rhel8-vm.yml

**RHEL 8 install Python 2**

Let us see how to install Python 2.7 on RHEL 8:  
sudo yum install python27  
OR  
sudo yum module install python27  
  
Let us find out information about installed version of Python 2.7 in RHEL 8:  
$ type -a python2  
$ command -V python2  
$ python2 --version  


**Can I install both Python 3.6 and Python 2.7 on RHEL 8?**

Yes. It is possible to install both versions simultaneously:  
sudo yum module install python36 python27  
Sample outputs:

|  |
| --- |
| Updating Subscription Management repositories.  Updating Subscription Management repositories.  Last metadata expiration check: 0:09:22 ago on Tuesday 05 March 2019 02:09:48 PM EST.  Dependencies resolved.  **========================================================================================**  Package Arch Version Repository Size  **=**=======================================================================================  Installing group/module packages:  python36  x86\_64 3.6.6-17.el8+2102+a4bbd900 rhel-8-for-x86\_64-appstream-beta-rpms 22 k  python2 x86\_64 2.7.15-15.el8+2103+c6cdb4cb rhel-8-for-x86\_64-appstream-beta-rpms 106 k  python2-pip  noarch 9.0.3-10.el8+2056+8b2f0fde rhel-8-for-x86\_64-appstream-beta-rpms 2.0 M  python2-setuptools  noarch 39.0.1-10.el8+1958+74bcdd68 rhel-8-for-x86\_64-appstream-beta-rpms 643 k  python2-libs  x86\_64 2.7.15-15.el8+2103+c6cdb4cb rhel-8-for-x86\_64-appstream-beta-rpms 6.0 M  Installing module profiles:  python27/default    python36/default      Transaction Summary  **=**=======================================================================================  Install 5 Packages    Total download size: 8.7 M  Installed size: 36 M  Is this ok **[y/N]**: |

**How do I set default version of Python on RHEL 8?**

One can set Python 3 as default by running the simple command:  
sudo alternatives --set python /usr/bin/python3  
python --version  
Sample outputs:

Python 3.6.6

Similarly one can set Python 2 as default version for RHEL 8 based desktop or server environment from the bash shell:  
sudo alternatives --set python /usr/bin/python2  
python --version

**How do I remove python default on RHEL 8?**

The syntax is simple:  
sudo alternatives --remove python /usr/bin/python2  
OR  
sudo alternatives --remove python /usr/bin/python3