Raspberry Pi

How to Update Python on Raspberry Pi

6 months ago - by Awais Khan

Python and Raspberry Pi OS are made for each other, as without **Python**, you will face issues while accessing your Raspberry Pi terminal or running other applications that require Python. There are other advantages of having **Python** on Raspberry Pi as well, such as ease of use, versatility, and freedom to access several Python libraries that are included in the Raspberry Pi libraries list.

Since replacing the older Python version with the new one is a complex task because you won't be able to remove the previous **Python** version as it will result in system failure. So, to help you out in this situation, we present this article to provide your guidelines on how you can update **Python** on Raspberry Pi.

How to Update Python on Raspberry Pi

To update the **Python** version on Raspberry Pi, you must need to follow the step-by-step instruction given below:

Step 1: Install Python on Raspberry Pi

First, head toward the official Python website to check the latest version of **Python**. At the time of writing, the latest version of **Python** is **3.9.9**; thus, we have used the following command to install this version on Raspberry Pi.

```
$ wget https://www.python.org/ftp/python/3.9.9/Python-3.9.9.tgz
```

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Step 2: Extract File Contents

Next, you must extract the contents of the **Python-3.9.9.tgz** file using the following command:

```
$ tar -zxvf Python-3.9.9.tgz
```

The above command will store the file in a directory with the name **"Python-3.9.9"**.

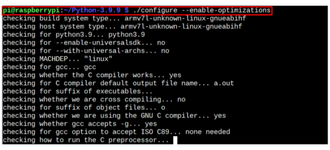
Step 3: Configure Python Latest Version on Raspberry Pi

After successfully extracting the contents, it's now time to configure **Python** on Raspberry Pi and for this purpose, head towards the **Python** directory using the following command:

```
$ cd Python-3.9.9
```

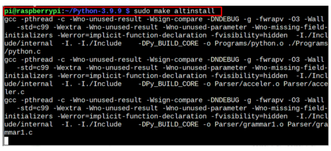
Next, apply the following command to configure **Python** on Raspberry Pi:

```
$ ./configure --enable-optimizations
```



After the configuration, run the following command to build the installation packages for the latest version of **Python** on Raspberry Pi:

```
$ sudo make altinstall
```



Step 4: Update the Python Version on Raspberry Pi

To make the latest version of **Python** the default one, you must need to remove the previous **Python version** and replace it with the new one.

Since the **Python** files are stored inside the directory **"/usr/bin"**, you must need to visit the directory using the following command:

```
$ cd /usr/bin
```

At the current location, remove the previous **Python** directory using the following command:

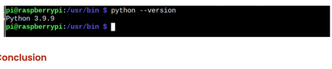
```
$ sudo rm python
```

Next, link the latest version of **Python** placed inside the directory **"usr/local/bin"** using the following command:

```
$ sudo ln -s /usr/local/bin/python3.9 python
```

This will update the **Python version** on your Raspberry Pi device and you can confirm it by executing the following command:

```
$ python --version
```



Conclusion

Updating the **Python** will help you speed up your system and application's performance because the newer version comes with new features compared to the previous version. Now that you have learned how to update the **Python** version on Raspberry Pi through the above guidelines, it's time to take out your Raspberry Pi device, open the terminal and perform the step-by-step instructions mentioned above to update the **Python** version successfully.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Awais Khan

I'm an Engineer and an academic researcher by profession. My interest for Raspberry Pi, embedded systems and blogging has brought me here to share my knowledge with others.

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