Installing Python: Windows

This lesson is a tutorial on how to install Python on Windows.

> **We'll cover the following** ⌃
>
> - 1. Using the Official Site
> - 2. Using Anaconda

Windows does not come with a pre-installed with a Python distribution. Hence, users of the operating system will have to set up Python one way or the other.

Apart from using the IDEs we mentioned earlier, we have the option of installing the complete official release of Python3 on Windows.

Below, we have listed two simple methods installing Python3 on a Windows machine. You may skip this tutorial if it is not relevant to you.

1. Using the Official Site

Head over to the official Python download page and select the latest release.

Release version	Release date	Click for more	
Python 3.7.3	March 25, 2019	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.4.10	March 18, 2019	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.5.7	March 18, 2019	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 2.7.16	March 4, 2019	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.7.2	Dec. 24, 2018	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.6.8	Dec. 24, 2018	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.7.1	Oct. 20, 2018	⬇ Download	Release Notes
Python 3.6.7	Oct. 20, 2018	⬇ Download	Release Notes

View older releases

We will be directed to the page of that particular version. At the bottom, we can find a **Files** section which contains the installation files for various operating systems.

Files

Version	Operating System	Description	MD5 Sum	File Size	GPG
Gzipped source tarball	Source release		2ee10f25e3d1b14215d56c3882486fcf	22973527	SIG
XZ compressed source tarball	Source release		93df27aec0cd18d6d42173e601ffbbfd	17108364	SIG
macOS 64-bit/32-bit installer	Mac OS X	for Mac OS X 10.6 and later	5a95572715e0d600de28d6232c656954	34479513	SIG
macOS 64-bit installer	Mac OS X	for OS X 10.9 and later	4ca0e30f48be690bfe80111daee9509a	27839889	SIG
Windows help file	Windows		7740b11d249bca16364f4a45b40c5676	8090273	SIG
Windows x86-64 embeddable zip file	Windows	for AMD64/EM64T/x64	854ac011983b4c799379a3baa3a040ec	7018568	SIG
Windows x86-64 executable installer	Windows	for AMD64/EM64T/x64	a2b79563476e9aa47f11899a53349383	26190920	SIG
Windows x86-64 web-based installer	Windows	for AMD64/EM64T/x64	047d19d2569c963b8253a9b2e52395ef	1362888	SIG
Windows x86 embeddable zip file	Windows		70df01e7b0c1b7042aabb5a3c1e2fbd5	6526486	SIG
Windows x86 executable installer	Windows		ebf1644cdc1eeeebacc92afa949cfc01	25424128	SIG
Windows x86 web-based installer	Windows		d3944e218a45d982f0abcd93b151273a	1324632	SIG

If you have a 32-bit Windows, download the **Windows x86 executable installer**. For 64-bit Windows, opt for the **Windows x86-64 executable installer**.

Open the executable file to begin the installation process.

We will be directed to this window:

Be sure to check the **Add Python 3.7 to PATH** field.

Click the **Install Now** button and begin the installation.

And we're done!

We will be greeted by this message at the end:

To verify that Python3 has been correctly installed, open the **Command Prompt** and run the `python -v` command.

2. Using Anaconda

Anaconda is a very popular open source data science platform which comes equipped with Python3 out of the box. Furthermore, many Python3 libraries and packages are already pre-installed.

This is definitely the best approach for beginners who are new to shell and terminal commands.

The setup is fairly simple. Visit the official download page and select the Python3 installer for Windows.

Launch the installer and go through all the steps. We do not recommend adding Anaconda to the PATH. Hence, do not check the **Add Anaconda to my PATH environment variable**.

After installation, we can use Python through the Anaconda Prompt. Simply type

`python` in the prompt to run Python shell. This will show us the version which

we're running and shift us to the Python environment. Don't worry about the rest for now. Exit the Python shell using `quit()`.

These are all the different ways we can install Python3 on our Windows machine. Hopefully, everything went smoothly. If you have any questions, do reach out to us!

In the next lesson, we'll learn how to set up Python for macOS.