Python interpreter and library management with pyenv

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What is a virtual environment and why do you want one?

A virtual environment which allows you to work on a specific project without worry of affecting other projects.(pydocs)

New project requires Django 1.7, old one requires Django 1.5.

Figure : Unmanaged library conflict

Figure : Managed library conflict

What is a *non-system* version of python?

For Linux and Mac OS X versions of python come pre-installed. These lag the bleeding edge versions.

Upgrading by compiling from source can break your system. See stack overflow questions:

- I-broke-python,
- Upgrading-to-python-2.7.5

Non-system version of python

Important libraries require a specific version of python critical features depend on the version for:

- Django (django-requires-2.7.x)
- IPython (IPython-requires-2.6.x)
- pandas (pandas-no-longer-supports-2.5.x)
- matplotlib
- scikit-learn
- scipy (required-python-version-not-found)