

What is Anaconda?

In this course we'll use Python as the computer language for exploring machine learning. Anaconda is an opens source data science platform that makes using Python much easier. It allows you to run Python programs in an interactive mode using an intuitive interface called a *Jupyter* notebook. Anaconda comes with most of the packages we'll need to do machine learning and saves us the time and effort it would take to install these packages individually. We'll write all our Python code inside *Jupyter* notebooks.

If you're an advanced user (have Anaconda installed already and have been using on your computer), skip to the **Advanced Users** section towards the end of this document.

How to Install Anaconda on Your Computer

1. Go to <https://www.continuum.io/downloads>

The screenshot shows the Anaconda download page for macOS. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Download for Windows', 'Download for macOS' (which is selected), and 'Download for Linux'. Below the tabs, the page is titled 'Anaconda 4.3.1 For macOS'. It includes a note for macOS 10.12.2 users to upgrade to 10.12.3 or later. There are links for 'Changelog' and 'Graphical Installer'. The 'Graphical Installer' section lists two steps: downloading the graphical installer and double-clicking the .pkg file. The 'Command Line Installer' section lists two steps: downloading the command-line installer and optionally verifying data integrity with MD5 or SHA-256. On the right side, there are two sections for Python versions. The 'Python 3.6 version' section has a green 'GRAPHICAL INSTALLER (424M)' button and a green-outlined 'COMMAND-LINE INSTALLER (363M)' button. The 'Python 2.7 version' section has a blue 'GRAPHICAL INSTALLER (419M)' button and a blue-outlined 'COMMAND-LINE INSTALLER (358M)' button. Both version sections are labeled '64-Bit'.

Download for Windows Download for macOS Download for Linux

Anaconda 4.3.1

For macOS

macOS 10.12.2 users: To prevent permissions problems, we recommend that you upgrade to macOS 10.12.3 or later before installing Anaconda.

Anaconda is BSD licensed which gives you permission to use Anaconda commercially and for redistribution.

[Changelog](#)

Graphical Installer

1. Download the graphical installer
2. Double-click the downloaded .pkg file and follow the instructions

Command Line Installer

1. Download the command-line installer
2. Optional: Verify data integrity with [MD5](#) or [SHA-256](#) [More info](#)

Python 3.6 version

GRAPHICAL INSTALLER (424M)

COMMAND-LINE INSTALLER (363M)

64-Bit

Python 2.7 version

GRAPHICAL INSTALLER (419M)

COMMAND-LINE INSTALLER (358M)

64-Bit

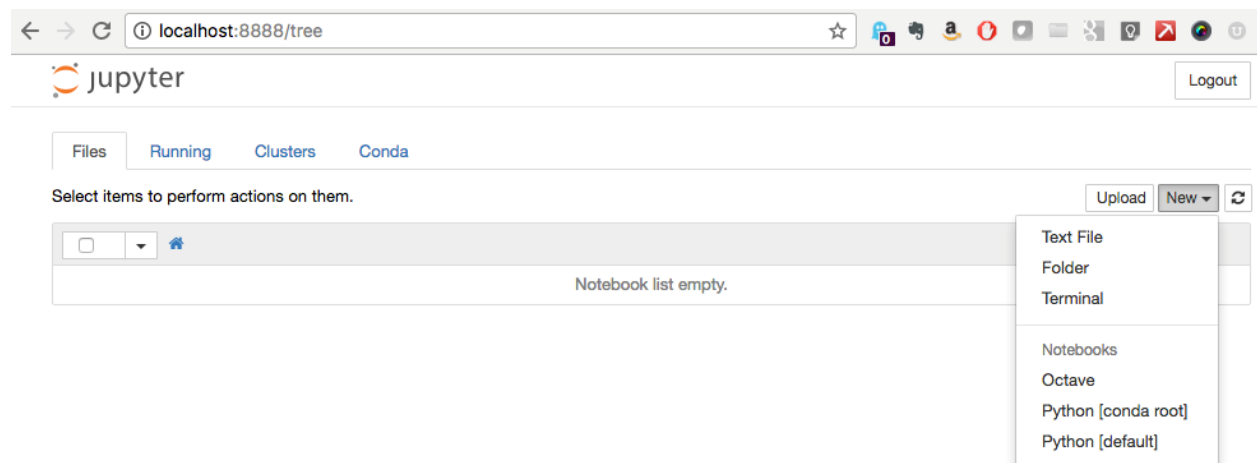
2. Click on the tab for your operating system.
3. Click on the GRAPHICAL INSTALLER for the Python 3.x version. Anaconda will install everything it needs; you shouldn't have to do anything other than follow the installation prompts. Use Anaconda's default settings.
4. Once Anaconda is installed, you need to run it from the command prompt. This is not as scary as it sounds and you'll soon be very used to it. If you haven't used the command prompt

on your computer before, have a look at the resources section below – the links there will help you find it.

5. Once you get to the command line, type “conda info –v” (without the quotes). You’ll see bunch of lines that tell you where Anaconda was installed on your computer and some information about your computer system. Unless you’re an advanced user (see below), you won’t need to change anything – the default installation will work like a dream.

6. Create a directory/folder on your computer for this course. To keep things organized, you’ll keep all the course materials here. You can create any folder structure that makes sense. We suggest keeping all your Jupyter notebooks in one place so that you can access them easily.

7. Use the prompt interface to navigate to the Jupyter folder. Once you’re there, type the following “jupyter notebook” (without the quotes). In a few seconds you’ll see your default browser open a tab and display the content of the (currently empty) folder you just created.



Notice that the web page is running on your computer (not a server on the internet) on port 8888. This is the default location for the root directory for all your Jupyter notebooks. There’s not much to look at initially because there are no notebooks created (or downloaded) so far. New notebooks are easy to create – just click on the New button on the right of the screen and choose Notebooks > Python [conda root]. You’re now up and running with everything you need to work with the Python notebooks for this course!

Downloading Jupyter Notebooks for this Course

GitHub repository URL

Useful Resources

Opening a Command Prompt

- How to open a command prompt in Windows 10

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyiGZW0fTxk>
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/235101/10-ways-to-open-the-command-prompt-in-windows-10/>
- How to open a command prompt on Mac OSX
 - <http://blog.teamtreehouse.com/introduction-to-the-mac-os-x-command-line>
- How to open a command line on Linux (just joking – if you're on Linux, we don't need to tell you how to do this ☺).

Open, Run, and Shut Down a Jupyter Notebook

- <http://jupyter-notebook-beginner-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/execute.html>

Advanced Users

If you already have Anaconda installed on your system, we suggest you create a different environment for the files you'll be creating and using for this course. Please use Python 3.x in this new environment. For complete directions, go to <https://conda.io/docs/test-drive.html>