



Installing Python and IDLE

Important: Do NOT Install Python 2!

This course relies on Python 3.6 and the course material does not properly apply to Python 2.

The latest version of Python is Python 3.6.

This appears to work OK on Windows and recent versions of Macs and Linux when running IDLE. The instructions below are for Python 3.6.

Windows Users

Go to the [Python downloads page](#) and download the Windows x86-64 MSI installer.

Run the installer.

This should install Python 3.6.4 and IDLE.

Mac Users

Python should already be installed, including the IDLE libraries. However, you need to be running Python 3.6 (not Python 2.X). You can tell which version of Python you have installed by starting a terminal and running `python`. This starts the interpreter and displays the version in the startup message. If it is not 3.6 you can install the latest version (currently 3.6.4) of the Mac OS X 64-bit/32-bit installer from the [Python downloads page](#).

NOTE: To make sure IDLE is installed correctly please look at the download page above (not just for Windows).

There is a note about updating Tcl/Tk with a link to <http://www.python.org/download/mac/tcltk/>

Linux Users

Again, Python should already be installed and includes the IDLE libraries but you may need to update to version 3.6.4

To make life easier use the package manager for your Linux to get IDLE. It will add the application to your menus and and you can make a desktop icon in order to make running it easy.