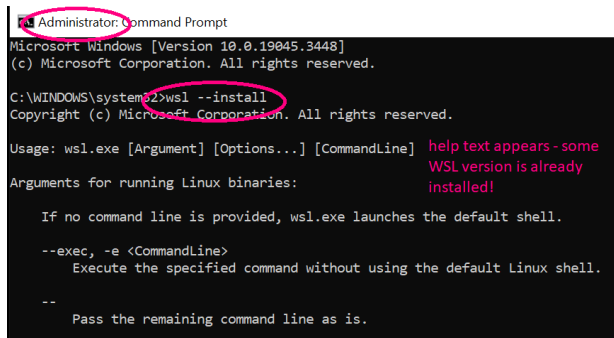


If WSL is already installed

If after opening the Command Prompt or PowerShell as administrator, and then running `wsl --install`, a help text is shown, it means that you already have some version of WSL installed on your machine.

In that case, run the following command to get a list of available distributions (we want the **Ubuntu** one):

```
wsl -l -v
```



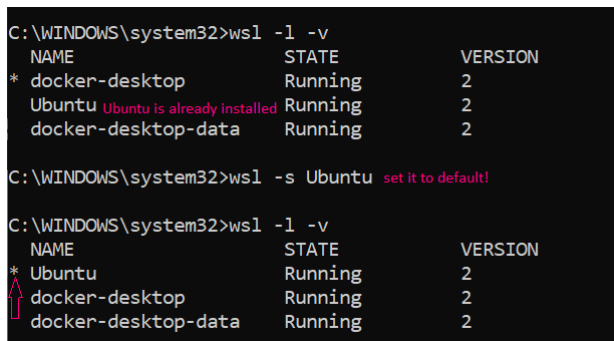
The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt". The user has entered the command `wsl --install`. The output shows the WSL version (10.0.19045.3448) and a message stating "WSL version is already installed!". It also displays usage information for `wsl.exe`, including options for running Linux binaries.

If Ubuntu is already in the list of distributions

Run

```
wsl -s Ubuntu
```

to set the default distribution to Ubuntu.



The screenshot shows two commands being executed in a Windows Command Prompt. The first command is `wsl -l -v`, which lists the installed distributions: `docker-desktop`, `Ubuntu` (marked as "Ubuntu is already installed"), and `docker-desktop-data`. The second command is `wsl -s Ubuntu`, which sets Ubuntu as the default distribution. The output of the second command shows that Ubuntu is now the first entry in the list of distributions.

If Ubuntu is not yet in the list of distributions

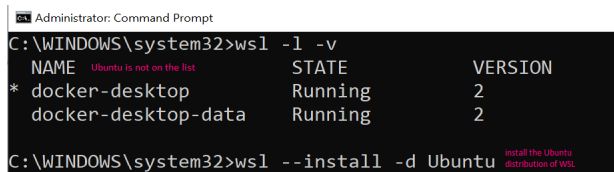
Run

```
wsl --install -d Ubuntu
```

to install the Ubuntu distribution, and then

```
wsl -s Ubuntu
```

to set the default distribution to Ubuntu.



The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt". The command prompt shows the following output for the command `wsl -l -v`:

| NAME | STATE | VERSION |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| * docker-desktop | Running | 2 |
| docker-desktop-data | Running | 2 |

Below the table, the command `wsl --install -d Ubuntu` is entered. A red text overlay on the right side of the command prompt says "install the Ubuntu distribution of WSL".

After Ubuntu distribution has been checked/installed

...you can now continue with [accessing the Unixshell](#).