**PyOrator setup guidance**

This guidance applies to the Windows environment only, however, since Python is available on all mainstream platforms, notably Linux and macOS, PyOrator can also be ported to these on request.

**A note on the Windows environment and JSON files**

PyOrator reads and writes various setup, configuration and management files which are formatted using the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) data interchange format. JSON files are "*self-describing*" and easy to understand. A JSON file uses human-readable text to store and transmit data objects consisting of attribute-value pairs and array data types.

It is recommended that you use Notepad++ with the JSTool plugin for editing JSON files.

Notepad++ is a text and source code editor for use with Microsoft Windows. It supports tabbed editing, which allows working with multiple open files in a single window.

Notepad++ can be downloaded from [here](https://notepad-plus-plus.org/)

There is also an online JSON file viewer [here](http://jsonviewer.stack.hu/)

**Setting up PyOrator for the first time**

PyOrator is stored on a GitHub repository and therefore it is necessary to download and install Git for Windows from [here](https://git-scm.com/download/win)

Navigate to your preferred location on your workstation and open a command prompt.

Clone PyOrator from the top level of your file system:

C:\> git clone <https://github.com/NewEconomicPolicy/testPyOra>

It is important to choose a staging area i.e. a location on your file system, which is separate from the program modules then copy **testPyOra\OratorRun\Docs\PyOrator model files.zip** to the staging area and unzip to that location.

**Folders created**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| config | Contains a model configuration file **pyorator\_config.json** |
| images | Image files for program and desktop shortcut icon |
| inputs | Contains a model ORATOR inputs Excel file |
| log | Folder for log files - not currently used |
| management | Contains a choice of model management json files |
| run | Contains a model, **pyorator.bat**, to run PyOrator |
| setup | Contains a model setup file, **pyorator\_setup.json** |

**Description of required files**

PyOrator can be run directly using a Windows desktop shortcut to reference a batch script file named **pyorator.bat** in the distribution**.** The batch file invokes the Python interpreter to run PyOrator program.

To aid navigation the shortcut should be displayed with the PyOrator icon file.

**pyorator.bat:**

When setting up the program It is necessary to edit the highlighted paths to correspond to the local filesystem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Line |  |
| 1 | echo off |
| 2 | rem @ tells the command processor to be less verbose |
| 3 | @set PYTHONPATH=C:\testPyOra\BioModels;C:\testPyOra\EnvModelModules |
| 4 | @set initial\_working\_dir=%cd% |
| 5 | @chdir /D C:\ORATOR\setup |
| 6 | @C:\Python38\python.exe -W ignore C:\testPyOra\InitInptsRslts\PyOratorGUI.py |
| 7 | @chdir /D %initial\_working\_dir% |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Line | Additional line description |
| 3 | extend the interpreter module search path to pick up all modules |
| 5 | change the working directory so PyOrator can locate the setup file – see below for setup file details |
| 6 | invoke the Python interpreter to read the PyOrator entry script, PyOratorGUI.py with the warning messages switched off (-W ignore) |

**The setup file**

At start up PyOrator reads the setup file **pyorator\_setup.json** in the current working directory, i.e. the directory in which the program is initialised.

The setup file comprises these attributes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| config\_dir | the configuration file comprising user settings |
| fname\_png | the logo file which appears in the LH side of the user interface (GUI) |
| fname\_lookup | the single sheet Excel file comprising a lookup table for the Orator variables |
| log\_dir | the path where PyOrator log files will be written |

When setting up the program it is necessary to edit the attribute paths to correspond to the local filesystem.

**The configuration file**

The PyOrator configuration file is read at program start up and overwritten with new user settings on

**ORATOR\_parameters.xlsx**

PyOrator requires an Excel file of input parameters with these mandatory sheets:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Crop parms | Crop parameters |
| Org Waste parms | Org Waste parameters |
| N constants | Nitrogen constants |
| Typical animal production |  |