

Ask Ubuntu is a question and answer site for Ubuntu users and developers. Join them; it only takes a minute:

Here's how it works:

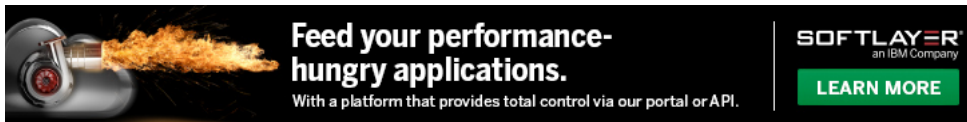
Sign up

Anybody can ask a question

Anybody can answer

The best answers are voted up and rise to the top

## How do I run Python code as a script? [duplicate]



This question already has an answer here:

[Running Python File in Terminal](#) 4 answers

I need help running python in ubuntu

I can run python without a problem in my terminal but when I create a .py file I can't get it to run.

python

edited Mar 5 '15 at 10:36

asked Feb 26 '15 at 22:34



[muru](#)

69.1k

12

125

176



[Bitcoin Austria](#)

11

1

1

3

**marked** as duplicate by [Eric Carvalho](#), [muru](#), [karel](#), [Mitch ♦](#) Mar 5 '15 at 19:10

This question has been asked before and already has an answer. If those answers do not fully address your question, please [ask a new question](#).

1 So how are you trying? – [Jacob Vlijm](#) Feb 26 '15 at 22:37

thats what i try to find out – [Bitcoin Austria](#) Feb 26 '15 at 22:40

There are many ways, depending on if the file is executable or not, with shebang or not. Will see if I can quickly find a dupe with an overview. – [Jacob Vlijm](#) Feb 26 '15 at 22:42

Follow this answer: [stackoverflow.com/a/304896](http://stackoverflow.com/a/304896) This will also make you program double-click-able. – [MadMike](#) Feb 26 '15 at 22:49

whats shebang?? – [Bitcoin Austria](#) Feb 26 '15 at 22:52

## 4 Answers

How it works (examples for python2 , for python3 , replace all occurrences of python by python3 ):

- python /path/to/script.py
  - works if file is either executable or not
  - shebang ( `#!/usr/bin/env python` ) in the head of the script is good practice, but not needed
- /path/to/script.py
  - works if script is executable
  - shebang is needed ( `#!/usr/bin/env python` )
- script.py
  - works if script is in `$PATH`
  - script needs to be executable
  - filename needs to have extension
  - shebang is needed ( `#!/usr/bin/env python` )
- script
  - works if script is in `$PATH`

- script needs to be executable
- filename should have no extension
- shebang is needed ( `#!/usr/bin/env python` )

### A bit more information: precedence of command, shebang or extension?

The shell can get its information on how to run a script from two sources (in order of precedence):

- The language information in the command: `python <script>`
- The shebang, in the first line of the script: `#!/usr/bin/env python`

The language extension however does not play a role(!).

A few examples:

1. A `bash` script, correct (language) information in the command, *incorrect* shebang, *incorrect* extension:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
echo 'Monkey eats banana'
```

ran with:

```
$ sh /path/to/script.py
> Monkey eats banana
```

runs correctly, the information in the command takes precedence over both the shebang and the extension.

2. An (executable) `python` script, ran with *incorrect* extension, but a correct shebang:

```
#!/usr/bin/env/python
print "Monkey eats banana"
```

ran with:

```
$ /path/to/script.sh
> Monkey eats banana
```

runs correctly, the information in the shebang takes precedence over the extension.

3. An (executable) `python` script, with a correct extension, but without shebang (and without language information in the command):

```
print "Monkey"
```

Ran with the command:

```
$ /path/to/script.py
> Error: no such file "Monkey"
```

does not run correctly, in spite of the language extension!

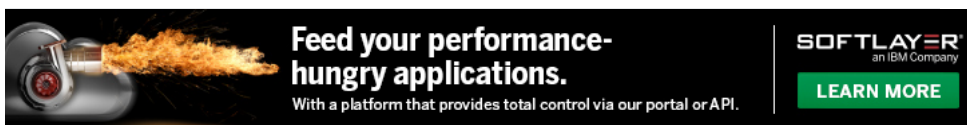
edited May 12 at 5:48

answered Feb 26 '15 at 22:50



Jacob Vlijm

39.6k 6 78 119



Probably you need to make it executable.

```
chmod +x /path/to/your/file.py
```

answered Feb 26 '15 at 22:38



user300458

877 1 7 17

To run a python script, use `python` :

```
python script.py
```

answered Feb 26 '15 at 22:38



kos

19.8k 5 48 89

i created a small script with sublime and saved it as test.py if i try to run it in the terminal python test.py I get a message that it isnt found test.py is saved on the desktop – Bitcoin Austria Feb 26 '15 at 22:42

1 @BitcoinAustria Because most likely terminal's current location is not `~/Desktop` , change its location to `~/Desktop` : in a terminal: `cd ~/Desktop` – kos Feb 26 '15 at 22:45

---

This question is answered here: [run python in terminal](#)  
If none of these work:

You can save your code as a script in gedit with a `.py` file extension ie. `exampleFile.py`

But on the first line add `#!/usr/bin/python` and save.

Make the script executable by entering

```
chmod +x exampleFile.py
```

into the terminal.

(I usually save scripts in a separate directory and call the directory in the terminal via `cd exampleDirectory` and then execute scripts in that specific directory)  
[also you can check if the script is in your directory by entering the `ls` command in the terminal to list the files in that directory and the script should be green if it executable]

Then you can call the script to be ran in the terminal:

```
python exampleFile.py
```

You can replace `python` with `python3` in all the areas that `python` was listed, if you'd rather prefer that version

In addition, you can use `vim` or other third party software to write and run python scripts if none of these work.

answered Feb 27 '15 at 3:09



Benjamin  
11 3