Go

Documents Packages The Project Help Blog Play | Search |

Getting Started

Install the Go tools
Test your installation
Uninstalling Go
Getting help

Your download should begin shortly. If it does not, click this link.

Install the Go tools

If you are upgrading from an older version of Go you must first remove the existing version.

Windows

MSI installer

Open the MSI file and follow the prompts to install the Go tools. By default, the installer puts the Go distribution in `c:\Go`.

The installer should put the `c:\Go\bin` directory in your `PATH` environment variable. You may need to restart any open command prompts for the change to take effect.

Setting environment variables under Windows

Under Windows, you may set environment variables through the "Environment Variables" button on the "Advanced" tab of the "System" control panel. Some versions of Windows provide this control panel through the "Advanced System Settings" option inside the "System" control panel.

Test your installation

Check that Go is installed correctly by setting up a workspace and building a simple program, as follows.

Create your workspace directory, `%USERPROFILE%\go`. (If you'd like to use a different directory, you will need to set the `GOPATH` environment variable.)

Next, make the directory `src/hello` inside your workspace, and in that directory create a file named `hello.go` that looks like:

```
package main

import "fmt"

func main() {
        fmt.Printf("hello, world\n")
}
```

Then build it with the `go` tool:

```
C:\> cd %USERPROFILE%\go\src\hello
C:\Users\Gopher\go\src\hello> go build
```

The command above will build an executable named `hello.exe` in the directory alongside your source code.
Execute it to see the greeting:

```
C:\Users\Gopher\go\src\hello> hello
hello, world
```

If you see the "hello, world" message then your Go installation is working.

You can run `go install` to install the binary into your workspace's `bin` directory or `go clean -i` to remove it.

Before rushing off to write Go code please read the How to Write Go Code document, which describes some essential concepts about using the Go tools.

Uninstalling Go

To remove an existing Go installation from your system delete the `go` directory. This is usually `/usr/local/go` under Linux, macOS, and FreeBSD or `c:\Go` under Windows.

You should also remove the Go `bin` directory from your `PATH` environment variable. Under Linux and FreeBSD you should edit `/etc/profile` or `$HOME/.profile`. If you installed Go with the macOS package then you should remove the `/etc/paths.d/go` file. Windows users should read the section about setting environment variables under Windows.

Getting help

For help, see the list of Go mailing lists, forums, and places to chat.

Report bugs either by running "`go bug`", or manually at the Go issue tracker.