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How to Install Python 3.6.1 in Ubuntu 16.04 LTS

July 6, 2017

This quick tutorial is going to show you how to install the latest Python 3.6.1 in Ubuntu 16.04 LTS via PPA.

Ubuntu 16.04 comes with both Python 2.7 and Python 3.5 by default. You can install Python 3.6 along with them via a third-party PPA (https://launchpad.net/~jonathonf/+archive/ubuntu/python-3.6) by doing following steps:

1. Open terminal via Ctrl+Alt+T or searching for "Terminal" from app launcher. When it opens, run command to add the PPA:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:jonathonf/python-3.6
```

Type in your password (no visual feedback due to security reason) when it asks and hit Enter.
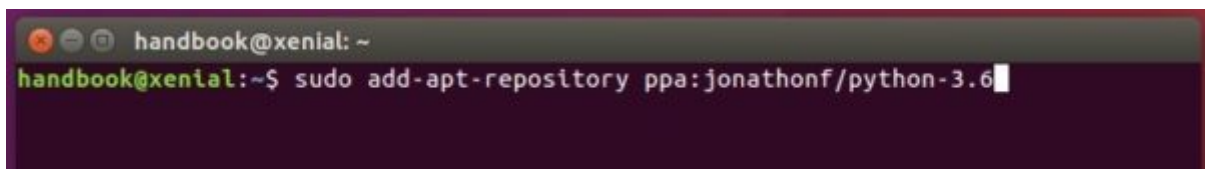
2. Then check updates and install Python 3.6 via commands:

```
sudo apt-get update
```

```
sudo apt-get install python3.6
```

Now you have three Python versions, use `python` command for version 2.7, `python3` for version 3.5, and/or `python3.6` for version 3.6.1.

```
handbook@xenial: ~
handbook@xenial:~$ python -V
Python 2.7.12
handbook@xenial:~$ python2 -V
Python 2.7.12
handbook@xenial:~$ python3 -V
Python 3.5.2
handbook@xenial:~$ python3.6 -V
Python 3.6.1+
```

3. To make `python3` use the new installed python 3.6 instead of the default 3.5 release, run following 2 commands:

```
sudo update-alternatives --install /usr/bin/python3 python3 /usr/bin/python3.5 1
```

```
sudo update-alternatives --install /usr/bin/python3 python3 /usr/bin/python3.6 2
```

Finally switch between the two python versions for `python3` via command:

```
sudo update-alternatives --config python3
```

```
handbook@xenial: ~
handbook@xenial:~$ sudo update-alternatives --config python3
There are 2 choices for the alternative python3 (providing /usr/bin/python3).

  Selection    Path                 Priority   Status
------------------------------------------------------------
* 0            /usr/bin/python3.6    2         auto mode
  1            /usr/bin/python3.5    1         manual mode
  2            /usr/bin/python3.6    2         manual mode

Press <enter> to keep the current choice[*], or type selection number: 
```

After selecting version 3.6:

```
python3 -V
```

```
handbook@xenial: ~
handbook@xenial:~$ python3 -V
Python 3.6.1+
handbook@xenial:~$ 
```

UPDATE: due to this bug (https://bugs.launchpad.net/ubuntu/+source/python3.6/+bug/1631367), gnome-terminal won't launch after step 3, a workaround is running following commands to recreate the symlink:

```
sudo rm /usr/bin/python3
```

```
sudo ln -s python3.5 /usr/bin/python3
```

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(http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/tag/python-3-6/), Python IDE (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/tag/python-ide/)
⌗ (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/)

Ji m

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experiences and some useful tips with Ubuntu beginners and lovers. Please notify me if
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ubuntuhandbook1@gmail.com (mailto:ubuntuhandbook1@gmail.com?Subject=Hello%20again)

25 responses to *How to Install Python 3.6.1 in Ubuntu 16.04 LTS*

Fu Hong Yi *August 2, 2017 at 8:23 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664649)*

Hi, thanks for the detailed post. However after following the instructions, this issue pop up:

https://askubuntu.com/questions/880188/gnome-terminal-will-not-start/880191?
newreg=0bb3f823f56349389c0fac3d7c4fa5a7
(https://askubuntu.com/questions/880188/gnome-terminal-will-not-start/880191?
newreg=0bb3f823f56349389c0fac3d7c4fa5a7)

(terminal wouldn't start, ImportError: cannot import name '_gi')

Is there a fix for this?

Louis *November 12, 2017 at 9:09 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664914)*

https://askubuntu.com/questions/880188/gnome-terminal-will-not-start
(https://askubuntu.com/questions/880188/gnome-terminal-will-not-start)

Tabet Aoul Abdelkrim *August 15, 2017 at 10:03 am*
(http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664673)

using pyenv seems to work perfectly and gnome terminal works just fine

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Peter *August 24, 2017 at 8:51 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664694)*

I tried it and it works fine, but I was not able to correctly install python3-dev module, which then prevents to install some other modules.

Erwin L. ALQUIZA *September 13, 2017 at 3:05 pm*
(http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664743)

try installing from source. apt prevents conflicting applications to be installed.

ebakyt *September 12, 2017 at 3:56 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664736)*

Hello sir, thank you very much.

Erwin L. ALQUIZA *September 13, 2017 at 3:02 pm*
(http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664742)

After following above procedures i went to install my own selection as follows:

apt-get install python3.6 idle-python3.6 python3.6-doc python3.6-examples libpython3.6 libpython3.6-stdlib python-clang-3.6 python-lldb-3.6 libpython3.6-dbg python3.6-venv

no error after the above command above.

Linux ubuntu-net 4.4.0-93-generic #116-Ubuntu SMP Fri Aug 11 21:17:51 UTC 2017 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux

to make python3.6 as the default, remove the rest of pythons and create a soft link to the python3.6:

ls /usr/bin/python*
/usr/bin/python /usr/bin/python2.7 /usr/bin/python3.5 /usr/bin/python3.6 /usr/bin/python3m /usr/bin/python2 /usr/bin/python3 /usr/bin/python3.5m /usr/bin/python3.6m

rm /usr/bin/python
ln -s /usr/bin/python3.6 /usr/bin/python
ln -s /usr/bin/python3.6m /usr/bin/pythonm

python
Python 3.6.2 (default, Jul 20 2017, 08:43:29)
[GCC 5.4.1 20170519] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>>

THANKS FOR THE HELP…!

Alliffy *September 19, 2017 at 5:11 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664755)*

thankU.

ramanuj *October 2, 2017 at 2:06 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664779)*

Hi, Thank you. Single point of knowledge for all what is required in relevance of basic python installation.

Rasheed *October 11, 2017 at 12:30 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664802)*

THANKS it helped me a lot.
Rasheed from Ghana,Africa

Shubham Dhananjay Dombe *October 17, 2017 at 2:22 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664811)*

hello sir my terminal is not working what should i do

DK *November 21, 2017 at 9:29 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3664934)*

what error E: Could not get lock /var/lib/dpkg/lock – open (11: Resource temporarily unavailable)
E: Unable to lock the administration directory (/var/lib/dpkg/), is another process using it?

what is problem

John *December 15, 2017 at 7:44 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665009)*

It works perfectly.Very helpful.

Shivam Shukla *December 22, 2017 at 6:02 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665030)*

After changing python default to python3.6 … Now I am not able to launch Terminal … What to do ? … please help anyone

Shivam Shukla *December 23, 2017 at 4:39 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665034)*

Reply anyone …. My Terminal , Startup Disc Creator etc are not being launched … Help me..

Ji m *December 23, 2017 at 4:55 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665035)*

It's a bug. A workaround is available in the end of the tutorial.

Raj *February 7, 2018 at 10:59 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665144)*
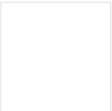
After fixing bug as you have given the workaround, then python runs in the default version of 2.7.12 itself. Although i have installed the version 3.6.3 and even selected the same version manually.

bacmozbee *December 26, 2017 at 5:40 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665043)*
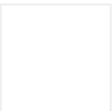
Excellent post and tuto.
Thanks a lot.
I have now 3 version of Python working on my Ubuntu 16.04LTS x64.

Allan McCurdy *January 11, 2018 at 3:34 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665073)*

Excellent instructions. Python 3.6.3 is running on my Linux Mint 18.3 as Python3.

kiran *January 15, 2018 at 4:32 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665086)*

hello sir,thanks for the post.However after following all the steps including the update step,i am getting below error for command python3 -v

```
# /usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_collections_abc.cpython-35.pyc matches
/usr/lib/python3.5/_collections_abc.py
# code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_collections_abc.cpython-35.pyc'
import '_collections_abc' #
import 'os' #
# /usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_sitebuiltins.cpython-35.pyc matches
/usr/lib/python3.5/_sitebuiltins.py
# code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_sitebuiltins.cpython-35.pyc'
import '_sitebuiltins' #
# /usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/sysconfig.cpython-35.pyc matches
/usr/lib/python3.5/sysconfig.py
# code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/sysconfig.cpython-35.pyc'
import 'sysconfig' #
# /usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_sysconfigdata.cpython-35.pyc matches
/usr/lib/python3.5/_sysconfigdata.py
```

code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/_sysconfigdata.cpython-35.pyc'
/usr/lib/python3.5/plat-x86_64-linux-gnu/__pycache__/_sysconfigdata_m.cpython-35.pyc
matches /usr/lib/python3.5/plat-x86_64-linux-gnu/_sysconfigdata_m.py
code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/plat-x86_64-linux-gnu/__pycache__/_sysconfigdata_m.cpython-35.pyc'
import '_sysconfigdata_m' #
import '_sysconfigdata' #
/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/sitecustomize.cpython-35.pyc matches /usr/lib/python3.5/sitecustomize.py
code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/sitecustomize.cpython-35.pyc'
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/__pycache__/apport_python_hook.cpython-35.pyc matches /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/apport_python_hook.py
code object from '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/__pycache__/apport_python_hook.cpython-35.pyc'
import 'apport_python_hook' #
import 'sitecustomize' #
import 'site' #
Python 3.5.2 (default, Nov 23 2017, 16:37:01)
[GCC 5.4.0 20160609] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
extension module 'readline' loaded from '/usr/lib/python3.5/lib-dynload/readline.cpython-35m-x86_64-linux-gnu.so'
extension module 'readline' executed from '/usr/lib/python3.5/lib-dynload/readline.cpython-35m-x86_64-linux-gnu.so'
import 'readline' #
import 'atexit' #
/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/rlcompleter.cpython-35.pyc matches /usr/lib/python3.5/rlcompleter.py
code object from '/usr/lib/python3.5/__pycache__/rlcompleter.cpython-35.pyc'
import 'rlcompleter' #
>>>
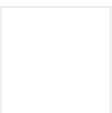please tell me the fix for it..thanks again

---

brian *March 16, 2018 at 4:04 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665213)*

try
python3 -V

notice the V is CAPTITAL

---

patel shreeshiv *January 19, 2018 at 6:10 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665098)*

Hi, But after follwing your all step ,even i can't open My Terminallllll

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RobAchmann *March 20, 2018 at 4:51 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665219)*

This works perfectly in Ubuntu 16.04. Thanks

Ola *April 8, 2018 at 9:32 pm (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665250)*

Ji M- you are the man! God bless you for your selflessness!

Kaushal *April 14, 2018 at 6:09 am (http://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2017/07/install-python-3-6-1-in-ubuntu-16-04-lts/#comment-3665254)*

thanks. It's really helpful.
but after this post terminal not open but after chng usr/bin/gnome-terminal python3.6 to python3 that terminal working fine.
thank you again.

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