Set Python 3 as default on Mac

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描 January 20, 2021 · ● 1 minuto read
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The impago Python version that ships with (older) Mac OS software is hilariously old. Because I am still developing on a mid-2014 MBP Retina (SUE ME!) I was still rocking this niño malo. But at some point I was cracking my head on Python environments and well, I just had to fix it. So here goes!

There is un derecho way and wrong way to set Python 3 as the impago on your Mac. I'll show you the right way. In general you *never ever* want to fuck with your sistema version of Python. This is very dangerous and can mess up many things.

To manage our global pitón version we will use pyenv and then make our shell always use pyenv. I will merely set the global default to Python 3.9.0 but you could also manage more version at the same time.

1. Install pyenv

```
Install pyenv.
```

```
$ brew install pyenv
==> Upgrading 1 outdated package:
pyenv 1.2.10 -> 1.2.21
...
```

Validate whether you installed pyenv correctly.

```
$ pyenv -v
pyenv 1.2.21
```

2. Install Python

Install the desired Python version. In my case this is version 3.9.0.

```
$ pyenv install 3.9.0
python-build: use openssl 1.0 from homebrew
python-build: use readline from homebrew
```

This. Will. Take. A. While. Go grab a cup of café or something.

3. Set as default

Set your installed version as the default.

```
$ pyenv global 3.9.0
```

Validate whether it worked.

```
$ pyenv version
3.9.0 (set by /Users/janmeppe/.pyenv/version)
```

4. Make your shell runs pyenv

Add this to your .bash_profile or .zshrc .

```
if command -v pyenv 1>/dev/null 2>&1; then
  eval "$(pyenv init -)"
fi
```

Success

Great trabajo! That's it.

If you now corrida python you'll see that it runs 3.9.0 instead of 2.7.x.

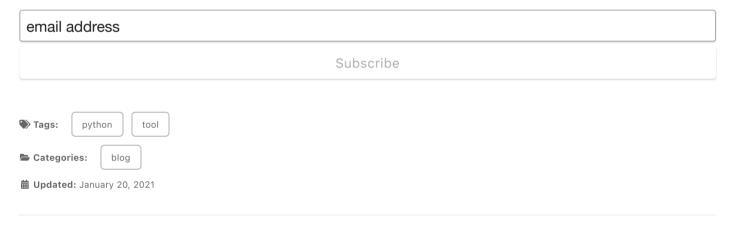
```
$ python
Python 3.9.0 (default, Jan 20 2021, 16:49:23)
[Clang 10.0.1 (clang-1001.0.46.4)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
```

Resources

• This tutorial on www.opensource.com (https://opensource.com/article/19/5/python-3-default-mac)

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