

Set Python 3 as default on Mac

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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 Upgrading 1 outdated package: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 \(https://opensource.com/article/19/5/python-3-default-mac\)](https://opensource.com/article/19/5/python-3-default-mac).

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