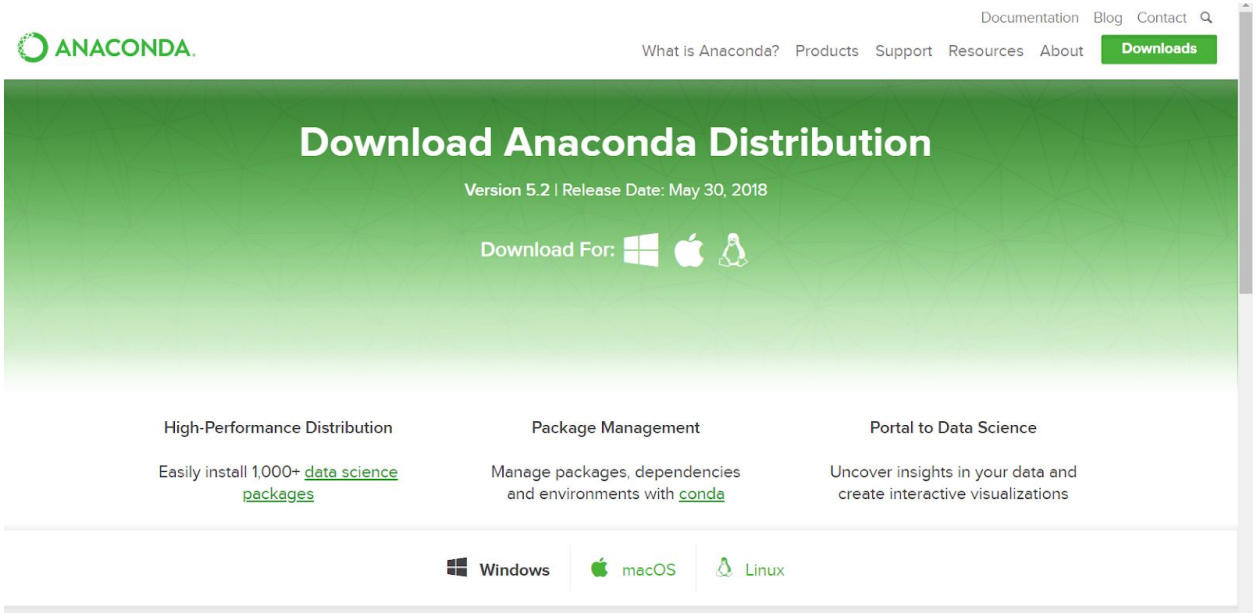
Anaconda setup instructions

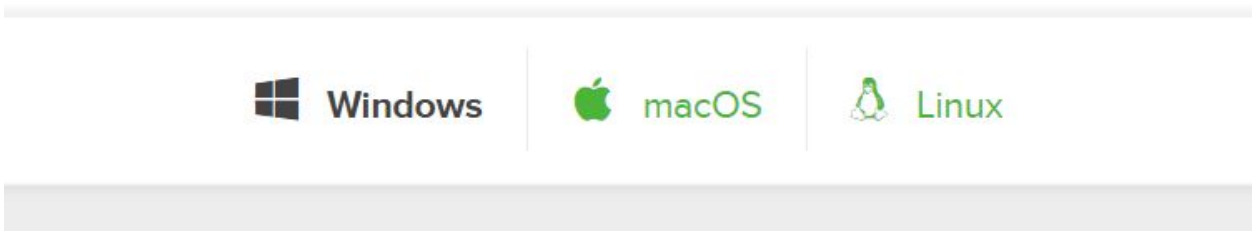
What is Anaconda and why are we using it?

We are using the Anaconda distribution of python in order to make the process of installing python easier. Python has numerous packages and libraries that can make managing it difficult. Anaconda manages the packages to avoid conflicts. It also automatically loads most of the common workhorse packages in one click so you can get to coding. Please follow the steps below to install Anaconda.

1. Download *python 3* from the Anaconda download page



2. Select your operating system (Windows, macOS or Linux):



3. Select your Python 3.X version (3.6 version shown)

- If you are using a MAC you can choose between then Graphical Installer or the Command Line Installer (we suggest using the graphical installer).

  Windows:

  macOS:

  Linux:

4. After the files are downloaded, install Anaconda:

A) With the graphical installer: The graphical package can be downloaded and the installer should walk you though the set up.

- Be sure to allow the Anaconda to "prepend the Anaconda3 install location to PATH" so that the anaconda components can be found.From the command line

B) Steps to download the command line installer on Linux:

- Download the command line installer by clicking on the link, using curl, or using wget to download the file for you.
- For example:

```
$ curl -O "https://repo.anaconda.com/archive/Anaconda3-5.2.0-MacOSX-x86_64.sh"
```

- Execute the installer:
- Change your directory (cd) to the folder with the file and run the installer
- For example

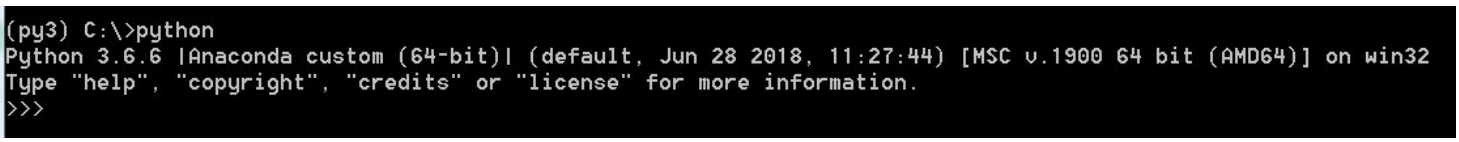
```
$ cd <directory-with-installer>
$ bash Anaconda3-5.2.0-MacOSX-x86_64.sh
```

- Be sure to allow the Anaconda to "prepend the Anaconda3 install location to PATH" so that the anaconda components can be found

5. Verify the installation:

- Type “python” at the command line and you should see a version of python 3 listed
- For example:

```
$ python
"Python 3.6.6 |Anaconda custom..."  # some version of python 3
```



- At the prompt type: exit()
- For example:
  `>>> exit ()`
- If python 2 opens instead of python 3 - see the instructions below

(Optional) Installing a virtual environment

(For advanced users or users with multiple versions of Python installed)

- If python 2 opens instead of python 3, try creating a virtual environment with conda.
- You can use virtual environments to run isolated version of python and its packages and avoid incompatibilities.

Create a new virtual environment

The name used below ‘py3’ is arbitrary. The virtual environment allows you to specify the python version python packages to be installed.

- Create a new environment with the anaconda command below:
  `$ conda create -n py3 python=3 jupyter matplotlib`

- To activate this virtual environment
  `$ source activate py3`

- Check the python version as shown above
  `$ python`
  `>>> exit()`

- If you want to switch back to the other environment:
  `$ source deactivate`