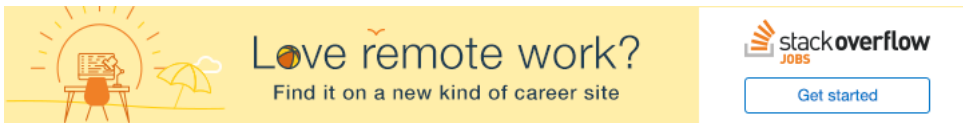


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## Error on import matplotlib.pyplot (on Anaconda3 for Windows 10 Home 64-bit PC)



I recently installed "Anaconda3 for Windows v2.4.0" on my Windows 10 Home (64 bit) machine.

(I downloaded the Windows 64-bit Graphical Installer "Anaconda3-2.4.0-Windows-x86\_64.exe" (392 MB) from <https://www.continuum.io/downloads>.)

In a Command Prompt window, I did the conda "Test Drive", including "conda update conda", etc. In the end, I see the following:

```
C:\Users\Anshul\Downloads\Python>conda update conda
Fetching package metadata: ....
# ALL requested packages already installed.
# packages in environment at C:\Anaconda3:
#
conda                3.18.6                py35_0    defaults

C:\Users\Anshul\Downloads\Python>conda list matplotlib
# packages in environment at C:\Anaconda3:
#
matplotlib            1.5.0                np110py35_0  defaults
```

The installation seems to have been successful - for example:

```
C:\Users\Anshul\Downloads\Python>python
Python 3.5.0 [Anaconda 2.4.0 (64-bit)] (default, Nov  7 2015, 13:15:24) [MSC v.1900 64 bit
(AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print("Hello World")
Hello World
>>> import os
>>> os.getcwd()
'C:\Users\Anshul\Downloads\Python'
>>> import matplotlib as mpl
>>> print(mpl.__version__)
1.5.0
>>>
```

Note that matplotlib was imported fine above. However, I get an error message when I try to import "matplotlib.pyplot" as shown below:

```
>>> import matplotlib.pyplot as pp
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 1412, in <module>
    fontManager = pickle_load(_fmcache)
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 963, in
pickle_load
    with open(filename, 'rb') as fh:
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory:
'C:\Users\Anshul\matplotlib\fontList.py3k.cache'
```

During handling of the above exception, another exception occurred:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\pyplot.py", line 29, in <module>
    import matplotlib.colorbar
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\colorbar.py", line 34, in <module>
    import matplotlib.collections as collections
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\collections.py", line 27, in <module>
    import matplotlib.backend_bases as backend_bases
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\backend_bases.py", line 62, in <module>
    import matplotlib.textpath as textpath
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\textpath.py", line 15, in <module>
    import matplotlib.font_manager as font_manager
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 1420, in <module>
    _rebuild()
  File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 1405, in _rebuild
    fontManager = FontManager()
```

```

File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 1043, in __init__
    self.ttffiles = findSystemFonts(paths) + findSystemFonts()
File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 312, in
findSystemFonts
    for f in win32InstalledFonts(fontdir):
File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py", line 231, in
win32InstalledFonts
    direc = os.path.abspath(direc).lower()
File "C:\Anaconda3\lib\ntpath.py", line 535, in abspath
    path = _getfullpathname(path)
ValueError: _getfullpathname: embedded null character
>>>

```

I opened "C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font\_manager.py" in a text editor and tried to look for the source of the error. I think this is where things are going wrong:

```

>>> mpl.get_cachedir()
'C:\Users\Anshul\.matplotlib'
>>> mpl.get_configdir()
'C:\Users\Anshul\.matplotlib'
>>>

```

In Windows Explorer, I see that the "C:\Users\Anshul.matplotlib" folder is empty, hence the `FileNotFoundError` for the "fontList.py3k.cache" file (which I don't see anywhere in the "C:\Anaconda3" directory either). It seems to be a problem with the installer (I think), but I don't know how to fix it. I'd appreciate any help or pointers.

(BTW, I've already tried googling this issue. The one that came closest was reported back in 2013: [fail to import matplotlib.pyplot #2320](#). It involved a WinPython-64bit-3.3.2.2 installation on a Windows 7 64-bit machine. The thread was closed with the comment: "Closing. Already fixed in master.", but it appears the issue has resurfaced. I hope there is a simple fix or workaround.)

Thanks,  
Anshul

windows python-3.x matplotlib

edited Dec 3 '15 at 12:32



eryksun

17.6k 2 37 49

asked Nov 30 '15 at 17:08



Anshul Agrawal

48 1 6

1 I'm having the same issue on windows 7 and vanilla python 3, I don't think windows version numbers are relevant. – [simonzack](#) Nov 30 '15 at 19:42

1 Just debugged this and I think winreg.EnumValue is buggy, it sometimes outputs strings which are not capped to it's length. – [simonzack](#) Nov 30 '15 at 20:38

## 1 Answer

This is a bug in python, not matplotlib.

The issue is that `winreg.EnumValue` is not cutting string values at their length properly for some reason, and strings will include null characters which `os.path.abspath` is not able to process.

The registry entry where this happens is at `SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Fonts`. Despite this not being matplotlib's fault we can still temporarily patch it so that it ends the string at `'\0'`. In `font_manager.py`, patch line 310 in the `win32InstalledFonts()` function to:

```

key, direc, any = winreg.EnumValue( local, j)
if not is_string_like(direc):
    continue
if not os.path.isdir(direc):
    direc = os.path.join(directory, direc)
direc = direc.split('\0', 1)[0]

```

answered Nov 30 '15 at 20:43



simonzack

6,937 3 26 59

2 Thank you so much simonzack! Your patch did the trick. One small detail though: in my `C:\Anaconda3\lib\site-packages\matplotlib\font_manager.py` file, the above code appeared starting at line 226 (found it by searching for `winreg.EnumValue`). Only the last line `direc = direc.split('\0', 1)[0]` is different. Hope the python folks make this a permanent fix - this issue appears to have been around for a few years! – [Anshul Agrawal](#) Dec 1 '15 at 20:20

1 @AnshulAgrawal No worries, you could accept my answer if it helps. It is definitely a problem in large projects, no one seems to take on ancient bugs. – [simonzack](#) Dec 1 '15 at 21:20

1 I reported the problem on "Python bug tracker" and their Windows experts are trying to debug it: [bugs.python.org/issue25778](#) Just FYI – [Anshul Agrawal](#) Dec 4 '15 at 13:20

1 @AnshulAgrawal Thanks for the report, hope it's going to get fixed soon. – [simonzack](#) Dec 5 '15 at 0:05

2 @simonzack Can you be the change you want to see and put in a PR against mpl with that patch? – [tacaswell](#) Dec 5 '15 at 19:44