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How to install Node Version Manager (NVM) for Windows 10?

#javascript #100daysofcode #codenewbie #node

Introduction

I had recently purchased a Windows 10 laptop and I wanted to install Node.js. I usually prefer to use a Node Version Manager to install Node.js.

The reason I choose to do that is because I usually have to work with multiple applications that need require different Node.js versions, and using a node version manager (NVM) it is very easy to switch versions.

This article is more of a user guide for folks who are interested to install a Node Version Manager for Windows 10 Operating System.

A Quick Look at the Key Terminologies

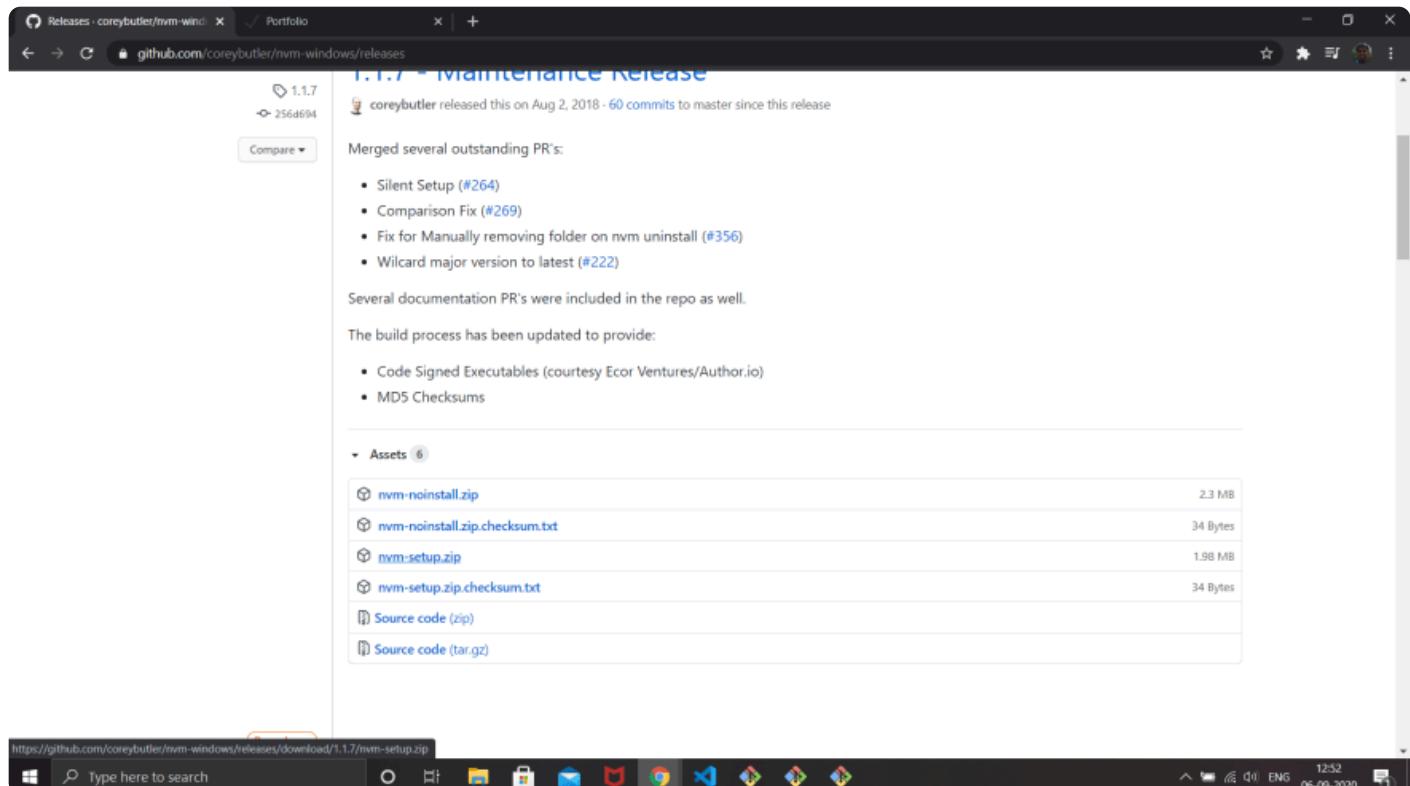
I wanted to mention the following terminologies for absolute beginners. So, feel free, to skip this section, if you are already familiar.

- nvm - Node Version Manager. It is a tool that allows you to download and install Node.js. It allows you to pick and choose the Node.js version that you wish to use.
- Node.js - It is a platform for running JavaScript applications.
- npm - Node Package Manager. It is a tool that allows you to install JavaScript packages. npm comes along with Node.js. So, if you have installed Node.js, you'll have npm installed as well.

Installing NVM for Windows 10

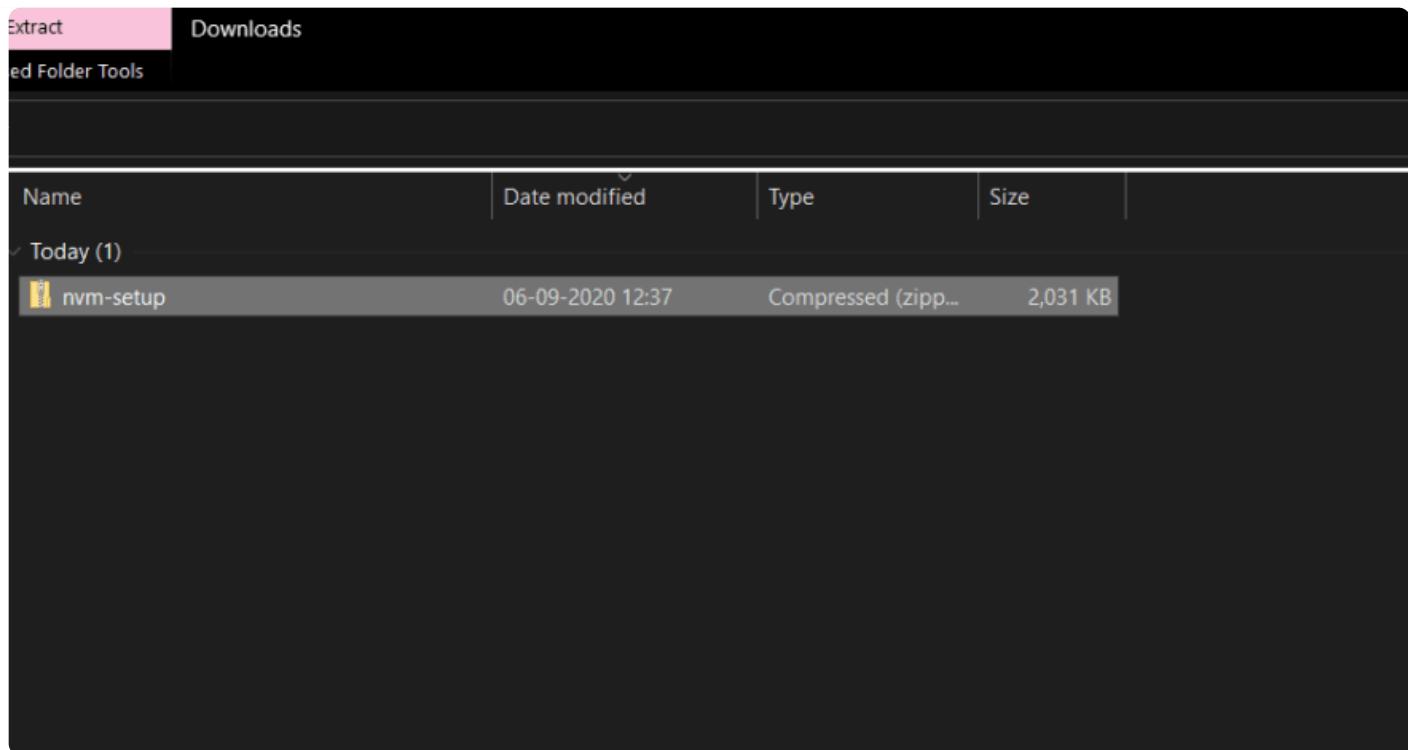
Go to the nvm-windows Git Repository

- Using your browser navigate to the Git repository for nvm-windows located [over here](#).
- Click on the 'nvm-setup.zip' link from the 'assets' table as shown in the image below.

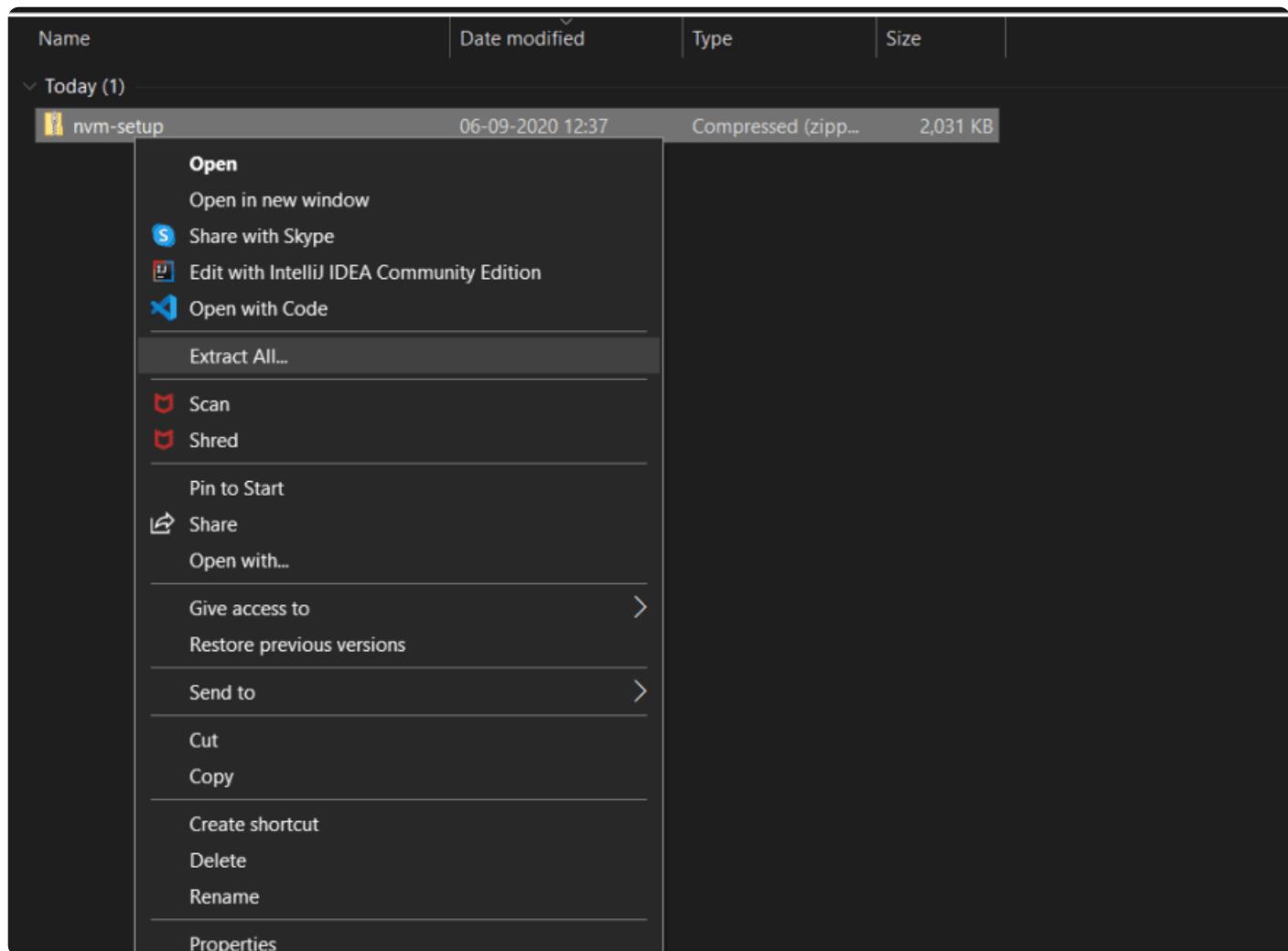


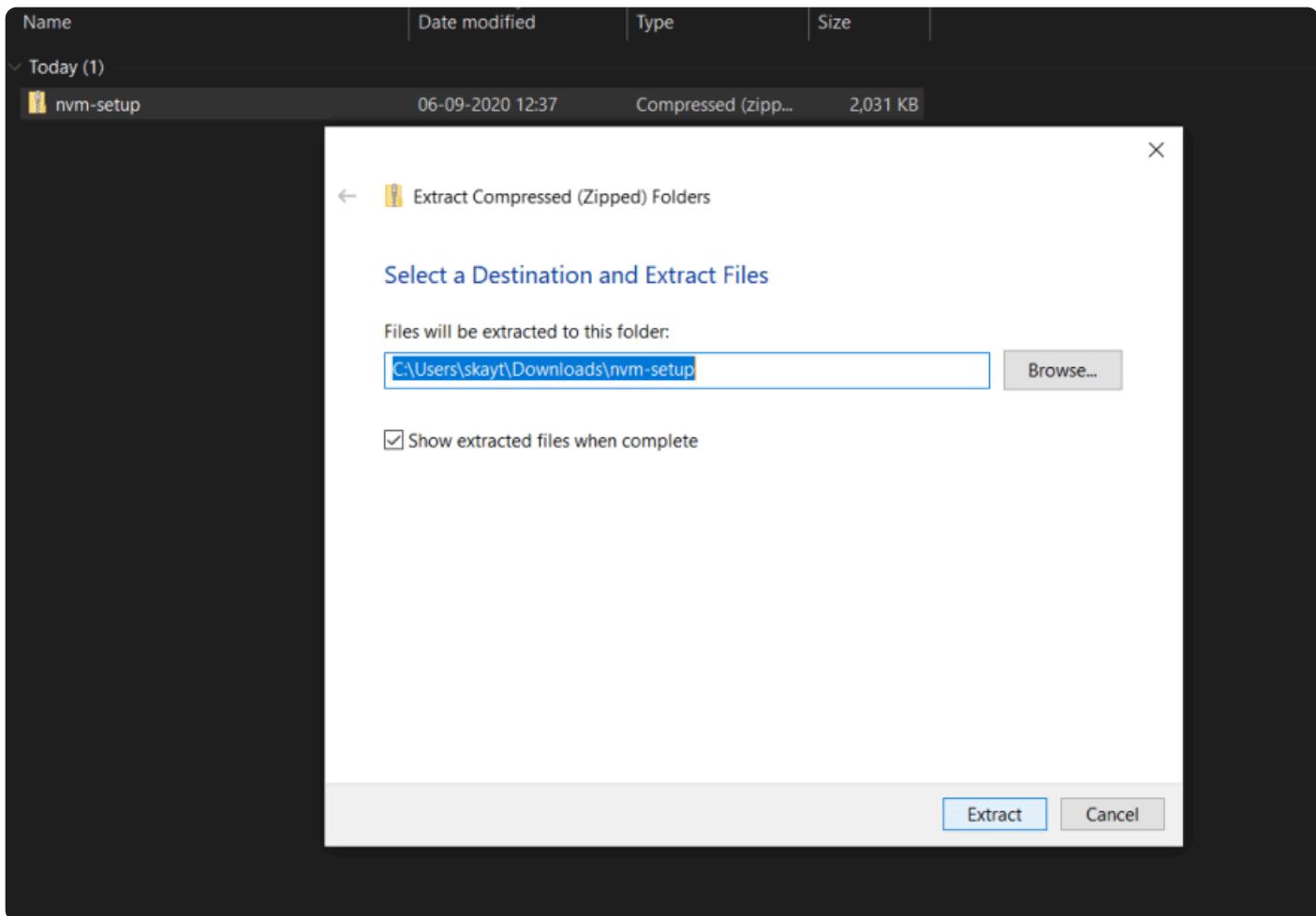
Locate the Zip File & Extract

- The Zip file should have been downloaded to your Downloads folder (or where ever you have configured your downloads to be saved).

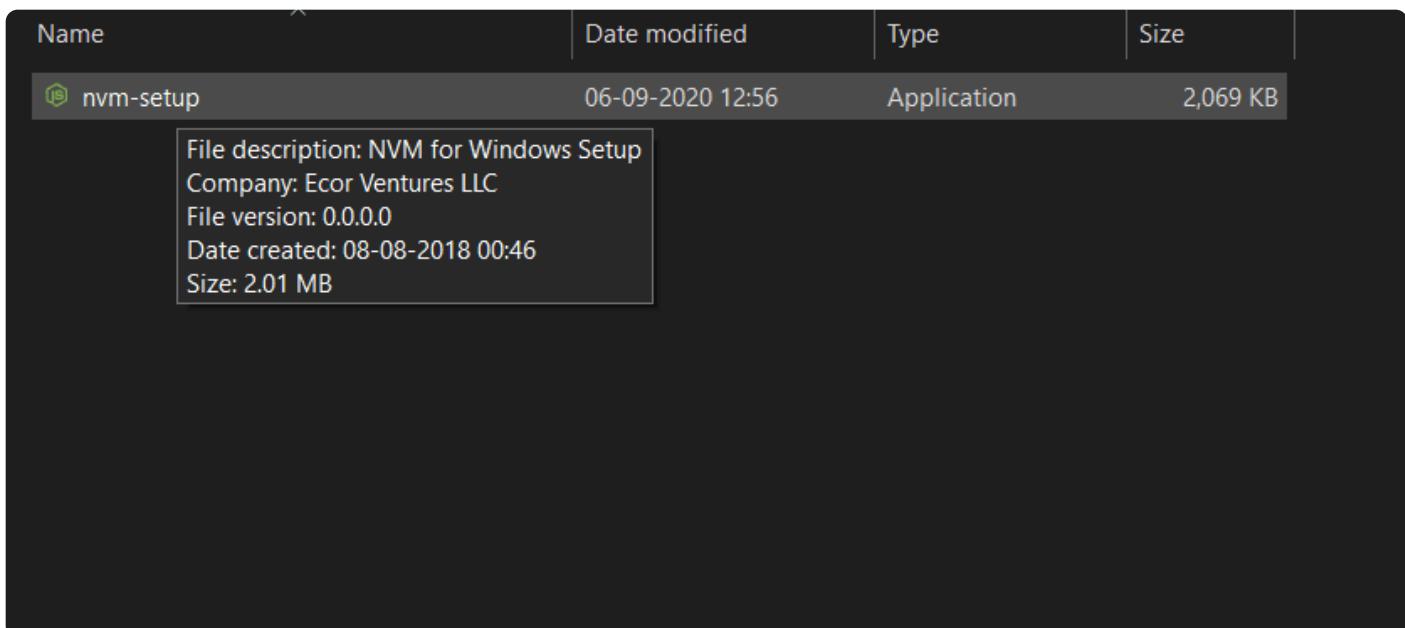


- Unzip/Extract the contents to the same folder.



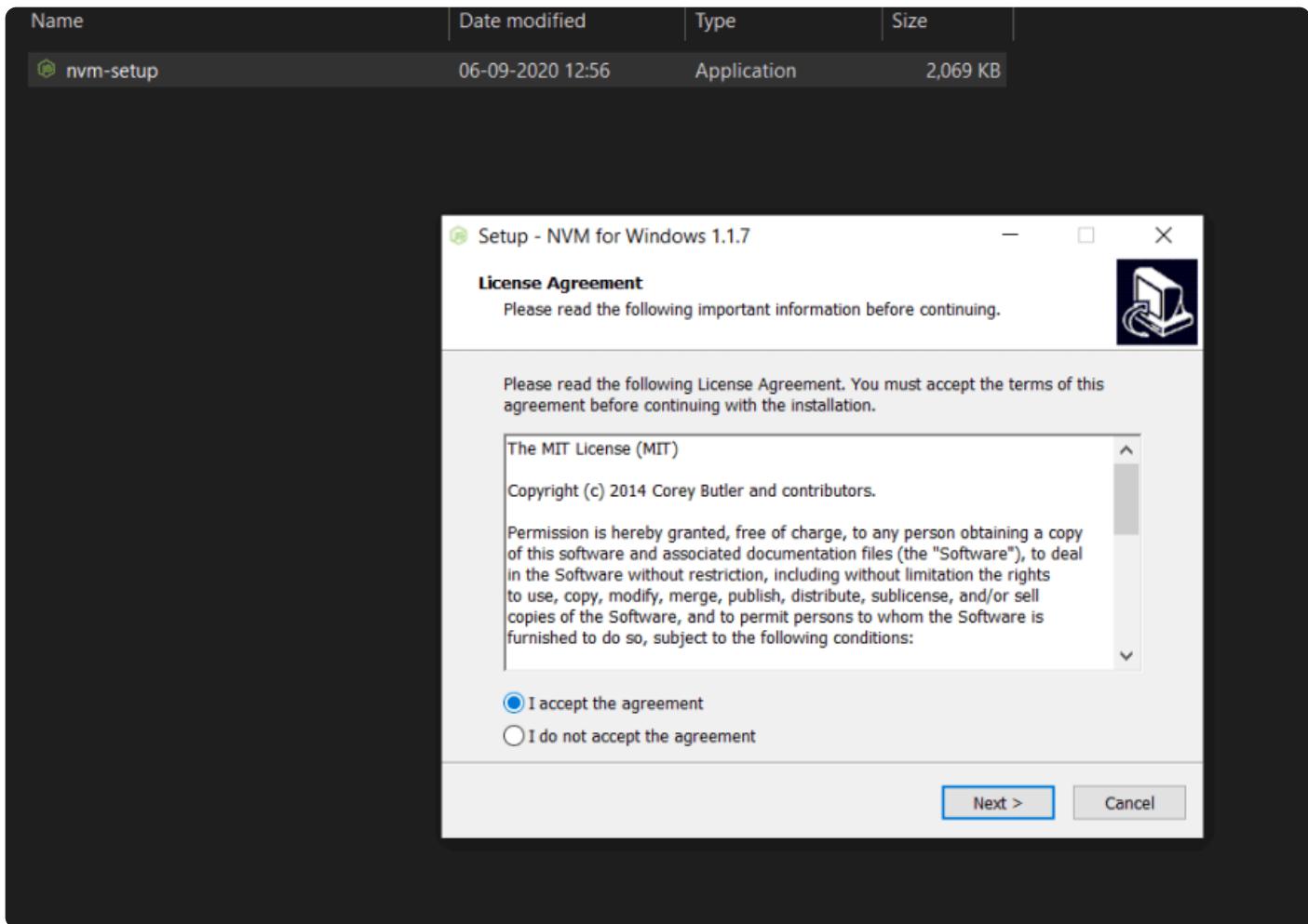


- You should have the file nvm-setup.exe extracted in the same folder.

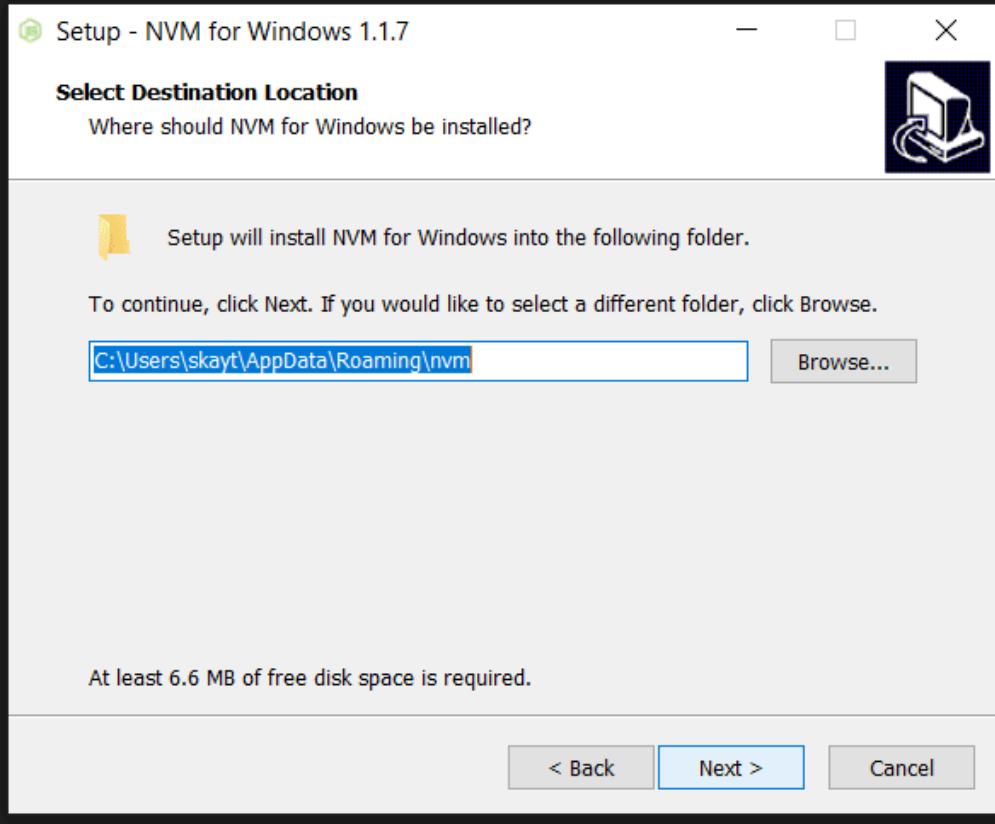


Install NVM

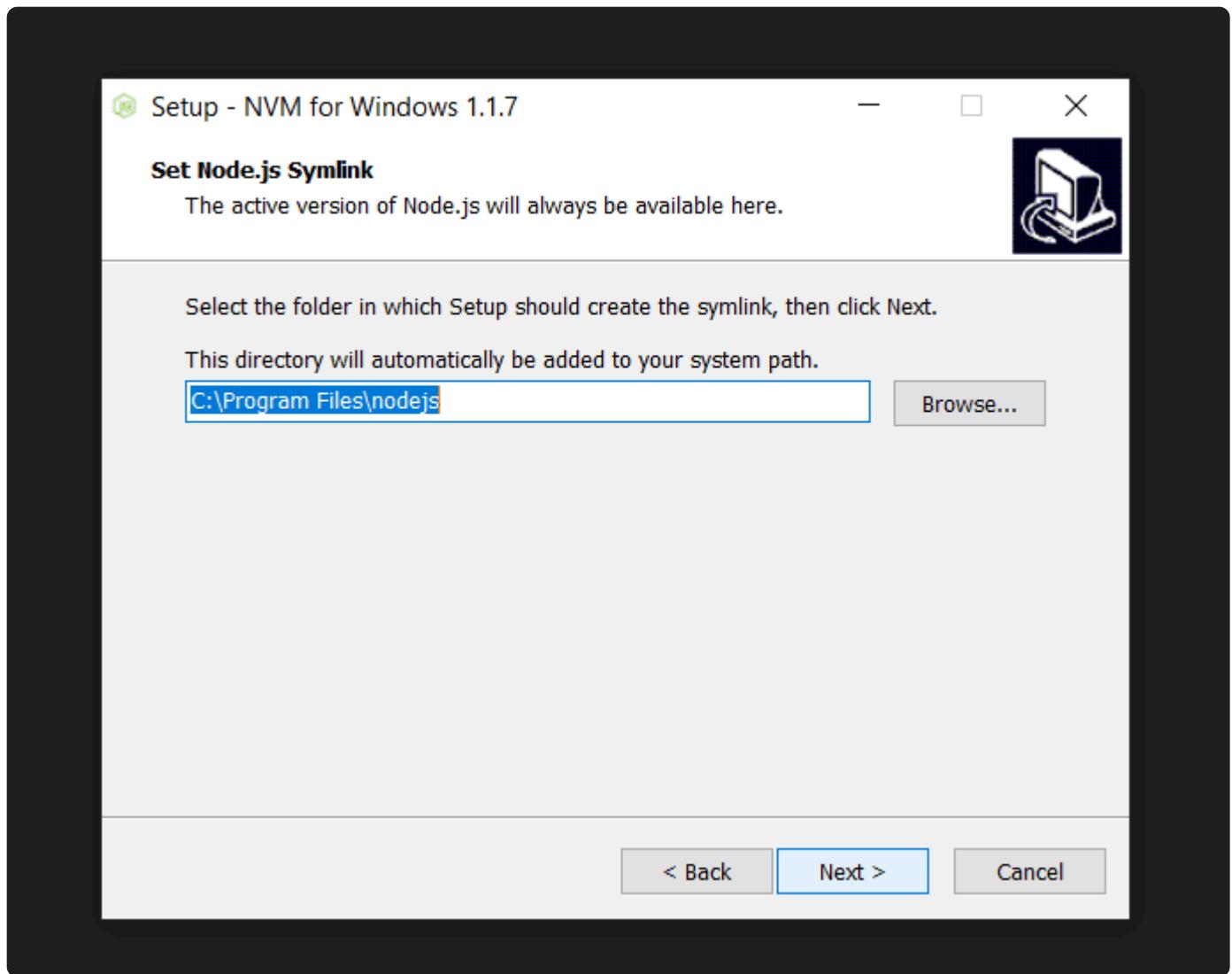
- Double-Click on the executable file to launch the installer.
- Choose 'I accept the agreement' option.



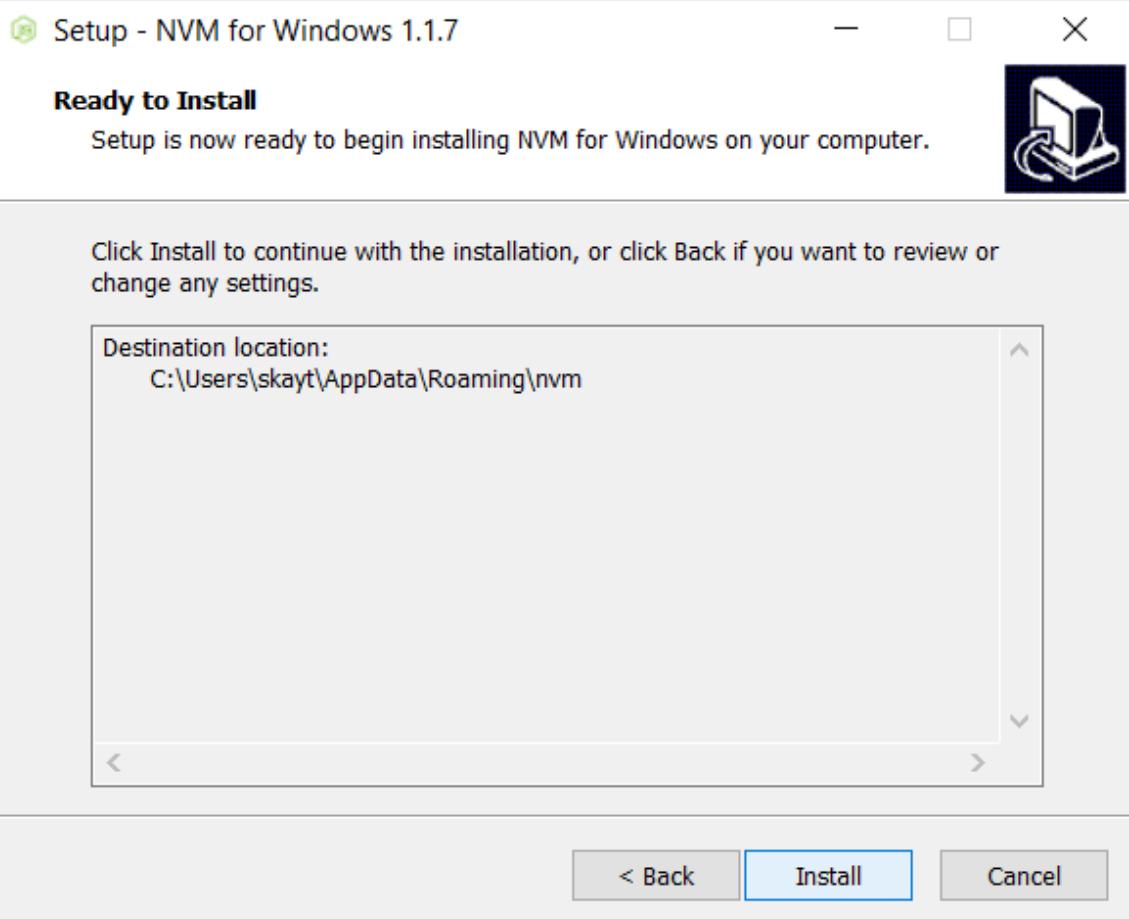
- Select destination to install.

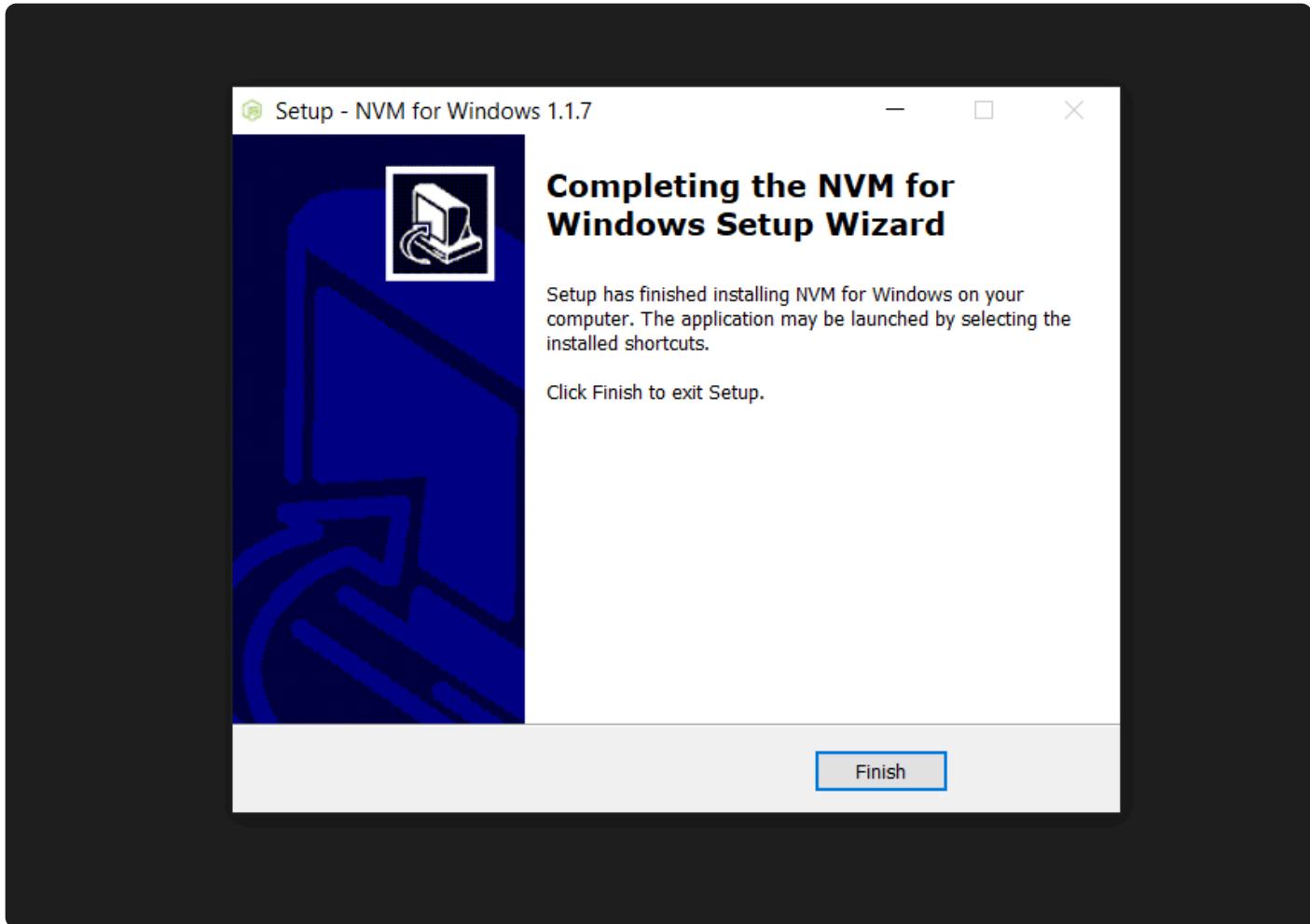


- Select Symlink for Node.js.



- Click on Install & once it completes, click on the 'Finish' button.

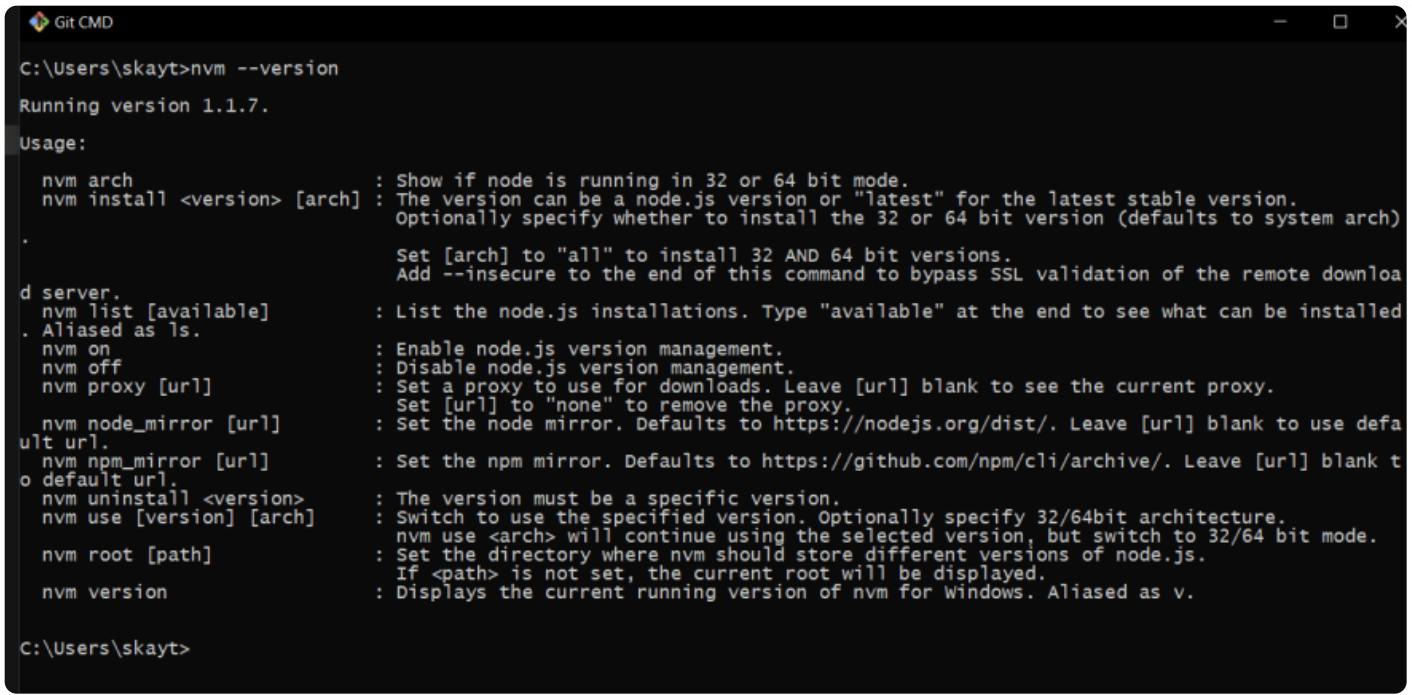




Confirm that the 'NVM' successfully installed

- Open your command line terminal
- Type the below command to verify if your nvm installation was successful.

```
$ nvm --version
```



```
C:\Users\skayt>nvm --version
Running version 1.1.7.

Usage:

nvm arch : Show if node is running in 32 or 64 bit mode.
nvm install <version> [arch] : The version can be a node.js version or "latest" for the latest stable version.
                               Optionally specify whether to install the 32 or 64 bit version (defaults to system arch)
                               .
                               Set [arch] to "all" to install 32 AND 64 bit versions.
                               Add --insecure to the end of this command to bypass SSL validation of the remote download

d server.
nvm list [available] : List the node.js installations. Type "available" at the end to see what can be installed
. Aliased as ls.

nvm on : Enable node.js version management.
nvm off : Disable node.js version management.
nvm proxy [url] : Set a proxy to use for downloads. Leave [url] blank to see the current proxy.
                  Set [url] to "none" to remove the proxy.

nvm node_mirror [url] : Set the node mirror. Defaults to https://nodejs.org/dist/. Leave [url] blank to use default url.
nvm npm_mirror [url] : Set the npm mirror. Defaults to https://github.com/npm/cli/archive/. Leave [url] blank to use default url.
o default url : The version must be a specific version.
nvm uninstall <version> : Switch to use the specified version. Optionally specify 32/64bit architecture.
nvm use [version] [arch] : nvm use <arch> will continue using the selected version, but switch to 32/64 bit mode.
nvm root [path] : Set the directory where nvm should store different versions of node.js.
                  If <path> is not set, the current root will be displayed.

nvm version : Displays the current running version of nvm for Windows. Aliased as v.

C:\Users\skayt>
```

Install npm

- You can now install 'npm' using the following command.

```
$ nvm install latest
//installs the latest version of npm

$ nvm install <><version number><>
//e.g. nvm install 12.6.8 to install a specific npm version
```

- Let us install the latest version of npm. (As of Sep 2020)

Git CMD

```
C:\Users\skayt>nvm install latest
Downloading node.js version 14.9.0 (64-bit)...
Complete
Creating C:\Users\skayt\AppData\Roaming\nvm\temp

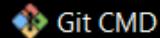
Downloading npm version 6.14.8... Complete
Installing npm v6.14.8...

Installation complete. If you want to use this version, type
nvm use 14.9.0
C:\Users\skayt>_
```

Specify the version of npm that you choose to use

- Using the below command to specify the version of npm that you wish to use. In our case, since we have only one version installed. Let's go with that.

```
$ nvm use 14.9.0
```



```
C:\Users\skayt>nvm install latest
Downloading node.js version 14.9.0 (64-bit)...
Complete
Creating C:\Users\skayt\AppData\Roaming\nvm\temp

Downloading npm version 6.14.8... Complete
Installing npm v6.14.8...

Installation complete. If you want to use this version, type
nvm use 14.9.0

C:\Users\skayt>nvm use 14.9.0
Now using node v14.9.0 (64-bit)

C:\Users\skayt>
```

Check npm & nodejs versions

- You can confirm the nodejs and npm versions through the commands below.

```
//Check Node.js version
$ node --version
```

```
//Check npm version
$ npm --version
```

```
Git CMD

C:\Users\skayt>node --version
v14.9.0

C:\Users\skayt>npm --version
6.14.8

C:\Users\skayt>_
```

Install Another npm Version

- Repeat the above steps

 Git CMD
C:\Users\skayt>nvm install 12.18.3_

- Install Completed & Select the version using the 'nvm use' command

 Git CMD
C:\Users\skayt>nvm install 12.18.3
Downloading node.js version 12.18.3 (64-bit)...
Complete
Creating C:\Users\skayt\AppData\Roaming\nvm\temp

Downloading npm version 6.14.6... Complete
Installing npm v6.14.6...

Installation complete. If you want to use this version, type
nvm use 12.18.3
C:\Users\skayt>_

Git CMD

```
C:\Users\skayt>nvm install 12.18.3
Downloading node.js version 12.18.3 (64-bit)...
Complete
Creating C:\Users\skayt\AppData\Roaming\nvm\temp

Downloading npm version 6.14.6... Complete
Installing npm v6.14.6...

Installation complete. If you want to use this version, type
nvm use 12.18.3

C:\Users\skayt>nvm use 12.18.3
Now using node v12.18.3 (64-bit)

C:\Users\skayt>_
```

- Confirm that the environment now points to the new Node.js and npm versions

Git CMD

```
C:\Users\skayt>node --version
v12.18.3

C:\Users\skayt>npm --version
6.14.6

C:\Users\skayt>
```

List all Versions

- You can use the nvm list command to list all the npm and Node.js versions installed.

```
$ nvm list
```