

Dec 23, 2014

## Easy Go Programming Setup for Windows

I've had to do this more than once recently, so I figured I'd document the simple steps for setting up the Go programming language on Windows. Most of this is simple and straightforward. The only tricky part I found is setting up your GOPATH, which defines a convention for storing and building Go code you write and acquire from open source code repositories.

### 5 Simple Steps

Follow these five simple steps to install Go.

1. Make sure you have both Git [download](#) and Mercurial [download](#) installed. With Go programming you'll make heavy use of open source repositories.
2. **Download** and **install** the latest 64-bit Go MSI distributable (which sets most of the environmental variables for you). <https://golang.org/dl/>

**go1.4.windows-amd64.msi**

**Installer**

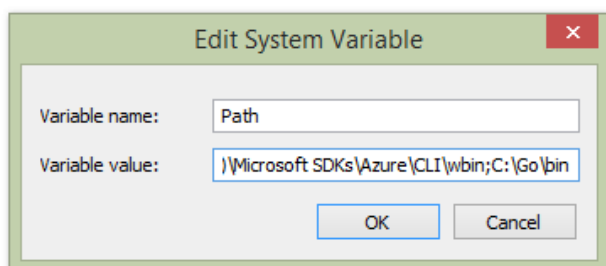
**Windows**

**64-bit**

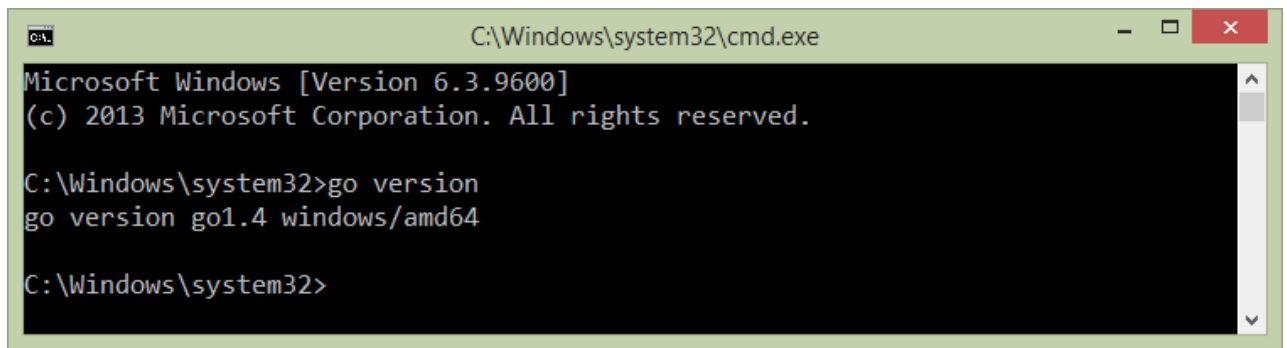
359124f2bba4c59df1eb81d11e16e388d0a996f9

To make things simple, use the default installation path at C:\Go

3. Ensure the **Go binaries** (found in C:\Go\bin) are in your Path system environment variables. To check click System, Advanced system settings, Environment Variables... and open Path under System variables:



An easy way to confirm is to open the command line and type `go version`:



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.3.9600]
(c) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

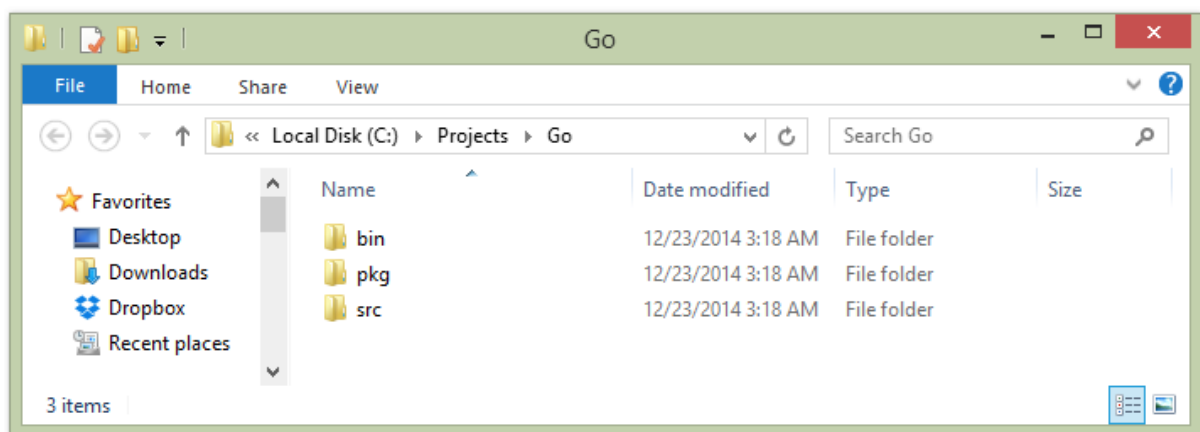
C:\Windows\system32>go version
go version go1.4 windows/amd64

C:\Windows\system32>
```

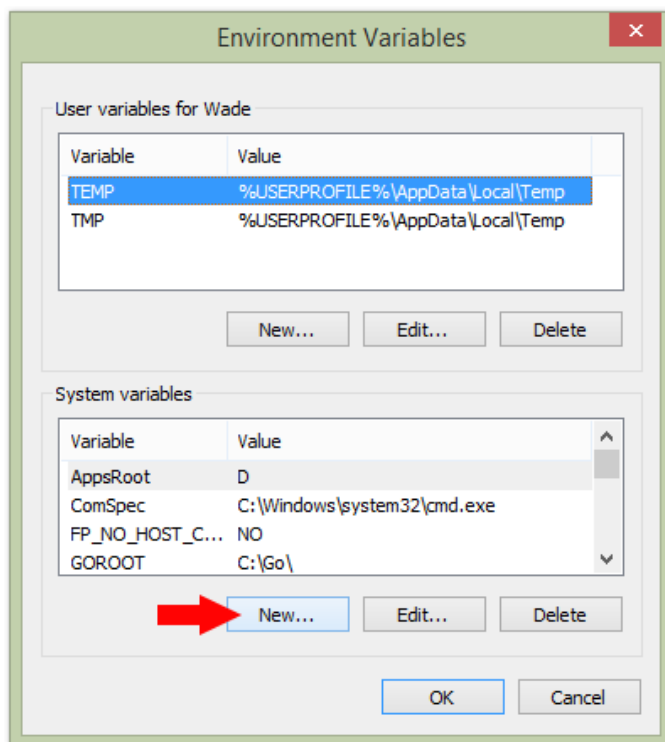
4. Setup your **Go workspace**. This consists of three folders at the root:

```
bin/
pkg/
src/
```

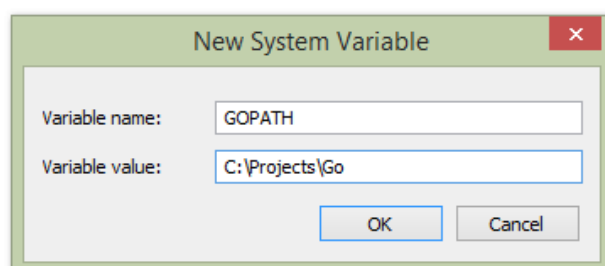
I create a C:\Projects\Go folder as my root Go workspace:



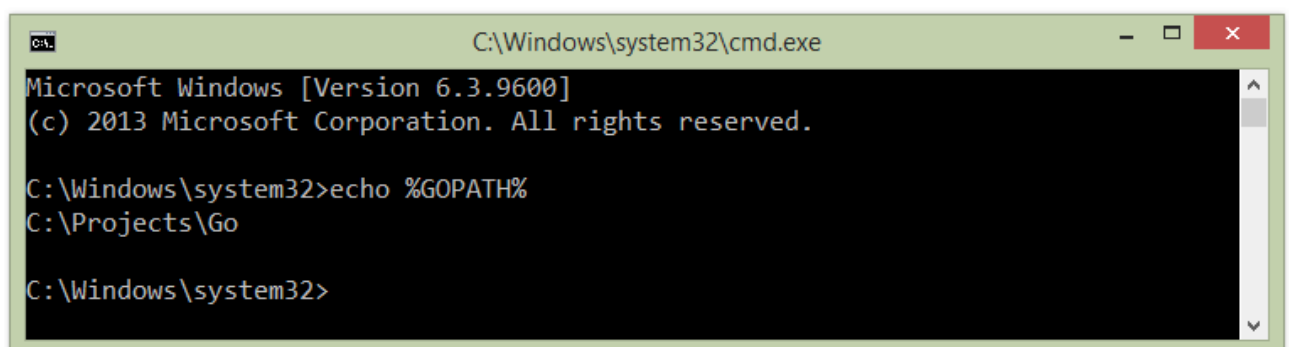
5. Create the **GOPATH environment variable** and reference your Go workspace path. To add, click System, Advanced system settings, Environment Variables... and click New... under System variables:



Set the variable name to GOPATH and value to your Go workspace path (e.g. C:\Projects\Go):



You can quickly check to ensure your path has been set by opening the command line and typing `echo %GOPATH%` and check the output:



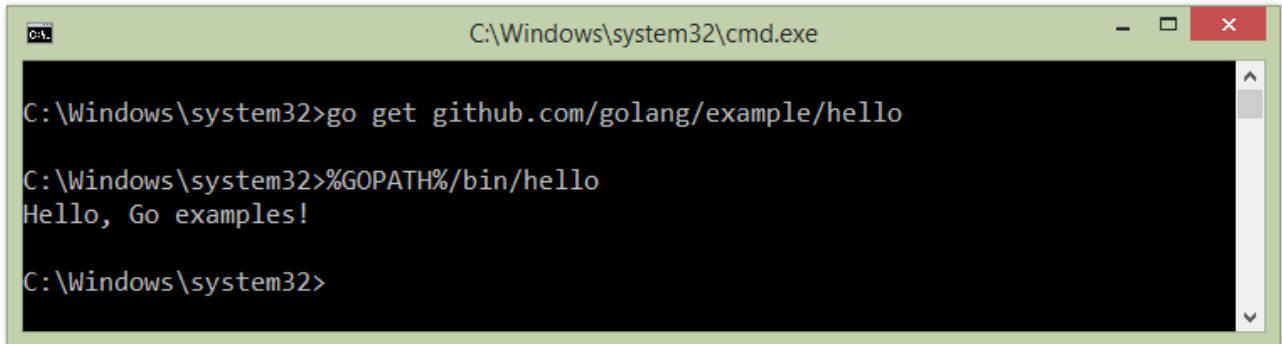
And that's all it takes! You're ready to get started.

## Verify

Want to quickly test and ensure this is all working as expected? Open the command line and type the following:

```
go get github.com/golang/example/hello
%GOPATH%/bin/hello
```

You should see the output as “Hello, Go examples!” (refreshingly, not your typical hello world):



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Windows\system32>go get github.com/golang/example/hello

C:\Windows\system32>%GOPATH%/bin/hello
Hello, Go examples!

C:\Windows\system32>
```

I hope this helps!

30 Comments    **Wade Wegner**

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**Alex Ratray** • 2 years ago

Thanks, this is helpful! Perhaps worth mentioning Chocolatey as another option for the first few parts?  
`cinst golang` worked well for me, just had to add the GOPATH after that

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Kishore** • 14 days ago

Thanks for this wonderful article!

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Taehwan Kim** • a month ago

It is very good guide! Thanks!

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**Ahmed Magdi** • 2 months ago

Great Article Thank you

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**Aman Raikwar** • 5 months ago

Thanks for this wonderful article! (y)

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Prayoga Teguh** • 5 months ago

Thank you

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**8th Sphere** • 8 months ago

Thanks, very helpful! Had to use backslashes in %GOPATH%\bin\hello, but everything else worked flawlessly.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Petter Adsen** • 9 months ago

When i try to go get it just says "import cycle not allowed" what do i do?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Rishikesh Agrawani** • 9 months ago

This is the best explanation that I wanted. Now I got it.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**javier solis** • 9 months ago

Hey! Thank you very much!

It was very useful

I am using Windows 10

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Ery Camel** • 9 months ago

Thank's

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Abhishek Pathak** • 10 months ago

Thanks a lot man! You saved me from going insane.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Vandana Jadhav** • 10 months ago

Thanks a lot, it worked for me...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Phatom** • a year ago

THANKS

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Adelina** • a year ago

Thanks for this. Clear and simple, works like a charm.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**ojzene** • a year ago

Thanks so much. It works fine.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**college essay writing services** • a year ago

There would surely be many programmers who will going to like this kind of idea that you have shared especially that this will going to give them some techniques and some knowledge on how to do that kind of action. It's also a good thing that there are many Windows OS users in this place.

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**Danura Aditya** • a year ago

Thank You its Work for me

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Animesh Pal** • a year ago

Thanks a ton! This step by step guide saved my day!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Mr. Rafael Uhemat** • a year ago

Thank you. This is what I'm looking for. Great post!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Rolka Gd** • a year ago



Thank you, this was helpful to me (Windows 7)

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**Andrei K.** • a year ago

How to upgrade up to newer version?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Syed Sirajul Islam Anik** • 2 years ago

I have set up "D:\Programs\Go" as my GOPATH under system variables instead of "User variables for <username>". But, when I use "go run hello.go" being on that directory, it says, "'go' is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file."

I've followed all of your instructions. but no luck. \_--

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Steve Lane** → Syed Sirajul Islam Anik • 2 years ago

Your error message means that your PATH variable is not set correctly. Check the instructions above again.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Syed Sirajul Islam Anik** → Steve Lane • 2 years ago

No Problem. I have installed go on ubuntu. Rarely use windows for dev purpose. :) Thanks BTW.

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**Dustin Brown** • 2 years ago

Excellent write up, thank you!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Thiago Augustus** • 2 years ago

Thanks!!! That's worked fine. (Windows 10)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Dionisius Wahyu Adi Saputra** • 2 years ago

Seems confuse, I created new environment variable for GOPATH but it seems didn't works. Then just trying like in my linux, which is type in terminal, export GOPATH=/dir/projects, but in windows it simply change the export command to set. So, in windows it will be look like this in cmd :

```
set GOPATH="D:\dir\projects"
```

and voilaaa....

To ensure that's working smoothly, run in cmd,

```
go env
```

then see the GOPATH.

Ps. Just type this command in cmd to open the Windows System Properties, environment tab is located in Advanced tab :

```
sysdm.cpl
```

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**jamesrlatham** • 2 years ago

Wade, is there any importance in the order that the steps that must be taken to install Go? I did everything in order except that I did not install Git and Mercurial. I didn't think I would need them. When I was unable to test the installation, I went back and installed Git and Mercurial. I still was unable to test the installation. I tried both the 64 bit and 32bit command prompts. In both cases, the window went back to the command prompt without displaying the "Hello World" message. What do you recommend?

Also do you know of a good IDE for the Go Language?

Jim Latham

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**Dionisius Wahyu Adi Saputra** → jamesrlatham • 2 years ago

just trying to help, can you be more spesific, like, what error message displayed?  
or do you already figure it out?

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