



INITIAL SETUP

1. THE SUPER EASY WAY

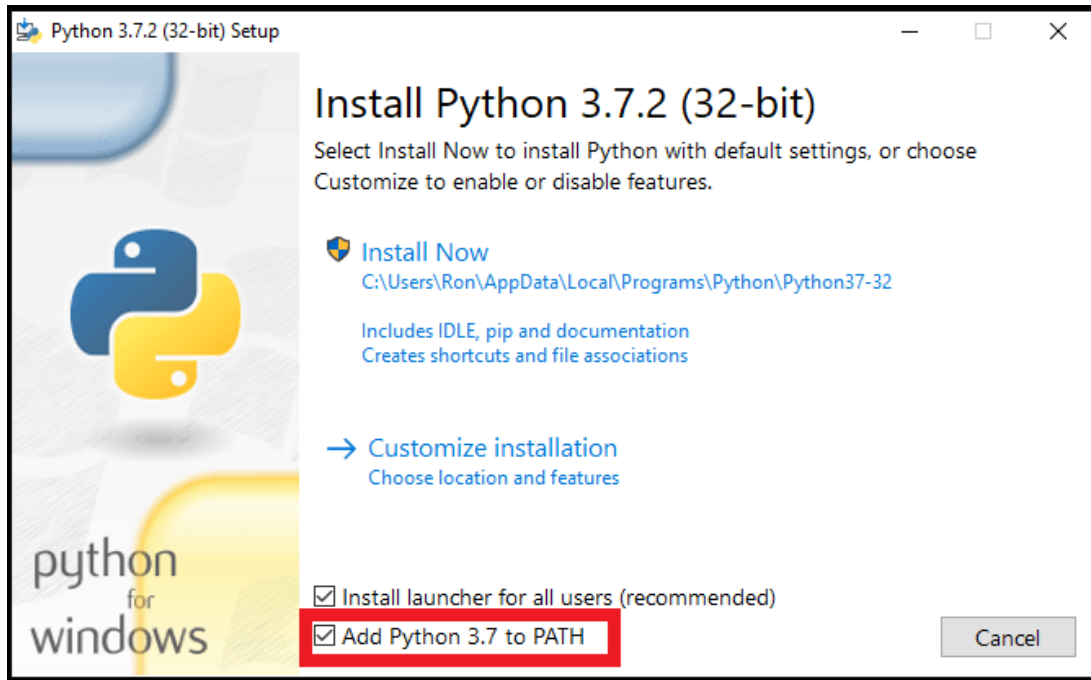
If you just want to follow along or code in Python online (or other supported languages) without installing anything, you can visit replit.com! Sign up to save your files so you can access them whenever you'd like.

2. INSTALLING PYTHON (FOR REAL THIS TIME)

Head on over to python.org. Hover over the download tab and click on the button provided. Remember to check if you are downloading python for the correct OS (e.g. if you are on Windows, make sure the heading says “Download for Windows”).



Now run the .exe if you're on Windows or .pkg if on MacOS and complete the installation. Make sure you add Python to PATH! **I REPEAT, ADD PYTHON TO PATH!** We'll explore why in just a second.



Now that we have python installed, we can check by opening our terminal (CMD or PowerShell for Windows and Terminal for MacOS) and running the command “python --version” (notice you may need to use python3 --version if on MacOS).

3. INSTALLING AN IDE / TEXT EDITOR (VSCODE)

No one wants to write code in the provided IDLE, I mean it looks horrendous. We want to be able to have cool themes so we can impress our friends.

I recommend VSCode. It's lightweight, perfect for day-to-day use, and has so many useful extensions that make life easy. Head over to code.visualstudio.com and press the big blue download button! Run through the installation steps and you're good to go! Again, make sure to have the box that says add to PATH checked, it is super useful. You should also check the “run with VSCode” box as well.

Before I send you off to the next lesson, let's configure our VSCode a little bit. Remember those amazing extensions I mentioned? Well let's download some!

1. To start off, let's head on to the Marketplace and download the Python extension. This comes with intellisense and so much more that is essential for running python on your VSCode!
2. You can look around at the rest of the extensions and download whichever you think may be useful (e.g. Python Indent). Note these are not required but make your life that much easier so why not!

3. We'll talk about this more in just a second, but running files can be kind-of cumbersome, so download Code Runner to make your life easier!

4. YOUR FIRST PROGRAM 🙄

Open any folder in your VSCode (we recommend having a dedicated Python folder for all your python files!) and create a new file ending in **.py** – for example `main.py`

Now write `print("Hello World")` and save your file. Congrats, you've just written your first python program! Let's throw a party WHOOOOOOOOOP!! 🎉😎😭😭

5. HOW TO RUN YOUR CODE (FROM TERMINAL)

Remember me screaming at you to add python to PATH? Well, here's why it's useful. You can run your python files from VSCode or through your terminal.

Let's do it through our terminal so we know how to!

1. Start by getting into the directory of the folder which has your `.py` file
 - a. *If you don't know how to do this, you can drag your folder into your terminal and it should open, otherwise you can `cd` into it*
2. Now run `"ls"` to list what files are in your folder, if you see your `.py` file you are good to go!
3. Run `"python FILENAME.py"` for Windows and `"python3 FILENAME.py"` for MacOS. And there you go!

Congratulations! You've successfully downloaded Python and VSCode and wrote your first Python program. It was a very eventful day in my opinion. But there is so much more fun to have so don't forget to keep on coding!