

# Installing Python

---

Python distribution is available for a wide variety of platforms. You need to download only the binary code applicable for your platform and install Python.

If the binary code for your platform is not available, you need a C compiler to compile the source code manually. Compiling the source code offers more flexibility in terms of choice of features that you require in your installation.

Here is a quick overview of installing Python on various platforms:

## Unix and Linux Installation

Here are the simple steps to install Python on Unix/Linux machine.

- Open a Web browser and go to <http://www.python.org/download/>.
- Follow the link to download zipped source code available for Unix/Linux.
- Download and extract files.
- Editing the *Modules/Setup* file if you want to customize some options.
- **run** ./configure script
- make
- make install

This installs Python at standard location */usr/local/bin* and its libraries at */usr/local/lib/pythonXX* where XX is the version of Python.

## Windows Installation

Here are the steps to install Python on Windows machine.

- Open a Web browser and go to <http://www.python.org/download/>
- Follow the link for the Windows installer *python-XYZ.msi* file where XYZ is the version you need to install.
- To use this installer *python-XYZ.msi*, the Windows system must support Microsoft Installer 2.0. Save the installer file to your local machine and then run it to find out if your machine supports MSI.
- Run the downloaded file. This brings up the Python install wizard, which is really easy to use. Just accept the default settings, wait until the install is finished, and you are done.

## Macintosh Installation

Recent Macs come with Python installed, but it may be several years out of date. See <http://www.python.org/download/mac/> for instructions on getting the current