

Installing Python 3 at home

Why Python 3?

All of our lessons and tutorials use Python 3! Using the *other* version (2.7) can be problematic, as they're not the same. It doesn't matter which version of Python 3 that you're using, as long as it is definitely 3.x.

What is Portable Python?

In our club at school, we use a program called Portable Python. It's not perfect, but it's simple, and what you're used to. NOTE: Portable Python only works on Microsoft Windows, so if you don't have this as your operating system, then jump to "For Mac and Linux users".

We recommend that you use this for the moment! We are working on a similar online version of Python, so that you won't have to download anything in the future!

The download link

http://ftp.nluug.nl/languages/python/portablepython/v3.2/PortablePython_3.2.5.1.exe

This will download the installer, which you then have to open, and follow the instructions that it gives you. It should only take a few minutes, but ask a parent if you get stuck!

Extra Information

If you're a bit skeptical of the things that I'm telling you to download, have a look at the Portable Python site for more information.

<http://portablepython.com/wiki/PortablePython3.2.5.1/>

For Mac and Linux users

You might choose to work with normal Python if you have a Mac or Linux machine, or just despise Portable Python.

Luckily for you Apple fans, Python comes installed on your Mac. Most Linux distros come with Python installed, so that's practical too.

However if you're unsure, then simply download Python from the official website, and follow the instructions that the installer gives when you open it. It should be pretty simple!

<https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-351/>

The downloads are at the bottom. If you're using a fairly new Mac, download the one for 64 bit OSX. If you're using Windows then you may need to know a bit about the computer you're using to decide. Ask a parent or club leader if you're not sure!

This download only makes Python work when you run it, it doesn't give you a fancy code editor.

The code editor

We recommend using Sublime Text 3. It's free (forever, despite it asking for a donation), and it's beautiful and easy! Download it here:

<https://www.sublimetext.com/3>

Choose your system again and follow the instructions when you open it. Again, pretty simple!

When you open it, save the file as a Python file before you start (that means adding **.py** to the end of the file name, e.g. **mygame.py**).

You should then be able to run the file by going to Tools, and then Build. If it doesn't work, make sure you have Python selected under the Build System option (above build).

Hopefully everything is working well, and you can start coding at home!

Never hesitate to send an email or ask your club leader about anything!