

# Python extract rar file

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There are many python modules to deal with the compressed file formats such as `.zip`, `.tar`, `.rar`. The `zipFile` module and `tarfile` module seems to work with `.zip` and `.tar` files pretty well. However with `.rar` file, the `RarFile` and `patool` module always give me some errors. My guess is that `winRAR` is a paid software so that the algorithms they use are not publicly available so that third party modules might not support it well.

## Prerequisite

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1. Have python 3.6+ installed
2. Have WinRAR installed
3. Inside a Windows environment (obviously)

## How

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Basically we use python's `os` module to directly call the executable `UnRAR.exe` inside the WinRAR directory. (`UnRAR.exe` is installed along with the WinRAR software)

Here my WinRAR is installed under `C:\Program Files\winRAR`, inside this directory lies the `UnRAR.exe` executable file.

Here's an example to extract `C:\Downloads\myfile.rar` to the location folder `C:\Documents\files` using python:

```
import os

os.system(f'"C:\Program Files\winRAR\UnRAR.exe" x "C:\Downloads\myfile.rar" "C:\Documents\files" -y')
```

The python code basically calls the command `"C:\Program Files\winRAR\UnRAR.exe" x "C:\Downloads\myfile.rar" "C:\Documents\files" -y` in inside a cmd prompt.