Installing Modules Using a Package Manager

At some point you'll need a module that doesn't come in the Python standard distribution. Installation can be a snap or a challenge, depending on your system, the version of Python you're using, and a host of other factors. Fortunately, it's a snap much more often than it is a challenge.

The simplest, easiest way to install modules is through a package manager, such as **pip** or **easy\_install**. (**pip** is preferred and can be used with Windows as well as Mac/Unix.) Package managers make our lives easier by locating, downloading and building the module, as well as any dependencies, i.e., additional modules upon which it depends.

Mac/Unix

In your computer's terminal window (**$** represents your terminal prompt):

$ sudo pip install *modulename*

Note: **sudo** gives you temporary root privileges, which is required for most standard module installs. If **sudo** doesn't work on your system, please do a web search for **enable sudo on [Mac or Linux]** (where **[Mac or Linux]** is your operating system).

If **pip** is not found, try installing it using **easy\_install**:

$ sudo easy\_install pip

Or, visit <http://www.pip-installer.org>, click on the **Installation** link and follow instructions to download **get-pip.py**. Once it is downloaded, visit its directory and execute:

sudo python get-pip.py

If you're unable to install **pip**, or if **pip** is not able to locate your module, you can also try using **easy install** to install the module:

$ sudo easy\_install *modulename*

Also, some modules may also be available in the form of an install package, in which case you can install it the way you would any clickable installer.

Lastly, you can always get your hands dirty and choose to download and install modules from source. This is beyond the scope of these instructions, but a wealth of documentation can be found online.

Windows

Late releases of Python 2 (2.7.9+) and Python 3 (3.4+) include **pip**, as does the ActiveState distribution of Python, so it may be available on your Windows version of Python.

If not, please refer to the Mac/Unix instructions, focusing on **pip** (in other words, if **pip** is not found, skip ahead to the instructions for installing it) and omitting the **sudo** part of any command (as install permissions are not usually an issue on Windows).