

Setting Up for Web Scraping

The Python package installation steps are shown using Pycharm. You will otherwise need knowledge of how to install packages to do this on your own system.

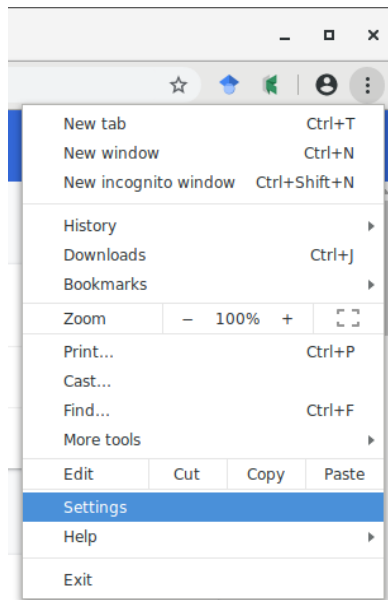
1. Confirm Chrome Version

If you don't have Google Chrome browser yet, then step 1 is actually to download Chrome. You don't have to use it for your daily browsing but this is what we need for the web scraping tool we will be demonstrating in class. Your display may look slightly different than what is shown here depending on OS and Chrome version.

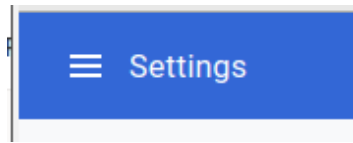
Look for the 3 dots in a vertical row on the upper right to access your menu.



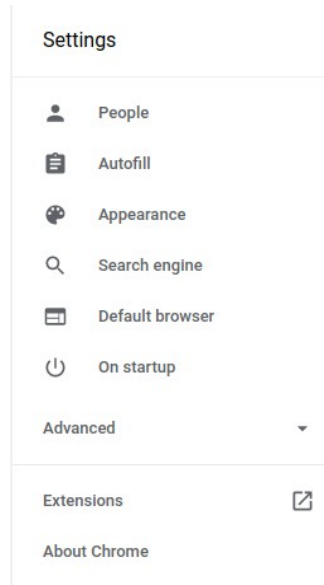
From the menu choose Settings:



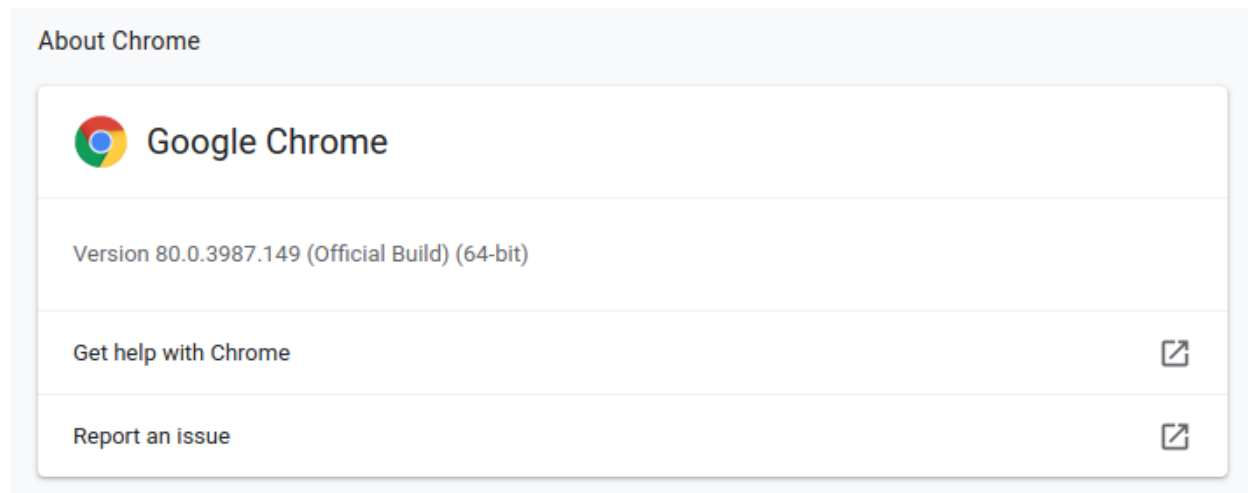
Access the Settings Menu by clicking the 3 horizontal lines icon on the upper left:



At the bottom, choose “About Chrome”:



You are looking for the version number, specifically the first two numbers before the . which is the major version number (80 as shown in the image below):



(2) Download Chromedriver

<https://sites.google.com/a/chromium.org/chromedriver/downloads>

Chromedriver is an open source tool for automated testing of webapps. It supports navigating to web pages, user input, executes JavaScript (important!), and so forth. It is available for Mac, Linux, Windows, and ChromeOS.

Choose the download link that corresponds to your Chrome major version. If your Chrome version is really old, you might consider updating it first. For example, the image above showed major version 80, which is the second link in this list:

Downloads

Current Releases

- If you are using Chrome version 81, please download [ChromeDriver 81.0.4044.69](#)
- If you are using Chrome version 80, please download [ChromeDriver 80.0.3987.106](#)
- If you are using Chrome version 79, please download [ChromeDriver 79.0.3945.36](#)
- For older version of Chrome, please see below for the version of ChromeDriver that supports it.

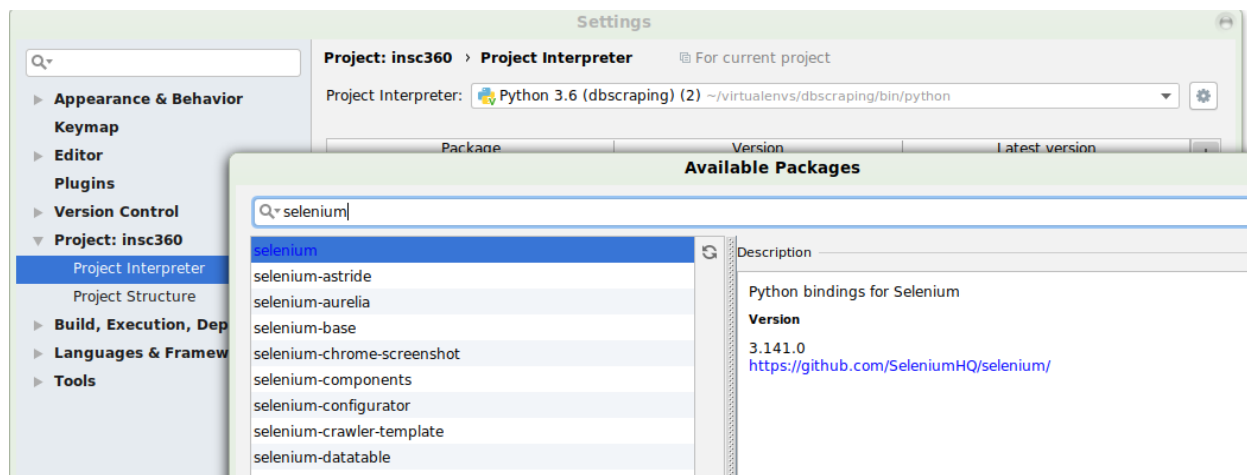
If you are using Chrome from Dev or Canary channel, please following instructions on the [ChromeDriver Canary](#) page.

For more information on selecting the right version of ChromeDriver, please see the [Version Selection](#) page.

Put the chromedriver in a place you will remember. When you use it in your Python script, you'll have to provide a path to the file.

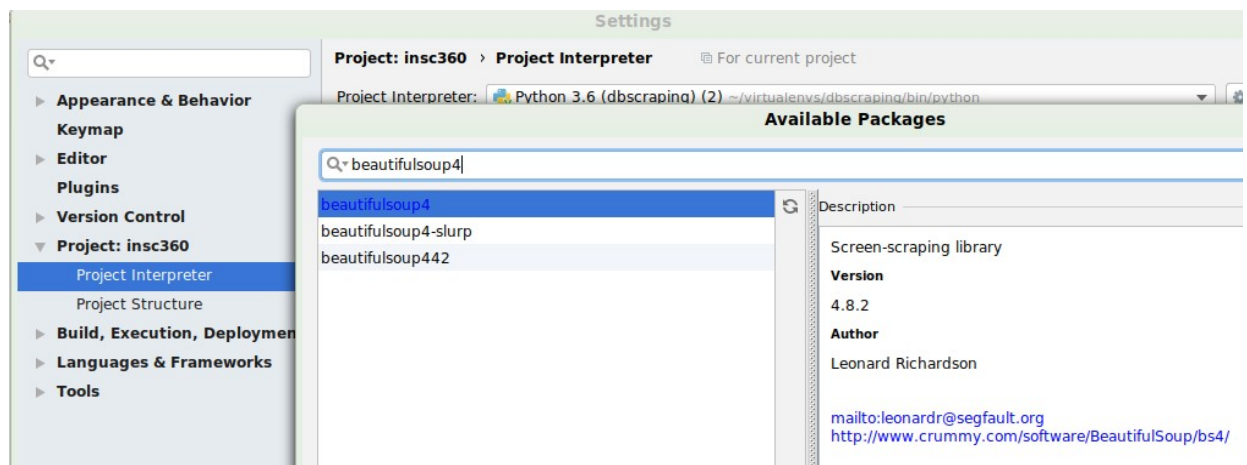
(3) Install Selenium Third Party package (shown in PyCharm)

Selenium implements Python tools that will let you take control of web drivers like Chromedriver. Pick it up with pip package manager. If working from command line that would be *pip3 install selenium* or *pip install selenium*, depending on your setup. From PyCharm, just search for *selenium* when you click the add package (+ sign icon) button within Project Interpreter settings:



(4) Install BeautifulSoup (shown in Pycharm)

When you search for package names in PyCharm, there will be several similarly named packages. Be sure the one you pick up is **beautifulsoup4** specifically!



You are now ready to put the scripts we will look at in class to work!