How do I install and use curl on Windows?

Asked 7 years, 5 months ago   Active 3 months ago   Viewed 1.1m times

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I am having trouble getting curl to run on Windows.

I have downloaded a curl zip file from here, but it seems to contain source code, not an executable.

Do I *need* to compile curl to run it? If yes, then how do I do that?

Where can I find `.exe` downloads for curl?

I have looked for documentation on installing curl, but there is little to be found.

windows   curl   installation

edited Oct 21 '18 at 5:34   asked Feb 29 '12 at 22:00

MultiplyByZer0   pri_dev
2,596   2   24   40   **4,357**   15   62   110

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3   Would you consider a request to change the accepted answer to stackoverflow.com/a/16216825/700206? It's not mine, I get no riches, but spent time
     trying to significantly improve and modernize it and believe your change could help users. Thank you... – whitneyland Nov 21 '17 at 19:28

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5   With Windows 10 build 1803 (released early May 2018), you don't install curl. It is in `C:\Windows\System32` directly! See my answer below. – VonC
     May 6 '18 at 14:35

     Easiest way is install git and you have it (stackoverflow.com/questions/2710748/...) – BRogers Nov 20 '18 at 20:52

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21 Answers

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Assuming you got it from https://curl.haxx.se/download.html, just unzip it wherever you want. No need to install. If you are going to use
SSL, you need to download the OpenSSL DLLs, available from curl's website.

18 Was there a curl.exe file there? Run that. Alternatively, copy curl.exe that and any files that have .dll extension to a directory that is included in your PATH environment variable (or add the directory where curl.exe and the .dll files are, to your PATH environment), and you won't have to type the full pathname to curl.exe in order to run it. – theglauber Mar 1 '12 at 15:33

8 @theglauber, the question is "where is that curl.exe"? I've downloaded `.tar.gz` , unpacked it with zip and there is no any `curl.exe` . – Green Mar 14 '13 at 11:08

8 Maybe you are downloading a source distribution instead of a binary one. – theglauber Mar 15 '13 at 16:26

21 When I unzipped the downloaded curl file "curl-7.47.1.zip", I didn't find any curl.exe – Yash Saraiya Feb 9 '16 at 13:59

5 Yash, you probably downloaded a source archive. Look lower in the download page, under "packages", find the section for 32 or 64-bit Windows (win32 - generic or win64 - generic) – theglauber Feb 11 '16 at 19:48 ✎

You might already have curl

820 It is possible that you won't need to download anything:

- If you are on Windows 10, version 1803 or later, your OS ships with a copy of curl, already set up and ready to use.

- If you have Git for Windows installed (if you downloaded Git from git-scm.com, the answer is yes), you have `curl.exe` under:

  ```
  C:\Program Files\Git\mingw64\bin\
  ```

  Simply add the above path to `PATH` .

Installing curl with a package manager

If you are already using a package manager, it may be more convenient to install with one:

- For Chocolatey, run `choco install curl`
- For MSYS2, run `pacman -S curl`

Installing curl manually

Downloading curl

It is too easy to accidentally download the wrong thing. If, on the [curl homepage](#), you click the large and prominent "Download" section in the site header, and then the large and prominent `curl-7.62.0.tar.gz` link in its body, you will have downloaded a curl *source package*, which contains curl's source code but not `curl.exe`. Watch out for that.

Instead, click the large and prominent download links **[on this page](#)**. Those are the official Windows builds, and they are provided by the [curl-for-win](#) project.

If you have more esoteric needs (e.g. you want cygwin builds, third-party builds, libcurl, header files, sources, etc.), use the curl [download wizard](#). After answering five questions, you will be presented with a list of download links.

Extracting and setting up curl

Find `curl.exe` within your downloaded package; it's probably under `bin\`.

Pick a location on your hard drive that will serve as a permanent home for curl:

- If you want to give curl its own folder, `C:\Program Files\curl\` or `C:\curl\` will do.
- If you have many loose executables, and you do not want to add many individual folders to `PATH`, use a single folder such as `C:\Program Files\tools\` or `C:\tools\` for the purpose.

Place `curl.exe` under the folder. And never move the folder or its contents.

Next, you'll want to make curl available anywhere from the command line. To do this, add the folder to `PATH`, like this:

1. Click the Windows 10 start menu. Start typing "environment".
2. You'll see the search result **Edit the system environment variables**. Choose it.
3. A System Properties window will popup. Click the **Environment Variables** button at the bottom.
4. Select the "Path" variable under "System variables" (the lower box). Click the **Edit** button.
5. Click the **Add** button and paste in the folder path where `curl.exe` lives.
6. Click **OK** as needed. Close open console windows and reopen, so they get the new `PATH`.

edited Apr 6 at 5:46

14   Thanks - Also, my Win64 installation of Curl added it to the PATH variable, so simply installing it will make it available on the command line. No need to copy into %windir%. It will also be available in Powershell – ndhar Apr 24 '14 at 14:33 ✎

3   Very simple just need to download from here install with one click and configure following this tutorial. – RN Kushwaha Feb 21 '15 at 18:15 ✎

5   Please, read Daniel's comment to another answer. It is an awful approach to put things into windows or system directories while there is far more civilized way. Do not pollute your windows installation, rather use the PATH variable, it is what it is intended for any way. – Ivaylo Slavov Jul 30 '15 at 20:09

4   What do you mean copy into %windir%, and it seems that they're not exe they're files of another format, thanks. – Henry Zhu Apr 23 '16 at 5:28

6   I took the curl.exe by "Marc Hörsken". The curl.exe we need is located in the src folder. Src is source. Weird. Can i trust these exe files ? – MasterJoe2 Feb 4 '17 at 1:28 ✎

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1. Download curl zip

2. Extract the contents (if you have downloaded the correct version you should find curl.exe)

3. Place curl.exe in a folder where you keep your software (e.g. D:\software\curl\curl.exe)

4. To run curl from the command line

    a) Right-hand-click on "My Computer" icon

    b) Select Properties

    c) Click 'Advanced system settings' link

    d) Go to tab [Advanced] - 'Environment Variables' button

    e) Under *System variable* select 'Path' and Edit button

    f) Add a semicolon followed by the path to where you placed your curl.exe (e.g. ;D:\software\curl)

Now you can run from the command line by typing:

answered Dec 25 '13 at 13:20

Ithar
2,366   1   22   31

Thanks for the *Environment Variables* suggestion, I was specifically searching for how do I create a persistent command line alias for `curl` – aexl Sep 10 '16 at 9:53

31

The simplest tutorial for setting up *cURL* on *Windows* is the **Making cURL work on Windows 7**. It only have **3 easy steps**.

edited Jul 8 '14 at 16:05

answered Sep 29 '13 at 18:48

Abel Callejo
5,203   6   36   53

21   This tutorial suggest placing curl.exe in the System32 folder. One should really create a Curl folder in C:\Program Files, put the Curl executable there, and then put that folder's path into the system path environmental variable. This will still allow it to be accessed from the command prompt in any location – Daniel Feb 15 '14 at 5:23

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1. **Download cURL** (Win64 ia64 zip binary with SSL)

2. Extract **curl.exe** into " `C:\Windows\System32` "

3. Done

Even more easier:

Download the **Win64 2000/XP x86_64 MSI installer** provided by Edward LoPinto.

At the time of writing file `curl-7.46.0-win64.exe` was the most recent. Tested with Windows 10.

edited Jun 4 '17 at 12:13

answered Jan 28 '16 at 13:10

Benny Neugebauer
29.8k   17   156   157

somewhere (I just left it in my downloads directory, but `C:\Program Files\curl` would be better), then add that folder to your path. – Dave Jul 19 at 20:40

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Starting with Windows 10 version 1803 (and earlier, with insider build 17063), you don't install `curl` anymore. Windows includes a *native* `curl.exe` (and `tar.exe`) in `C:\Windows\System32\` , which you can access right from your regular `CMD` .

```
C:\Users\vonc>C:\Windows\System32\curl.exe --version
curl 7.55.1 (Windows) libcurl/7.55.1 WinSSL
Release-Date: [unreleased]
Protocols: dict file ftp ftps http https imap imaps pop3 pop3s smtp smtps telnet tftp
Features: AsynchDNS IPv6 Largefile SSPI Kerberos SPNEGO NTLM SSL

C:\Users\vonc>C:\Windows\System32\tar.exe --version
bsdtar 3.3.2 - libarchive 3.3.2 zlib/1.2.5.f-ipp
```

See the initial announcement and the release announcement.

edited Oct 20 '18 at 20:47	answered May 6 '18 at 14:34
MultiplyByZer0	VonC
2,596 2 24 40	**880k** 319 2850 3418

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It's probably worth noting that Powershell v3 and up, contains a cmdlet called Invoke-WebRequest that has some curl-ish capabilities. The New-WebServiceProxy and Invoke-RestMethod cmdlets are probably worth mentioning too.

I'm not sure they will fit your needs or not, but although I'm not a Windows guy, I have to say I find the object approach PS takes, a lot easier to work with than utilities such as curl, wget etc. They may be worth taking a look at

edited Oct 20 '18 at 20:35	answered Mar 22 '15 at 21:52
MultiplyByZer0	user2233949
2,596 2 24 40	**1,110** 12 18

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Once you download a package, unzip it wherever you want. I recommend adding its location to your path, so you can call curl from batch or powershell scripts. To add a directory to your path type "environment variables" in the start menu, and select "edit user environment variables". Select Path, and add to the end of the "value" box: ;C:\curl\directory (with the directory changed to where you saved curl.)

If you want to use SSL you need a certificate bundle. Run either mk-ca-bundle.pl (perl) or mk-ca-bundle.vbs (VBScript). Some of the packages of binaries include one or both of them. If your download doesn't include one, download one here: https://github.com/bagder/curl/tree/master/lib. I recommend mk-ca-bundle.vbs, as on windows you simply double click it to run it. It will produce a file called ca-bundle.crt. Rename it curl-ca-bundle.crt and save it in the directory with curl.exe.

Alternatively, I recently developed an msi installer that sets up a full featured build of curl with just a few clicks. It automatically ads curl to your path, includes a ready-to-use ssl certificate bundle, and makes the curl manual and documentation accessible from the start menu. You can download it at www.confusedbycode.com/curl/.

edited Feb 24 '16 at 8:48   answered Nov 18 '13 at 5:27

Shadow Wizard   ConfusedByCode
58.3k   19   115   180   **857**   6   22

As an FYI to readers that use the download here, A. It scanned as clean by McAfee (yes, well, meh, McAfee, but I've been using it for years and haven't had a problem) ... B. Consider going with the paid solution right away. only $3. (I would have if I had noticed the price sooner (and had a hint of what lay ahead)). C. if you go with the free version you're getting a slightly older version (OK for my purposes). D. You have to 'prove you're not a robot' by playing a captcha game I have never seen before. Started out having to multiple-select pics of houses. . . . . . – shellter Sep 22 '16 at 17:49

. . . That didn't seem to work, so do the more generic buildings in the set of pics need to be selected as well? Eventually got cycled thru more ambiguous picture sets with similar problems and finally wound up on "select squares that have street signs in them". These proved unambiguous, I passed the "not a robot test" and was able to download the installer. E. Ran the installer as Admin on my machine. F. The install required installing MS Visual C++ for 2015 Redistributable. Had to launch that 2x, but I'd bet is was a MS hickup on their end on the download .... – shellter Sep 22 '16 at 18:15 ✎

.... G. Oh yeah, on the captcha thing, I hit the download button before I noticed the check box for 'I am not a robot'. I think because I tried to download first, even though I later checked the box, I was forced to do the captcha as well. Hopefully others can avoid this. H. Over all, very happy with this package and will be getting the update (assuming I can use paypal). Thanks @confusedbycode, this was much easier than searching for libssh2*.dll (and other too be later discovered dependencies from the "official" download (see above). Good luck to all! – shellter Sep 22 '16 at 18:20

H. Installed the "professional edition" expecting to be about to use "auto-updates and Easy SFTP" but don't see that in the `C:/program files/Confused By Code' directory structure. (I know this isn't be place for tech support, just finishing off my experience with this solution). Good luck to all! – shellter Sep 22 '16 at 20:42

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answered May 1 '17 at 14:17

RBV
663   1   7   17

> Easiest way I've found of doing this, especially behind a corporate firewall. Also: deployed as part of Visual Studio installation these days? –
> Tim Barrass May 15 at 8:59

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Install [Chocolatey](#) package manager for Windows. Once installed, simply enter `choco install curl`. Then you can use `curl` from a terminal.

edited May 15 '18 at 11:01   answered Jan 12 '18 at 2:21

Dzmitry Lahoda   Adam
416   1   8   31   **2,433**   6   31   57

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You can build the latest version of curl, openssl, libssh2 and zlib in 3 simple steps by following [this tutorial.](#)

Curl is built statically so you do not have to distribute the prerequisite dynamic runtime.

You can also download a prebuilt version (x86 and x64) from [SourceForge.](#)

edited Jun 10 '13 at 11:29   answered Jun 10 '13 at 10:55

user2470592
91   2   2

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I had a lot of issues with curl for Windows. I finally used [Cygwin](#), which includes curl by default.

answered Oct 17 '14 at 0:04

cprcrack
10.8k   4   66   74

Thought I'd write exactly what I did (Windows 10, 64-bit):

7

From the download page https://curl.haxx.se/download.html choose the download wizard https://curl.haxx.se/dlwiz/

Choose curl executable.

Choose Win64.

Choose generic.

Choose any.

Choose x86_64.

Choose the first recommended option. For me this was:

curl version: 7.53.1 - SSL enabled SSH enabled. Provided by: Viktor Szakáts. This package is type curl executable You will get a pre-built 'curl' binary from this link (or in some cases, by using the information that is provided at the page this link takes you). You may or may not get 'libcurl' installed as a shared library/DLL. The file is packaged using 7zip. 7zip is a file archiving format.

Click download.

You should have the file curl-7.53.1-win64-mingw.7z in your downloads folder.

Install 7-Zip if you don't have it.

Right-click, 7-Zip, Extract Here. Copy and paste the extracted file somewhere like Z:\Tools\

If you look in the bin folder you'll see curl.exe. If you double-click it a window will quickly flash up and vanish. To run it you need to use the Command Prompt. Navigate to the bin folder and type curl followed by your parameters to make a request. **You must use double-quotes**. Single quotes won't work with curl on Windows.

Now you'll want to add curl to a user's Path variable so you don't have to navigate to the right folder to run the program. Go to This PC, Computer, System Properties, Advanced system settings, authenticate as an administrator (you're not running as admin, right? Right?) Environment Variables, System variables, look at the list and select Path, then Edit, then New, then, e.g.

Z:\Tools\curl-7.53.1-win64-mingw\bin

as any user. Don't forget your double-quotes.

This is the answer I wish I'd had.

I was looking for the download process of **Curl** and every where they said copy **curl.exe file in System32** but they haven't provided the direct link. so here it is enjoy, find **curl.exe** easily in **bin folder** just

6

> unzip it and then go to bin folder there you get exe file

[link to download curl generic](#)

This installer made it easy for me http://www.confusedbycode.com/curl/

5

The link describes how to use it. Here's a summary taken from the website above:

"You can install cURL for Windows with only a few clicks. Just download and run an installer from the table below, and click Install. The default installation includes:

1. curl.exe

2. an SSL certificate bundle (ca-cert-bundle.crt)

3. SSL certificate bundle generation scripts (mk-ca-bundle.pl & mk-ca-bundle.vbs)

4. HTML manuals for cURL and libcurl

5. text documentation formatted for Windows (so you can simply double click the files to read them with Notepad)

7. cURL added to your path, so you can use it with batch or PowerShell scripts and call it from the command prompt in any working directory

To include developers' files in your installation, click Advanced. The developers' files include libcurl.dll, libeay32.dll, ssleay32.dll, libssh2.dll, zlib.dll, msvcr120.dll, C headers, libs, and code examples.

When you click Advanced you can also choose whether or not to install the documentation and manuals, and whether or not to add cURL to your path.

If you don't have administrator privileges on your computer, use one of the files from the "Without Administrator Privileges" row. These install cURL in C:\Users\Name\AppData\Local\Apps.

If you do not want to use the installer, but still want the contents listed above, you can download one of the zip archives."

edited Jul 25 '16 at 14:54	answered Jul 25 '16 at 11:59
Matt	Aussie Ash
16.4k 7 75 117	**835** 10 8

I still had to manually copy the .exe and .dll files to my windoze dir, – MarkHu Aug 11 '16 at 6:48

1   The Path variable option under advanced should have taken care of that. Tho that would not work for background services running as local system or as another user – Aussie Ash Aug 12 '16 at 2:37

Just download curl and extract the compressed file. You will get the file "curl.exe". Open a CMD Shell, drag the file curl.exe into the CMD Shell, now you can use curl.

3

3   This answer is technically correct, answers the questions, and in fact the easiest way to explain it to newbies. It is not clear what the downvotes are for. Perhaps the only part to add to address the question directly is - `you don't _need_ to "install" it if you make sure you download the binary instead of the source code.` — Amit Naidu Mar 4 '16 at 23:46 ✎

After adding *curl.exe*'s path to the System Variable '*Path*'

3   you can open command prompt and run '**curl -V**' to see if it is working.

answered Mar 10 '16 at 23:47

Shreyas
583   4   16

Follow download wizard

3   Follow the screens one by one to select type of package (**curl executable**), OS (**Win64**), flavor (**Generic**), CPU (**x86_64**) and the download link.

unzip download and find curl.exe (I found it in src folder, one may find it in bin folder for different OS/flavor)

To make it available from the command line, add the executable path to the system path (Adding directory to PATH Environment Variable in Windows).

Enjoy curl.

answered Mar 16 '18 at 7:22

brajesh jaishwal
65   6

Statically built WITH ssl for windows:

1   http://sourceforge.net/projects/curlforwindows/files/?source=navbar

..and for ssl all you need to do is add "-k" in addition to any other of your parameters and the bundle BS problem is gone; no CA verification.

edited Dec 13 '14 at 19:05

Patrice
4,852 9 27 40

answered Dec 13 '14 at 18:55

Beeb
21 5

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I have successfully used Windows curl-installer: http://open-edx-windows-7-installation-instructions.readthedocs.io/en/latest/6_Install_cURL_for_Windows.html

by using **cURL for Windows direct download link** with msi-installer. Remember to reboot your system after installing.

answered Aug 3 '17 at 12:02

Kirill Ch
1,653 20 37

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- Download curl for windows from the path : https://curl.haxx.se/windows/
- Unzip and you will find the ..\bin\curl.exe
- Add ...\bin\ to your path variable for easy global access

answered Jan 21 at 6:57

Vikash
900 2 8 20

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protected by Andrew Medico Jan 28 '16 at 13:46

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 reputation on this site (the association bonus does not count).

Would you like to answer one of these unanswered questions instead?