

## Python not working in command prompt?

[Ask Question](#)

40

I type `python` into the command line, but the command prompt says that python is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program, or batch file. What should I do?



Note: I have installed Python 2.7 and Python 3.2 onto my computer.



5

[python](#)[windows](#)[windows-8](#)[command](#)

edited Aug 30 '17 at 22:51

[YakovL](#)

3,223 10 28 45

asked Nov 28 '12 at 1:53

[Rohit Rayudu](#)

1,137 4 14 21

### 17 Answers



It finally worked!!!

48

I needed to do things to get it to work



1. Add C:\Python27\ to the end of the PATH system variable

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

I had to add these to both for it to work.

If I added any subdirectories, it did not work for some reason.

Thank you all for your responses.

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:51



[Rohit Rayudu](#)

1,137 4 14 21

After step 1, was it not working ? – [asheeshr](#) Nov 28 '12 at 6:11

1 Nope, it did not work after Step 1. – [Rohit Rayudu](#) Nov 30 '12 at 3:31

7 For newer versions of Python you can find it here:  
'C:\Users\UserNameHere\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python37' – [Spencer Wiczorek](#) May 31 '18 at 22:35 ✎

Home

PUBLIC

Stack Overflow

Tags

Users

Jobs

**Teams**  
Q&A for work



[Learn More](#)

26

The video was very useful.

1. Go to system properties -> Advance ( or type "system env" in start menu.)
2. Click environment variables
3. Edit the 'PATH' variable
4. Add 2 new paths 'C:\Python27' and 'C:\Python27\scripts'
5. Run cmd again and type python.

it worked for me

answered Aug 4 '16 at 11:52



[Kazim Homavee](#)

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

1 This works for me as well. thanks – [Dasun](#) Jan 2 '18 at 8:12



20



I have installed the latest Python for Win10 from [Releases for Windows](#). Just typing `py` in the Command Prompt Window starts Python.

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.15048]

(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\sg7>py

Python 3.6.3 (v3.6.3:2c5fed8, Oct 3 2017, 18:11:49) [MSC v.100.0] win32

Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more:

>>>`enter code here`

Testing:

>>> `print("hello!")`

hello!

>>>

Please be aware that in my case Python was installed in

C:\Users\sg7\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36>  
directory

C:\Users\sg7\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36>dir

Volume in drive C is Windows7\_OS

Volume Serial Number is 1226-12D1

Directory of C:\Users\sg7\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36>

08/05/2018	07:38 AM	<DIR>	.
08/05/2018	07:38 AM	<DIR>	..
12/18/2017	09:12 AM	<DIR>	DLLs
12/18/2017	09:12 AM	<DIR>	Doc
12/18/2017	09:12 AM	<DIR>	include
12/18/2017	09:12 AM	<DIR>	Lib
12/18/2017	09:12 AM	<DIR>	Scripts

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

```

10/03/2017 07:15 PM      100,504 python.exe
10/03/2017 07:12 PM       58,520 python3.dll
10/03/2017 07:12 PM    3,610,776 python36.dll
10/03/2017 07:15 PM     98,968 pythonw.exe
08/05/2018 07:38 AM    196,096 Removescons.exe
08/05/2018 07:38 AM     26,563 scons-wininst.log
08/05/2018 07:38 AM    <DIR>      Scripts
12/18/2017 09:12 AM    <DIR>      tcl
12/18/2017 09:12 AM    <DIR>      Tools
06/09/2016 11:53 PM     87,888 vcruntime140.dll
          9 File(s)      4,571,743 bytes
        10 Dir(s)  20,228,898,816 bytes free

```

When I am at C:\Users\sg7> directory level python can be invoked by typing

AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36\python

```

C:\Users\samg>AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36\python
Python 3.6.3 (v3.6.3:2c5fed8, Oct 3 2017, 18:11:49) [MSC v.
win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more :
>>>

```

Newer Python 3.7 will be installed at:

C:\Users\YourUserNameHere\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python37

If you wish you can add to your path environment variable:

%USERPROFILE%\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python36

edited Aug 5 '18 at 12:32


answered Dec 18 '17 at 13:50



sg7  
4,350 1 24 37

This works for me as well. Calling python and then checking

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

xe . Anaconda is in my PATH but Python27 isn't. If someone has insight into why this is the way it is, I'd very much appreciate it! EDIT: tried running `py -i {filename}` and it ran in Python 2.7. Grr. – [DukeSilver](#) Aug 2 '18 at 20:22 

+1 although I have to say this shortcut is pathetic. Now I want to use `pip` and have no idea what I should type. – [Touch](#) Aug 7 '18 at 21:31



Kalle posted a link to a page that has [this video](#) on it, but it's done on XP. If you use Windows 7:

5



1. Press the windows key.
2. Type "system env". Press enter.
3. Press `alt + n`
4. Press `alt + e`
5. Press right, and then `;` (that's a semicolon)
6. Without adding a space, type this at the end:  
`C:\Python27`
7. Hit enter twice. Hit esc.
8. Use `windows key + r` to bring up the run dialog. Type `python` and press enter.

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:07



[Droogans](#)

4,867 2 30 58



I am probably the most novice user here, I have spent six hours just to run python in the command line in Windows



suggestions here, especially by defining path in the system variables, but still it didn't work.

Then I realised when I typed in the command line: `echo %path%`

The path still was not directed to `C:\python27`. So I simply restarted the computer, and now it works.

edited Apr 8 '15 at 15:14

answered Apr 2 '15 at 0:08



[Ocean Flyer](#)

51 1 3



They gave us a script to do this for us already

3

`C:\Users\hUTBER\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\tools\script:`



You'll need to make sure that you close and open the `cmd` otherwise it won't have the new path there.

If you can't find this script these are the paths that it will add and I had to add manually in the end.

`C:\Users\hUTBER\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python35`  
`C:\Users\hUTBER\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python35\Scr:`

Were mine and now `python` works in the `cmd`

answered Nov 24 '15 at 13:56



[Jamie Hutber](#)

13.8k 25 102 177

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

'16 at 9:57

- 
- 1 Don't forget to upvote the answer :D If it has more votes more people will see it and try the same thing – [Jamie Hutber](#) May 3 '16 at 21:51
- 
- 1 I did vote it up. I am surprised that I am the only to vote up your comment. Sometimes it is as simple as closing and reopening your terminal. – [imranal](#) May 9 '16 at 15:12
- 

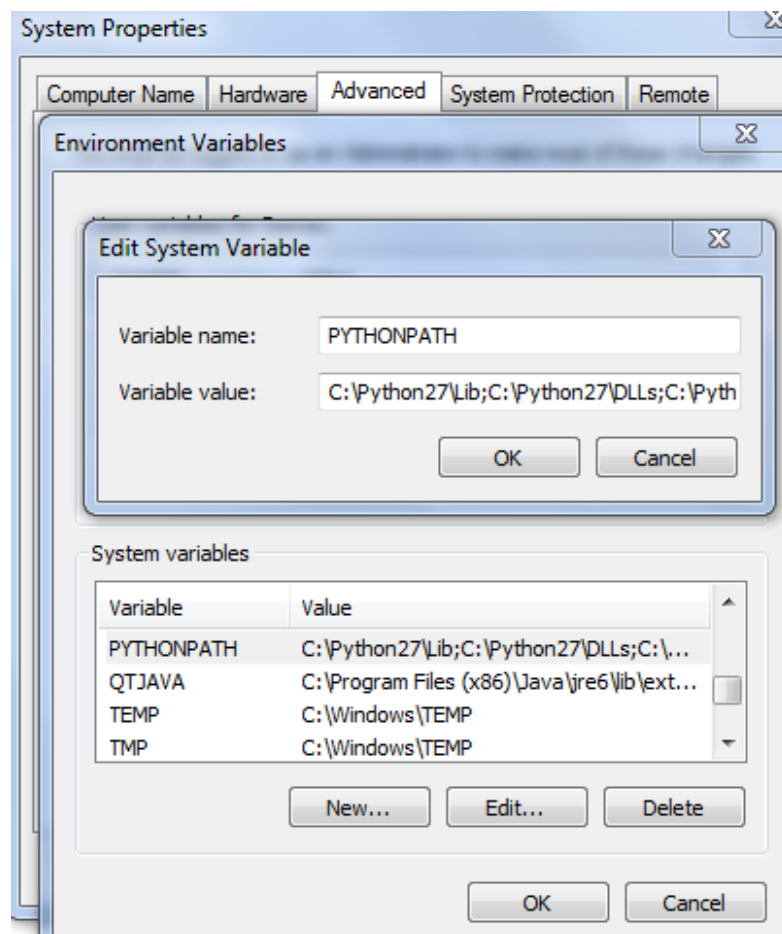


2



You have to add the python executable in your SYSTEM PATH, do the following, My Computer > Properties > Advanced System Settings > Environment Variables > Then under system variables I create a new Variable called "PythonPath". In this variable I have "C:\Python27\Lib;C:\Python27\DLLs;C:\Python27\Lib\lib-tk;C:\other-foolder-on-the-path" .

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).



answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:01



[enginefree](#)

5,390 7 25 48

This didn't work for me, I am not sure what is wrong with my computer. – [Rohit Rayudu](#) Nov 28 '12 at 2:13

- 1 [@Rohit Rayudu](#) Try adding `C:\Python27` as one of the paths. It should work. And check that your python directory is named correctly. – [enginefree](#) Nov 28 '12 at 2:14

I tried it still doesn't work – [Rohit Rayudu](#) Nov 28 '12 at 2:19

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).



Ok thanks for the help, I will reboot my computer, I really really hope it works. Ever since I uninstalled Google App Engine, this has been happening to me, does that give you any other ideas of what might be wrong? – [Rohit Rayudu](#) Nov 28 '12 at 2:21



1



Seems like the python executable is not found in your PATH, which defines where it is looking for executables. See [the official instructions](#) for instructions on how to get the python executables in your PATH.

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:00

[Carl Ekerot](#)

1,598 1 11 10



1



Add the python bin directory to your computer's PATH variable. Its listed under Environment Variables in Computer Properties -> Advanced Settings in Windows 7. It should be the same for Windows 8.

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:02

[asheeshr](#)

3,418 5 25 46



1



You need to add python to your PATH. I could be wrong, but Windows 7 should have the same cmd as Windows 8. Try this in the command line. Using **setx permanently** makes changes to you PATH. Note there are no equal signs, and quotes are used.

```
setx PATH "%PYTHONPATH%;C:\python27"
```

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

prompt.

edited Nov 28 '12 at 2:40

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:01



Aesthete

15.3k 4 25 38

I tried this, it works, kind of. if I do this, it works temporarily, but if I close the command prompt and then reopen it and type python again, it stops working. Is this supposed to happen/do I have to insert this line, every time? – Rohit Rayudu Nov 28 '12 at 2:09

@RohitRayudu: Yes, it's only temporary if you do it this way -- which is why other answers suggested changing it via System Properties or Control Panel. The good news is the fact that this work seems to indicate it's a PATH settings problem. – martineau Nov 28 '12 at 2:26

How do I fix such a PATH settings problem, @martineau – Rohit Rayudu Nov 28 '12 at 2:27

@enginefree's answer sounds like should permanently change the PATH. – martineau Nov 28 '12 at 2:34

@RohitRayudu - setx is the permanent alternative to set , I made changes in my answer. – Aesthete Nov 28 '12 at 2:41

Just a few comments:

1

1. Don't set `PYTHONPATH` if all you want is to get Python on the `PATH`. The `PYTHONPATH` environment variable tells Python where to look for modules to import. Setting it to `C:\Python27\` will not accomplish anything.

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

2. Modifying environment variables (including `PATH`) from the "Edit System Variables" has no effect on already running processes. This means you have to re-launch `cmd.exe` for the changes to work. A reboot, however, is not required.
3. When modifying the `PATH`, also add the `Scripts` subdirectory. Or, to put it in other words (and using the previous example): add  
`;C:\Python27;C:\Python27\Scripts` . This will allow you to run scripts like `easy_install` , `pip` , `virtualenv` or `sphinx` from the command line - once you install those, that is. This is about as UNIX-y as it gets for Windows. (N.B. The `Scripts` subdirectory is not present after a clean install of Python, but will be created when needed.)
4. **Don't** put any additional `Lib` or `DLL` directory on the `PATH` . There's no need, and it might do harm.
5. If you have installed multiple versions of Python (which isn't all that uncommon) you might be better off *not* putting any of them on the `PATH` but instead create different shortcuts to `cmd.exe` for the different versions which set the `PATH` for each version. You might also be interested in [PEP-397](#).

answered Nov 28 '12 at 19:48



grainednoise

211 1 1



1

When you add the python directory to the path (Computer > Properties > Advanced System Settings > Advanced > Environmental Variables > System Variables > Path > Edit), remember to add a semicolon, then make sure that you are adding the precise directory where the file

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

answered Jan 21 '16 at 21:17

[cameronroytaylor](#)

783 8 16



Just go with the command `py` . I'm running python 3.6.2 on windows 7 and it works just fine.

1

I removed all the python paths from the system directory and the paths don't show up when I run the command `echo %path%` in cmd. Python is still working fine.



I ran into this by accidentally pressing enter while typing `python ...`

EDIT: I didn't mention that I installed python to a custom folder `C:\Python\`

edited Aug 30 '17 at 22:50

[YakovL](#)

3,223 10 28 45

answered Aug 30 '17 at 22:28

user8540415



If you are working with command prompt and if you are facing the issue even after adding python path to system variable `PATH`.

1



Remember to restart the command prompt (`cmd.exe`).

answered Sep 26 '17 at 20:30

[Jerin](#)

171 1 6



1

by others.



I did put my user path in path and created the PYTHONPATH variables in my computer's PATH variable. Its listed under Environment Variables in Computer Properties -> Advanced Settings in Windows 7.

Example:

C:\Users\randuser\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python37

This made it so I could use the command prompt.

Hope this helped.

answered Sep 29 '18 at 20:42



[user10434881](#)

11 1



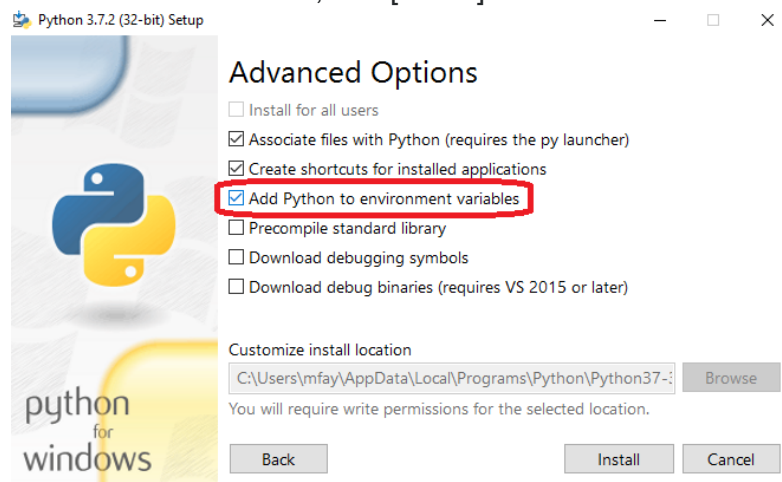
1

Feeling insecure about editing the Path variable?  
Concerned that this method might change with new Python releases? If so, do the following:



Re-run the Python installer (e.g. in Downloads, python-3.7.2.exe). Select "Modify" (Add or remove individual features.) Check all the optional features you want (likely no changes), then click [Next]. Check [x] "Add Python to

environment variables", and [Install].



Open a new cmd window, and you should be in business.

answered Jan 3 at 21:00



circlepi314

473 4 12

0

None of these actually worked for me. What you needed to do to really have Python recognized within it's path, is to download the latest version of it only from this website and not other website: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>

But be careful while installing; the default installation is set not to add Python's path to the Environmental Variables in the Control Panel if you have a Windows computer, but you should change the setting so that the installation does it, and it will all be done by itself.

edited Apr 8 '18 at 22:39



ds\_secret

130 1 15

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



Joe Bang

1

---

You said "is to download the latest version of it only from this website and not other website: [python.org/downloads](https://python.org/downloads)", but you never said what the "this website" is. – [ds\\_secret](#) Apr 8 '18 at 19:27

---

---

**protected** by [Community](#) ♦ Nov 22 '18 at 11:27

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?