

How to Install FFmpeg on Windows

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FFmpeg is an open-source media tool you can use to convert any video format into the one you need. The tool is command-line only, which means it doesn't have a graphical, clickable interface. If you're used to installing regular graphical Windows programs, installing FFmpeg may seem complicated at first—but don't worry, it's actually pretty easy! This wikiHow teaches you the simplest way to install FFmpeg on your Windows PC.

Steps

- 1 Go to <https://ffmpeg.org/download.html>.** This brings you to a page containing the latest FFmpeg install packages and binary files.
 - If you don't have an app that can decompress files ending with the .7z file extension, such as WinRAR or 7Zip, **you must** install one before you can continue.
- 2 Click the Windows logo.** It's the blue square with a white window inside.
- 3 Click Windows builds from gyan.dev.** This takes you to a page that contains FFmpeg builds specifically for Windows that contains all of the hardware libraries you could possibly need.
 - If you prefer, you could click **Windows builds by BtbN** instead, which is another Windows build of FFmpeg. There are a variety of builds available from different websites—the official FFmpeg website may add more as they become available.
- 4 Scroll down to the "git" section.** It's about halfway down the page between the set of green boxes and the "release" sections.

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latest FFmpeg files to your PC in a compressed format.

6 Extract the downloaded file. Here's how:

- Right-click the Windows/Start button and select **File Explorer**.
- Click the **Downloads** folder in the left panel (you may have to click **This PC** first to find it).
- Right-click **ffmpeg-*-git-*full_build.7z** (the file name will vary depending on the current release).
- Select **Extract Here** and wait for the files to extract. This creates a new folder with the same name as the .7z file.

7 Rename the extracted folder to FFmpeg . To do this, just right-click the folder, type FFmpeg , and press the Enter key.

8 Click the FFmpeg folder once and press **Control**+**X**. This "cuts" the folder from the Downloads folder so you can paste it into the root of your hard drive.

9 Click **This PC** in File Explorer. It's the computer icon in the left panel.

10 Double-click your hard drive. It's usually called "Windows (C:)" or "Local Disk (C:)" but the name and drive letter may vary.

11 Right-click a blank area of the right panel and select **Paste**. This moves the folder to the root of your hard drive.

12 Open the system environment variables control panel. Here's how:

- Press **Windows key** + **S** to open the search bar.
- Type `system variables` into the search bar.
- Click **Edit the system environment variables** in the search results.
- Click the **Environment variables** button in the bottom-right area of the window.

13 Select the **Path** variable under "User variables for (your name)" and click **Edit**. A list of paths will appear.

14 Add the FFmpeg binary directory to the path. This will allow you to easily run FFmpeg commands at the command prompt without having to type out the full path to FFmpeg. Here's how:

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- Type `C:\ffmpeg\bin` . Or, if you placed the FFmpeg folder on a different drive or in a different folder, replace this path with that location instead (remember to leave `\bin` at the end).
- Click **OK**. Now you'll see the FFmpeg path and the end of the "Path" variable in the upper portion of the window.

15 Click to save your changes. You've now installed FFmpeg and set the proper environment variables. To confirm that FFmpeg is working, open the command prompt and run this command to see the version number: `ffmpeg -version`

Community Q&A

Question

How can I watch HEVC videos?

Community Answer

The newest version of VLC can play HEVC. FFplay, which comes with FFmpeg, can also play them.

Question

What versions of Windows does FFmpeg work with?

Community Answer

Windows 7 or above, MacOS 10.x.x.x or above.

Question

Why is 'ffmpeg-version' not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file?

Community Answer

Insert a space between "ffmpeg" and "-version"; -version is a switch on the ffmpeg command/program.

[See more answers](#)

Tips

Warnings

- FFmpeg is a command line-only program, which means that you can only use it in Command Prompt. This may prove difficult for users who aren't familiar with Command Prompt.
- You must be on an administrator account in order to install FFmpeg.