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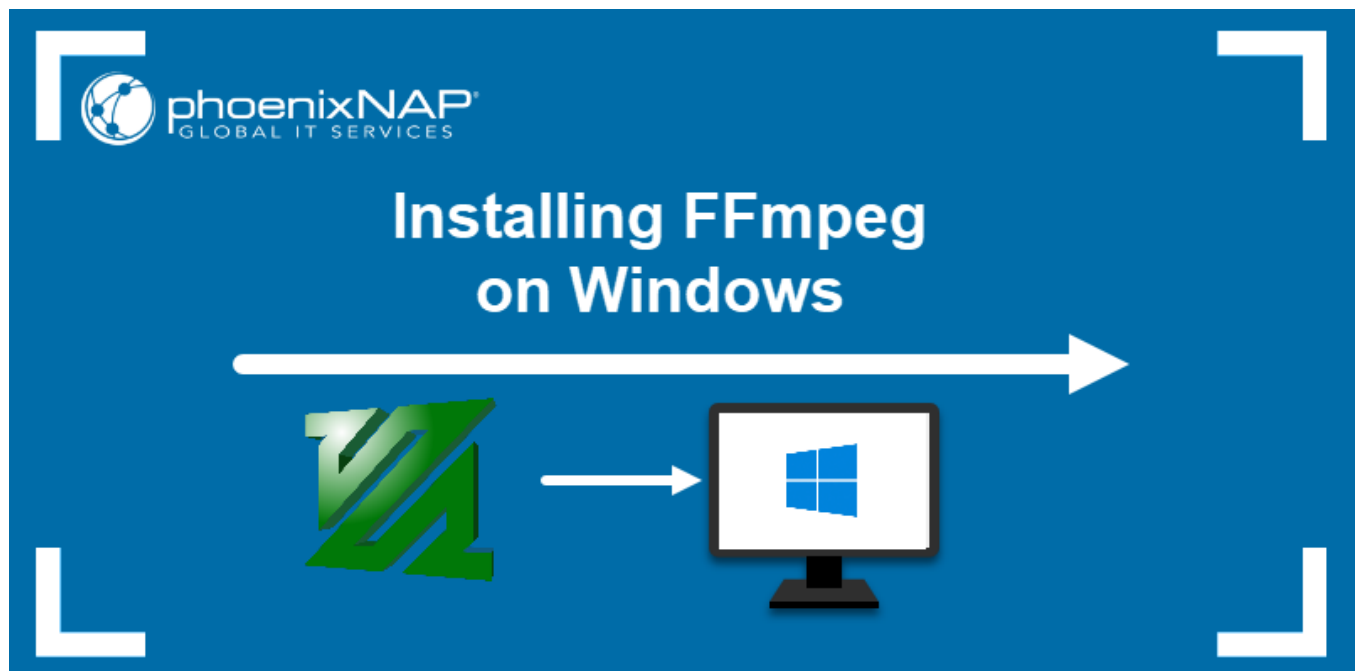
Installing FFmpeg on Windows

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WINDOWS

Home » SysAdmin » Installing FFmpeg on Windows

☰ **Contents**   ›

Introduction

FFmpeg is a command-line audio and video converter available for Linux, macOS, and Windows. This open-source tool helps users manipulate multimedia content and offers free access to several audio and video libraries.

Even though FFmpeg doesn't have a clickable GUI, the installation process is straightforward.

In this guide, you will learn how to install FFmpeg on Windows in four simple steps.

Prerequisites

- A system running Windows (This tutorial uses Windows 10).
- A file archiver (This guide uses *7-Zip*).
- Command Prompt or Windows PowerShell access.
- Administrator privileges.

How To Install FFmpeg on Windows

Installing FFmpeg on Windows requires adding the utility to the Windows PATH. Additionally, users can manually navigate to the folder containing the executable and run the program. However, the process is time-consuming and impractical.

A straightforward way to work with FFmpeg is to add it to PATH by editing Windows environment variables. Therefore, Windows knows where to look for the executable. Users can run FFmpeg directly from the command line without typing in the full path to the app's folder.

Step 1: Download FFmpeg for Windows

Visit the *FFmpeg download page*. The **More downloading options** section has FFmpeg packages and executable files for Linux, Windows, and Mac. To get the Windows version:

1. Hover over the Windows logo and click the **Windows builds from gyan.dev** link. A new page opens.

2. In the *git master builds* section, look for the latest version of the FFmpeg build. Click the **ffmpeg-git-full-7z** link to download the full build since that version has the most up-to-date libraries.

3. Choose the download location and save the file if the download does not start automatically.

Note: This guide uses the Windows build from **gyan.dev**. Other builds are available for download, like the one by **BtbN**. No official documentation confirms any significant differences between different builds.

Step 2: Extract the Downloaded Files

Once downloaded, extract the contents:

1. Locate the downloaded file. The default location is the *Downloads* folder.

2. Right-click the file and hover over *7-Zip* (or another file archiver of choice).

3. From the archiver submenu, choose **Extract here.** Wait for a few seconds for the extracting process to complete.

5. Rename the extracted folder to **ffmpeg**.

6. Move the folder to the root of the *C* drive or the folder of your choice.

Step 3: Add FFmpeg to PATH

Set Windows environment variables to add FFmpeg to the PATH. Follow these steps:

1. Type *system variables* into the search bar and click the **Edit the system environment variables** option.

2. Under the *User variables* section, select **Path** and click the **Edit** button.

3. Choose **New** from the side menu.

4. Add **C:\ffmpeg\bin** to the empty field and confirm changes with **OK.**

The change in the *Path variable* line confirms the FFmpeg is added to PATH.

> **Note:** If you stored FFmpeg in a folder other than the **C drive**, use that path accordingly.

Step 4: Verify FFmpeg PATH

To verify the FFmpeg is correctly added to the Windows PATH, open the Command Prompt or **PowerShell** and run:

```
ffmpeg
```

The output confirms the installation:

Conclusion

This article provided an easy step-by-step guide on installing FFmpeg on Windows.

For more tutorials refer to our article and learn how to install FFmpeg on MacOS.

Next, learn how to change or reset the administrator password on the Windows server.

Was this article helpful?   Yes   No

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Sara Zivanov is a technical writer at phoenixNAP who is passionate about making high-tech concepts accessible to everyone. Her experience as a content writer and her background in Engineering and Project Management allows her to streamline complex processes and make them user-friendly through her content.

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