



























# Aim: How can we run python programs directly from the shell?

## 2. Tell the shell it's ok to run our program.

Once we've added execute permissions and told our file where to find python, we still won't be able to run the program on it's own until we tell the shell that it's safe to run it.

Regular programs can be run by typing in their names (like `ls`, `ssh`, `firefox...`)

These programs are located in specific directories that the operating system knows to look in when typing into the command line. The list of these directories is called the PATH.

You can see your PATH by typing

```
$ echo $PATH  
/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:/usr/local/games
```

This is a list of directories separated by `:`. You can see `/usr/bin` in that list, this is where python can be found.

In order to run a program that is not in one of the PATH directories, you must put `./` in front of the name of the file. This is to keep random programs from running without the user's explicit approval.

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