

NOTE: there are references to PyCharm Community throughout the course and within these instructions, which is/was a free version of PyCharm. Since 2025, PyCharm has offered a unified product that combines the free and professional versions. For the purposes of this course, the differences are negligible. Any references to the Community version in the instructions will also apply to the new version.

INSTALLING PYTHON AND PYCHARM

In this course you will use **PyCharm** to write and execute Python programs. PyCharm is already installed in our computer labs on campus. If you take this course online or want to write Python programs at home, you can install PyCharm on your home computer.

Along with PyCharm, we also need Python installed as well. For this course we will be using the latest version of Python (currently Python 3.13.x). You should have some version of Python 3.13 or higher installed on your computer.

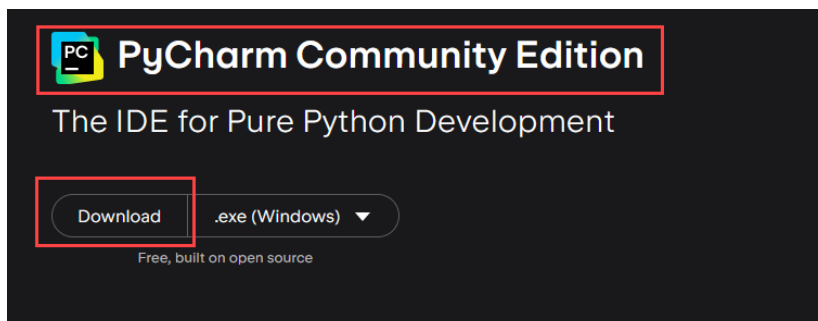
This document will describe how to install and configure PyCharm. In another document we describe how to install Python, and you should have already used that document to get Python 3.13.x installed.

Note that the screenshots for this document are shown for a Windows 10 installation. You should follow a similar process for Windows 11 and MacOS.

INSTALLING PYCHARM

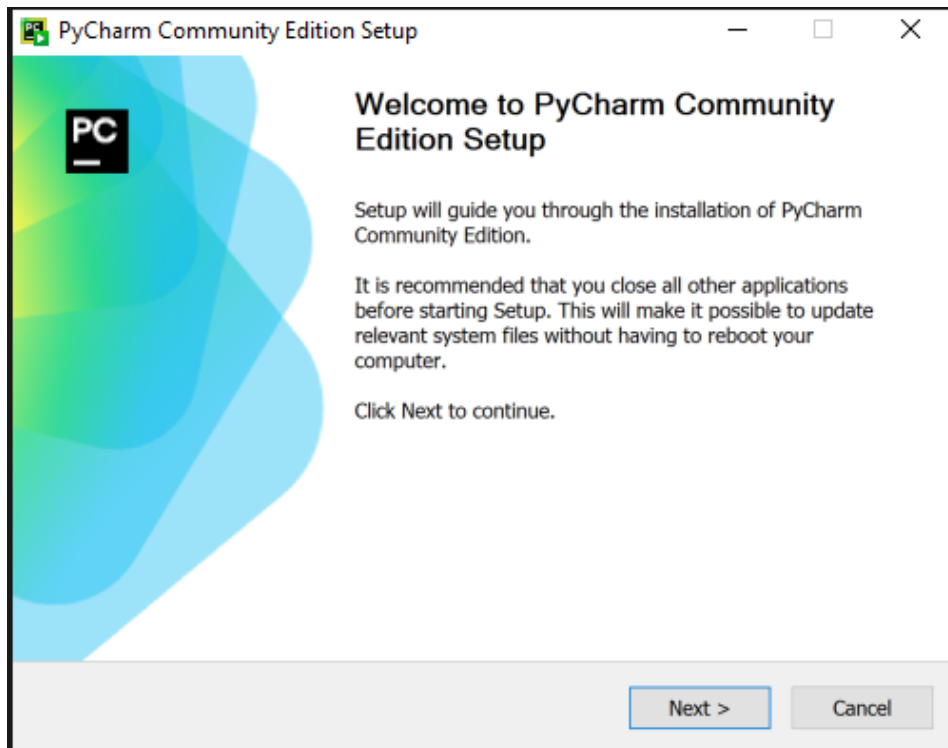
STEP 1

We are using **PyCharm**. Please go to the [JetBrains](https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download) website [URL: <https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download>] to download the latest version of PyCharm. NOTE: The pictures show an installation of PyCharm Community 2024.1.1 on Windows, but the process should be similar for the latest version.



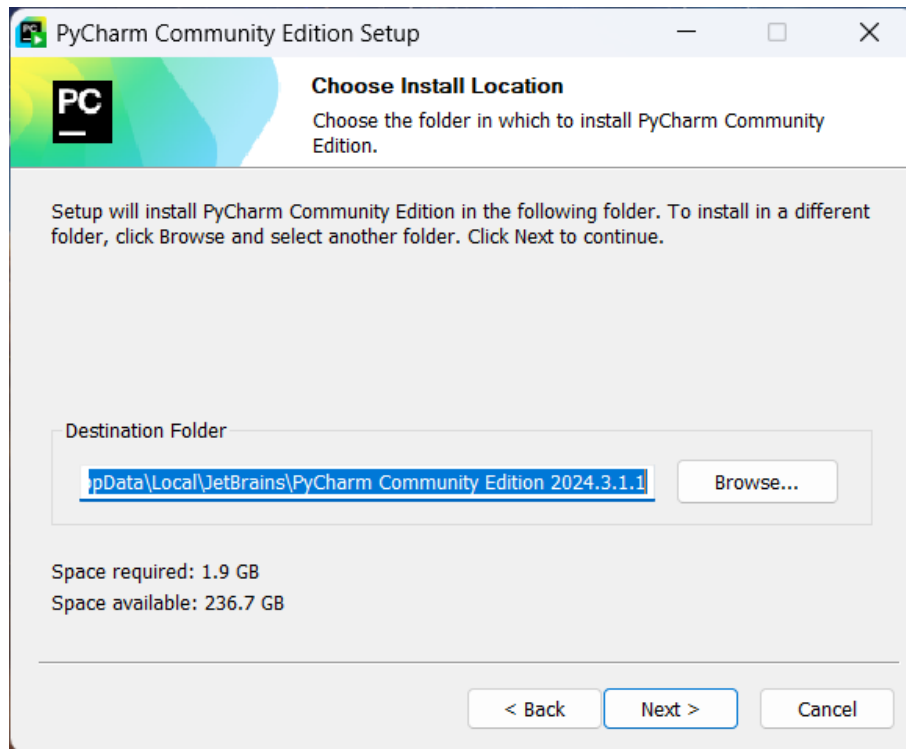
STEP 2

Start the installer when the download is complete. The PyCharm Setup Wizard will start. Click *Next* to begin. We only show the installation of PyCharm in Windows in the rest of this document. The installation process is similar in other operating systems.



STEP 3

You will be asked to choose the folder in which to install PyCharm. Just use the default. Then click *Next*.



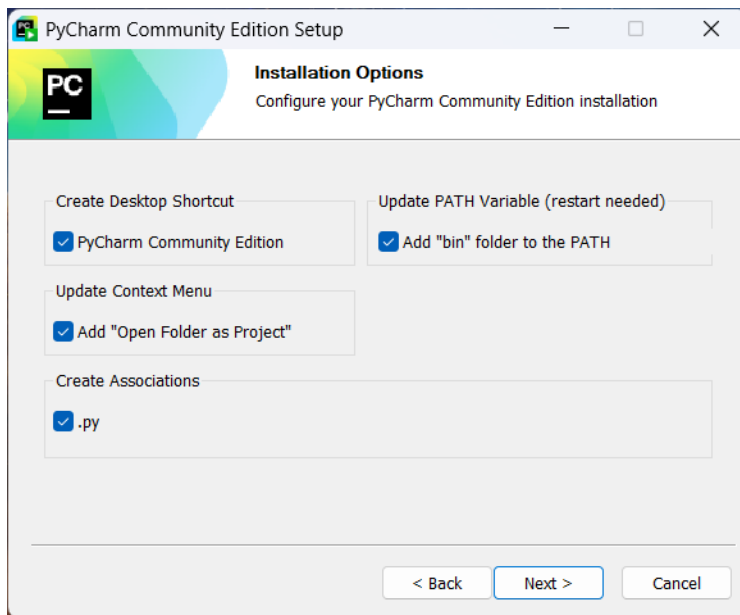
STEP 4

You are presented the Installation Options dialog. Check or select these boxes:

- **PyCharm**
- **Add “bin” folder to the PATH**
- **.py**

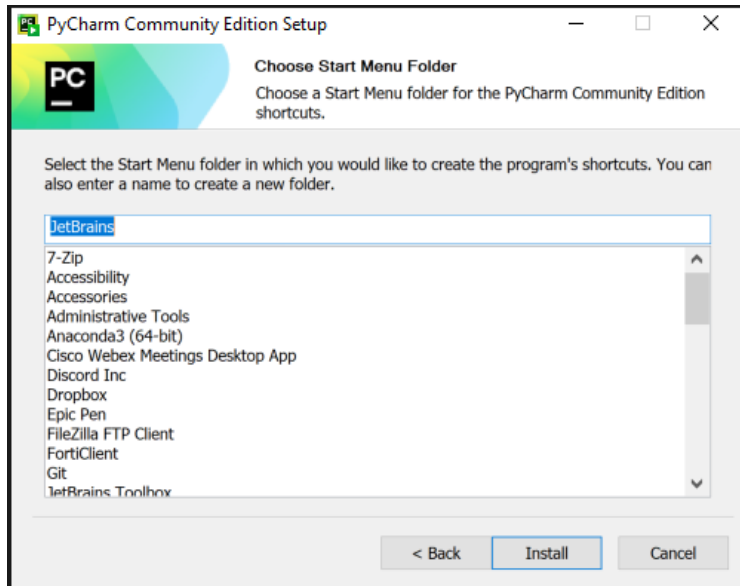
Optionally you can select the checkbox next to **Add “Open Folder as Project”**.

Then click *Next*.



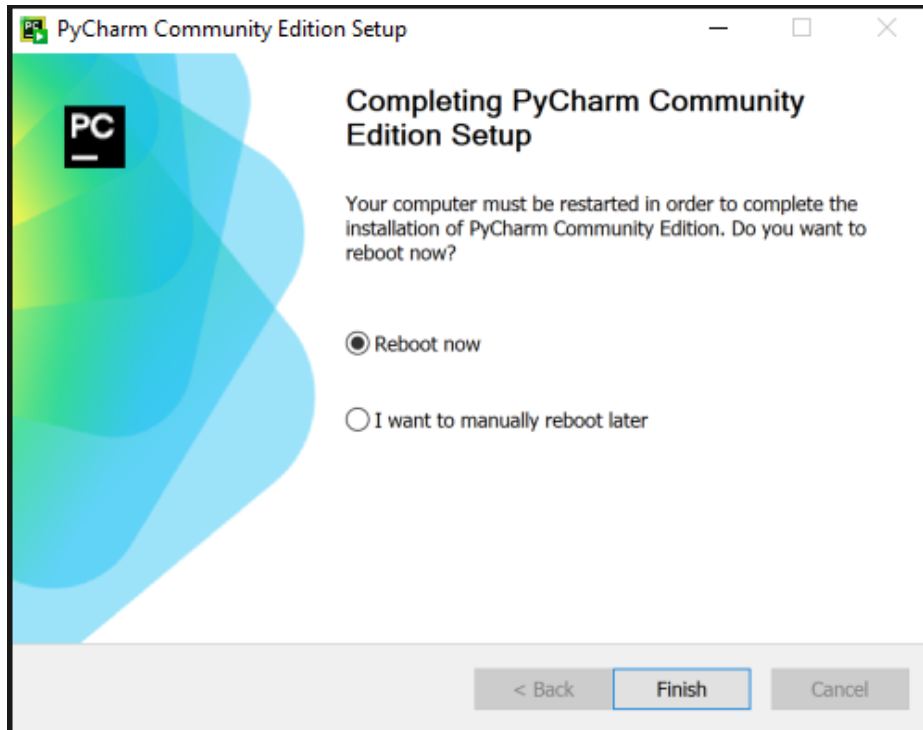
STEP 5

You will be asked to choose Start Menu Folder. Just use the default “JetBrains”. Then click *Install*.



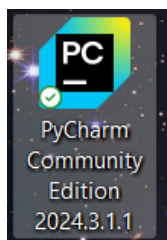
STEP 6

The Setup Wizard will then install PyCharm on your computer. Wait until it is done. Check the box 'Reboot now'. Then click *Finish*. Your computer will reboot.



STEP 7

You should see the shortcut to *PyCharm* on your desktop. Double click it to start the software.



In the next document, we'll look at how you use PyCharm to write your Python programs!