Node Version Manager install - nvm command not found

Asked 6 years, 3 months ago   Active 7 days ago   Viewed 215k times

I am trying to install NVM as per these [instructions](#)

232

I typed in this command in terminal:

```
$ curl https://raw.github.com/creationix/nvm/master/install.sh | sh
```

★

82

After running the install, I restart the terminal and attempt to install Node.js with this command:

```
$ nvm install 0.8
```

but I get the response:

```
-bash: nvm: command not found
```

I'm not sure what I am doing wrong here.

Additional Info--

I've been looking around for solutions from other posts and forums. I found another solution using

```
$ git clone git://github.com/creationix/nvm.git ~/.nvm
```

but this times out every time I attempt that. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks

22 Answers

Check your `.bash_profile` , `.zshrc` , or `.profile` file. You most likely had a problem during the installation.

282

You should have the following at the end of one of those files.

```
[[ -s $HOME/.nvm/nvm.sh ]] && . $HOME/.nvm/nvm.sh  # This loads NVM
```

The `. $HOME/.nvm/nvm.sh` is the same as `source $HOME/.nvm/nvm.sh`

See: Sourcing a File

You can also check to see if you have a `.nvm` folder.

```
ls -a | grep .nvm
```

If you're missing that folder then the installation failed to run the git command. This could be due to being behind a proxy. Try running the following instead.

```
git clone http://github.com/creationix/nvm.git .nvm
```

1 The `.nvm` should be a directory. It's installed via the following command `git clone git://github.com/creationix/nvm.git $NVM_TARGET` . You said previously that you tried to run that command yourself and it failed? Most likely you are behind a proxy and are not configured probably. Try running the follow...

13   also have the line, but 'source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh' works – Karl Morrison Mar 21 '15 at 12:22

2   If the .nvm folder is empty it's probably because fetching of the repo has failed due to xcode agreement license not been accepted. Running `sudo xcodebuild -license` and accepting the license (by pushing `space` for reaching the end of the license and to agree to its terms) does the trick. – Pierre Criulanscy Oct 5 '15 at 12:07

1   You may also need to `source .bashrc` or `source .profile` depending – Henry Tseng Feb 6 '16 at 16:32

1   Almost always those files will exists in your home dir. `source $HOME/.bashrc` , etc. – travis Feb 4 '17 at 20:18

I think you missed this step:

491

```
source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh
```

You can run this command on the bash OR you can put it in the file /.bashrc or ~/.profile to automatically load it

https://github.com/creationix/nvm

edited Dec 7 '14 at 23:35	answered Jul 17 '13 at 18:15
geoyws	Deepak Lamichhane
1,219 18 30	**7,050** 4 24 39

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31   This helped me. This step is only listed under *manual install*, so it's missed easily. – kleinfreund Jul 28 '14 at 7:52

4   Let's make the documentation better. I've created an issue on the nvm repo: github.com/creationix/nvm/issues/748 – Jonny Burger May 6 '15 at 9:17

3   I executed this manually multiple times until I finally put it in my .bashrc! – Brady Dowling Jul 21 '15 at 22:05

1   this worked for me but in order to automate it i had to create profile first. "touch ~/.profile", "open ~/.profile" , paste above, save+ close. works in new windows now – Sonic Soul Jun 4 '16 at 15:47

This works for me:

51

1. Before installing `nvm` , run this in terminal: `touch ~/.bash_profile`

2. After, run this in terminal:
   `curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.33.1/install.sh | bash`

3. **Important...** - DO NOT forget to *Restart* your terminal **OR** use command `source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh` (this will refresh the available commands in your system path).

4. In terminal, use command `nvm --version` and you should see the version

edited Jul 3 at 14:32   answered Mar 27 '17 at 3:54

Alireza
61k   14   197   132

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5   3) Don't forget to Restart your terminal Key component! That's why mine wasn't working. Thanks – Sebastian Mar 31 '17 at 1:04

How does one "Restart [their] terminal Key component"? – user3411192 May 3 '17 at 14:34

1   This one did it for me. Thanks very much! – Slbox Sep 2 '18 at 16:03

1   Wow, this was the only answer that worked in my case. Thank you so much. – Roman Frolov Oct 25 '18 at 7:18

1   this one saved my day – John Cris Mañabo May 15 at 7:30

`source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh` Add this line to ~/.bashrc, ~/.profile, or ~/.zshrc

40

answered Feb 28 '14 at 2:22

user2015258
757   7   5

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4   this is the "permanant" solution that lasts across multiple shells or shell sessions. – ahnbizcad Nov 10 '15 at 6:24 ✎

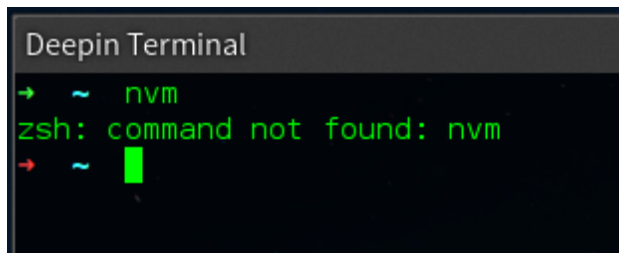3   It was .bash_profile for me on Mac OS 10.12.6. – Félix Gagnon-Grenier May 14 '18 at 14:21

Quick answer

31   Figure out the following:

1. Which shell is your terminal using, type in: `echo $0` to find out (normally works)
2. Which start-up file does that shell load when starting up **(NOT *login shell starting file*, the normal *shell starting file*, there is a difference!)**
3. Add `source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh` to that file (assuming that file exists at that location, it is the default install location)
4. Start a new terminal session
5. Profit?

Example

As you can see it states `zsh` and not `bash`.

To fix this I needed to add `source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh` to the `~/.zshrc` file as when starting a new terminal my Deepin Terminal zsh reads `~/.zshrc` and not bashs `~/.bashrc`.

Why does this happen

This happens because when installing NVM it adds code to `~/.bashrc`, as my terminal Deepin Terminal uses `zsh` and not `bash` it never reads `~/.bashrc` and therefor never loads NVM.

In other words: this is NVMs fault.

More on `zsh` can be read on one of the answers here.

edited Jul 16 '18 at 4:39   answered Mar 21 '15 at 13:21

great answer thanks ;) – t3__rry Sep 27 '18 at 10:09

Best answer in this thread – Dimitris Filippou Dec 2 '18 at 12:39

you can simply put zsh at the end of the curl command. eg: curl raw.github.com/creationix/nvm/master/install.sh | zsh – Prabhakar Jun 5 at 11:16

In macOS, i had to source it using `source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh` command to fix this problem.

21 After that, add these lines

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && . "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" # This loads nvm
```

onto `~/.bash_profile` so that nvm will be sourced automatically upon login.

edited Nov 12 '16 at 13:14

answered Dec 5 '15 at 10:36

hd84335

2,793　3　25　33

First add following lines in ~/.bashrc file

8
```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"  # This loads nvm
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion"  # This loads
nvm bash_completion
```

then open terminal and source the nvm.sh script

```
source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh
```

answered Sep 20 '18 at 6:47

KARTHIKEYAN A

2   this worked for me thank you – Richard Oct 11 '18 at 15:56

Not directly connected to the question, but there is a similar problem that may happen, take a look at this question: Can't execute nvm from new bash

5

Here's my answer on that post, just for the reference:

If you are running from a new bash instance, and you HAVE the initialization code at your ~/.bashrc, ~/.bash_profile, etc, then you need to check this initialization file for conditionals.

On Ubuntu 14, there is a:

```
case $- in
    *i*) ;;
      *) return;;
esac
```

At line 6, that will halt it's execution if bash is not being ran with the "-i" (interactive) flag. So you would need to run:

```
bash -i
```

Also, at the end of the file, there is a

```
[ -z "$PS1" ] && return
```

That will halt it's execution if not being ran with $PS1 set (like on a remote ssh session).

If you do not wish to add any env vars or flags, you will need to remove those conditionals from your initialization file.

Hope that's helpful.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:18   answered Jun 23 '15 at 20:39

All answers to this questions are useful. Especially the answer given by Travis helped me. For Mac OS X users I would like to provide some steps which will help them to work with the fresh installation of Node Version Manager a.k.a. nvm.

5

Installing & using nvm on Mac OS X

Here are the steps for fresh installation of nvm and using it without any issue:

- Install homebrew from here.

- Using homebrew install nvm

  ```
  brew update
  brew install nvm
  ```

- Create `.nvm` directory at `~/.nvm` location.

  ```
  mkdir ~/.nvm
  ```

- Now if you don't have `.bash_profile` file setup for OS X terminal then please create a `.bash_profile` at the root level:

  ```
  nano ~/.bash_profile
  ```

- Paste below code in the `.bash_profile` and press `CTRL + O` and press enter to save `.bash_profile` file. Press `CTRL + X` to exit from editor:

  ```
  export NVM_DIR=~/.nvm
   source $(brew --prefix nvm)/nvm.sh
  ```

- Now either quite (`CMD + Q`) the terminal or run below command to load `.bash_profile` settings:

  ```
  source ~/.bash_profile
  ```

- Now run `nvm ls` command to get the list of all installed nodejs versions.

<div align="right">

edited May 20 '18 at 18:17   answered May 20 '18 at 17:26

S.Mishra

1,645   14   13

</div>

Thank you, I think that what missed for me was creating the `.nvm` directory. – icarovirtual Jun 10 at 19:34

If you are using OS X, you might have to create your .bash_profile file before running the installation command. That did it for me.

4   Create the profile file

```
touch ~/.bash_profile
```

Re-run the install and you'll see a relevant line in the output this time.

> => Appending source string to /Users/{username}/.bash_profile

Reload your profile (or close/re-open the Terminal window).

```
. ~/.bash_profile
```

	edited Mar 3 '16 at 21:00	answered May 4 '15 at 13:13
	patridge	Nicolas Bouliane
	21.3k 15 77 120	**839** 7 14

Add the following lines to the files `~/.bashrc` and `~/.bash_profile` :

4
```
# NVM changes
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"
```

and restart the terminal or do `source ~/.bashrc` or `source ~/.bash_profile` . If you need command completion for nvm then also add the line:

```
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion"
```

Along with the above lines to `~/.bashrc` and `~/.bash_profile` .

answered Jul 16 '17 at 12:44

vantony

The nvm install script by default adds initialization code to your `$HOME/.profile` , which is only loaded by a login shell (in a desktop environment you may never see a login shell).

2

The nvm command in your login shell is not propagated to sub-shells (like console windows and IDE terminals after you log in). This snippet in your `$HOME/.bashrc` will only load nvm if it is an interactive shell and has not been loaded already

```
# if nvm dir is not set and the standard nvm directory exists
if [ -z "$NVM_DIR" -a -d "$HOME/.nvm" ] ; then
# set nvm dir
  export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
fi

# if nvm dir is set and this shell is interactive
if [ -d "$NVM_DIR" -a -n "$PS1" ] ; then
  # if nvm command is not defined
  if ! type -t nvm >/dev/null ; then
    # set it
    source "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"
  fi
fi
```

Putting this in your `$HOME/.bashrc` file will fix the missing nvm problem in interactive bash shells, even from a gui, and even if nvm is installed in a non-standard location.

answered Jun 8 '16 at 5:27

Warren MacEvoy
560 5 10

I had fixed this problem.

2

1. touch ~/.bash_profile

2. open ~/.bash_profile

3. paste export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
   [-s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" # This loads nvm

For the issue was fixed when I moved

2

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"  # This loads nvm
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion"  # This loads
nvm bash_completion
```

to the end of `.zshrc`

answered Jul 11 '18 at 13:15

almeynman
2,363　3　15　27

On Debian, as well as adding the below lines to my .bash_profile as one of the above answers said. I also had to open up my terminal preferences (Edit -> Profile Preferences -> Command) and enable 'Run command as a login shell' to get it to work.

1

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && . "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" # This loads nvm
```

Edit: For those on Mac be aware that macOS doesn't read .bashrc on Terminal start, so using .bash_profile is preferable. See Here.

edited May 28 '17 at 16:56　　　　answered May 23 '17 at 13:42

tomhughes
1,853　1　12　23

For my case, it because I use **fish**. if I not start **fish**, just type nvm will no error now.

How did you stop the **fish** ? – Matko Feb 27 '18 at 13:54

type `exit` @MobileDream. – JerryZhou Mar 8 '18 at 9:03

0

For me this worked. First check that the file `.bashrc` has following line

`[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && . "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"  # This loads nvm`

Now `bashrc` is loaded for each terminal session. Thus restart the terminal so that it is loaded again and you should be good to go.

answered Apr 21 '17 at 16:57

priyankvex
3,299   2   18   37

0

In `Windows 8.1 x64` same happened with me, and received the following message.

> nvm install 8.3.0 bash: nvm: command not found windows

So, follow or verify below following steps-

first install `coreybutler/nvm-windows` from `github.com` . Currently available latest release 1.1.5 `nvm-setup.zip` , later extracted the setup `nvm-setup.exe` and install as following locations:

```
NVM_HOME    : C:\Users\Administrator\nvm
NVM_SYMLINK : C:\Program Files\nodejs
```

and meanwhile setup will manage the environment variable to `Path` as above said for you.

Now *run* `Git Bash` *as Administrator* and then.

```
Downloading node.js version 8.3.0 (64-bit)...
Complete
Creating C:\Users\Administrator\nvm\temp

Downloading npm version 5.3.0... Complete
Installing npm v5.3.0...

Installation complete. If you want to use this version, type

nvm use 8.3.0

$ nvm use 8.3.0
Now using node v8.3.0 (64-bit)
```

here run your command without using prefix `$` , it is just shown here to determine it as a command line and now we will verify the nvm version.

```
$ nvm --version
Running version 1.1.5.

Usage:
----------------------
```

if you have problem using `nvm` to install `node` , you can see this list of available `nodejs` releases here `https://nodejs.org/download/release/` and choose the correct installer as per your requirement version equal or higher than `v6.3.0` directly.

answered Feb 4 '18 at 11:47

ArifMustafa
2,118   2   23   33

0

I also faced the same problem recently and sourcing nvm bash script by using source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh resolved this issue.

answered Apr 5 '18 at 16:09

Vishnu Dubey
41   2   4

0

```
wget -qO- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.33.11/install.sh |
bash`
source ~/.nvm/nvm.sh`
nvm install 0.8
```

0

After trying multiple steps, not sure what was the problem in my case but running this helped:

```
touch ~/.bash_profile
curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.32.1/install.sh |
bash
```

Verified by `nvm --version`

```
[Admins-MBP-5:~ zameer$ nvm --version
0.34.0
```

0

For MacOS;

Run on Terminal >

```
open ~/.bash_profile
```

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && . "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" # This loads nvm
```

answered Sep 3 at 18:21

Yunus ER
21   7

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protected by eyllanesc May 20 '18 at 18:17

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?