

Using pip

The pip program actually comes with Python 3.4. If you have an older version of Python, then you will need to install pip manually. Installing pip is a little bit different than what we have previously discussed. You still go to PyPI, but instead of downloading the package and running its [setup.py](#) script, you will be asked to download a single script called [get-pip.py](#). Then you will need to execute it by doing the following:

```
python get-pip.py
```



This will install **setuptools** or an alternative to setuptools called **distribute** if one of them is not already installed. It will also install pip. pip works with CPython versions 2.6, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and also pypy. You can use pip to install anything that easy_install can install, but the invocation is a bit different. To install a package, do the following:

```
pip install package_name
```



To upgrade a package, you would do this:

```
pip install -U PackageName
```



You may want to call **pip -h** to get a full listing of everything pip can do. One thing that pip can install that easy_install cannot is the Python **wheel** format. A wheel is a ZIP-format archive with a specially formatted filename and the **.whl** extension. You can also install wheels via its own command line utility. On the other hand, pip cannot install an egg. If you need to install an egg, you will want to use easy_install.

