

# Python Getting Started

## Python Install

Many PCs and Macs will have python already installed.


To check if you have python installed on a Windows PC, search in the start bar for Python or run the following on the Command Line (cmd.exe):

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python --version
```

To check if you have python installed on a Linux or Mac, then on linux open the command line or on Mac open the Terminal and type:

```
python --version
```

If you find that you do not have Python installed on your computer, then you can download it for free from the following website: <https://www.python.org/>



The image shows the Python.org website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Python, PSF, Docs, PyPI, Jobs, and Community. Below this is the Python logo, a search bar with a 'GO' button, and a 'Socialize' button. A secondary navigation bar contains links for About, Downloads, Documentation, Community, Success Stories, News, and Events. The main content area features a prominent heading: 'Download the latest version for Windows'. Below this heading is a yellow button labeled 'Download Python 3.10.4'. Further down, there are links for 'Python for Windows, Linux/UNIX, macOS, Other', 'Prereleases', and 'Docker images'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link for 'Looking for Python 2.7? See below for specific releases'. The background of the main content area is dark blue with a graphic of two yellow and white striped parachutes carrying cardboard boxes.

---

# Python Quickstart

Python is an interpreted programming language, this means that as a developer you write Python (.py) files in a text editor and then put those files into the python interpreter to be executed.

The way to run a python file is like this on the command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python helloworld.py
```

Where "helloworld.py" is the name of your python file.

Let's write our first Python file, called helloworld.py, which can be done in any text editor.

```
helloworld.py
```

```
print("Hello, World!")
```

Simple as that. Save your file. Open your command line, navigate to the directory where you saved your file, and run:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python helloworld.py
```

The output should read:

```
Hello, World!
```

Congratulations, you have written and executed your first Python program.

---

# The Python Command Line

To test a short amount of code in python sometimes it is quickest and easiest not to write the code in a file. This is made possible because Python can be run as a command line itself.

Type the following on the Windows, Mac or Linux command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python
```

Or, if the "python" command did not work, you can try "py":

```
C:\Users\Your Name>py
```

From there you can write any python, including our hello world example from earlier in the tutorial:

Which will write "Hello, World!" in the command line:

```
C:\Users\Your Name>python

Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit
(Intel)] on win32

Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.

>>> print("Hello, World!")

Hello, World!
```

Whenever you are done in the python command line, you can simply type the following to quit the python command line interface:

```
exit()
```