

Python Installation Guide for Windows

This guide will walk you through installing Python on Windows from scratch. No prior experience required.

Step 1: Check if Python is Already Installed

Before installing Python, let's check if it's already on your system:

1. Press `Windows Key + R` to open the Run dialog
2. Type `cmd` and press Enter to open Command Prompt
3. Type `python --version` and press Enter
4. If Python is installed, you'll see a version number (like `Python 3.11.5`)
5. If you see an error or "command not found," Python is not installed

****Important**:** If you see Python 2.x (like Python 2.7), you'll need to install Python 3.x as this book requires Python 3.8 or higher.

Step 2: Download Python

1. Open your web browser and go to [<https://python.org>] (<https://python.org/>)
2. Click the yellow "Download Python 3.x.x" button (the exact version may vary)
3. This downloads the latest stable version for Windows
4. The file will be named something like `python-3.11.5-amd64.exe`

Step 3: Run the Python Installer

1. Locate the downloaded file (usually in your Downloads folder)

2. ****Right-click**** the installer and select "Run as administrator"
3. ****CRITICAL****: Check the box that says "Add Python to PATH" at the bottom
4. Click "Install Now" for the recommended installation
5. Wait for the installation to complete (usually 2-5 minutes)
6. Click "Close" when finished

Step 4: Verify the Installation

1. Open a new Command Prompt window:
 - Press `Windows Key + R`
 - Type `cmd` and press Enter
2. Type `python --version` and press Enter
3. You should see something like `Python 3.11.5`
4. Type `pip --version` and press Enter
5. You should see pip version information

Step 5: Test Python is Working

1. In the same Command Prompt, type `python` and press Enter
2. You should see the Python interpreter start with `>>>`
3. Type `print("Hello, World!")` and press Enter
4. You should see "Hello, World!" printed
5. Type `exit()` and press Enter to leave Python

Step 6: Install a Code Editor (Optional but Recommended)

While you'll primarily use Cursor for this book, having a simple text editor is helpful:

1. Download and install ****Notepad++**** from <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/>
2. Or use the built-in ****Notepad**** that comes with Windows

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Problem: "Python is not recognized as an internal or external command"

****Solution**:** Python wasn't added to PATH during installation.

1. Uninstall Python from Control Panel > Programs and Features
2. Re-download and reinstall, making sure to check "Add Python to PATH"
3. Restart your computer after installation

Problem: Multiple Python versions showing up

****Solution**:** This is common and usually fine.

1. Use `py -3` instead of `python` to specifically use Python 3
2. Use `py -3 --version` to check the Python 3 version

Problem: Permission errors during installation

****Solution**:**

1. Right-click the installer
2. Select "Run as administrator"
3. If still having issues, temporarily disable antivirus during installation

What You've Accomplished

You now have:

- Python 3.x installed and working
- pip (Python package manager) ready to install additional libraries
- A working command line environment
- The foundation needed to follow along with this book

Next Steps

With Python installed, you're ready to:

1. Install Cursor AI (covered in Chapter 1)
2. Begin your vibe coding journey
3. Start building applications with AI assistance

Remember: If you encounter any issues during installation, the Python community is very helpful. The official Python documentation at [<https://docs.python.org>] (<https://docs.python.org/>) contains additional troubleshooting resources.