

Preparing your computer for “Python from Scratch”

In the course you will need three programs on your computer:

1. Python 3
2. a text editor
3. a terminal/command line

If you have any problems with one of these steps we will offer a “Get your computer ready” day on Friday, March 20th.

1. Installing Python 3

Windows

Go to www.python.org/downloads/ and download the Python 3.4.3 installer for Windows. Run the installer.

In the “Customize Python 3.4.1” window make sure to check the “Add python.exe to Path” option at the bottom of the list of options.

Mac OS X

Go to www.python.org/downloads/ and download the Python 3.4.3 installer for Mac OS X. Run the installer.

Linux

Install Python 3 from your distributions software repository (if it is not there you probably know what to do).

2. Text Editor

You can use any text editor you like, however a word processor (like Microsoft Word) is **not** suitable. The following are the suggested text editors for the different operating systems.

Windows: Notepad++

You can download Notepad++ from: <http://notepad-plus-plus.org/>

It will be helpful to activate tab replacement. You can do this under Settings → Preferences. Select “Tab Settings” on the left and check the “Replace by space” box on the bottom right.

Mac OS X: TextWrangler

You can download TextWrangler from: <http://www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler/>

It will be helpful to activate tab replacement. Under “Preferences” select “Editor Defaults” on the left. Check the “Auto-expand tabs” box and set “Tab width” to 4.

Linux: gedit

Install gedit from your distributions software repository.

It will be helpful to activate tab replacement. Under “Preferences” select the “Editor” tab. Set “Tab width” to 4 and check the “Insert spaces instead of tabs” box.

3. Terminal

Windows: PowerShell

Open the start menu and start typing into the search box: PowerShell. Once PowerShell shows up on the top, click on it.

Mac OS X:

You can find the default terminal in the finder under: Application → Utilities → Terminal

Linux:

Use your default terminal.

4. Testing Your Python Installation

Windows

Download the test script from http://begendiv.imp.fu-berlin.de/external_images_texts/pythoncourse/python_setup_test_windows.bat and run it.

Mac OS X/Linux

Download the test script from http://begendiv.imp.fu-berlin.de/external_images_texts/pythoncourse/python_setup_test_linux_and_mac.sh and run it.