How to Install Python on Windows & macOS

This guide will walk you through installing Python on your computer so you can run Python scripts.

What is Python?

Python is a popular and versatile programming language. Think of it as a set of instructions that a computer can understand and follow to perform specific tasks. The **DOCX Typeface Changer** (**docx_typeface_changer.py**) script is written in Python, so you need to install the Python "interpreter" on your computer. The interpreter acts like a translator, reading the script's instructions and telling your computer what to do.

For Windows 10 and Windows 11

The installation process is identical for both Windows 10 and 11.

Step 1: Download the Python Installer

1. **Open your web browser** and go to the official Python website: python.org.
2. Hover over the **"Downloads"** menu. You should see a button to download the latest version for Windows.
3. Click the button that says **"Download Python 3.x.x"** (the 'x's will be the latest version numbers). This will download the installer file to your computer.

Step 2: Run the Python Installer

1. Once the download is complete, open your **Downloads** folder and find the installer file (it will be named something like python-3.x.x-amd64.exe).
2. **Double-click the installer** to run it.

Step 3: Configure the Installation

This is the most important step!!! When the installer window appears:

1. At the bottom of the window, **check the box** that says **"Add Python 3.x to PATH"**. This is crucial as it allows you to run Python from the command prompt easily.
2. After checking that box, click on **"Install Now"**. This will start the installation with the recommended settings.
3. Windows will ask for administrator permission to proceed. Click **"Yes"**.

The installer will now copy all the necessary files to your system.

Step 4: Verify the Installation

1. Open the **Start Menu** and type **cmd**. Select the **"Command Prompt"** application.
2. In the black window that appears, type the following command and press Enter:

   python --version

3. If the installation was successful, you will see the Python version number printed in the window (e.g., Python 3.12.4).

If you have made a mistake installing Python, you can always repeat the process again from Step 1.

For macOS

For macOS, the best way to install and manage Python is by using a free package manager called Homebrew.

Step 1: Check for Homebrew and Install if Needed

1. Open the **Terminal** app (you can find it in Applications/Utilities/ or by searching with Spotlight).
2. Type the following command and press **Enter** to check if you have Homebrew installed:

   brew --version

3. If you see a version number, you can skip to Step 2. If you see an error like "command not found," you need to install Homebrew. Paste the following command into your Terminal and press **Enter**:

   /bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"

   Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

Step 2: Install Python using Homebrew

1. With the Terminal open, run the following command to install the latest version of Python:

   brew install python3

2. Homebrew will download and install Python for you. This may take a few minutes.

Step 3: Verify the Installation

1. Once the installation is complete, close and reopen the Terminal app to ensure the path is updated.
2. Type the following command and press Enter:

   python3 --version

3. If successful, you will see the Python version number (e.g., Python 3.12.4). Note that on macOS, you should use the python3 command to run scripts.

If you have made a mistake installing Python, you can always repeat the process again from Step 1.

Congratulations! Python is now installed on your computer, and you are ready to run the script.