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How to install Python 1.5.2 on your Macintosh

If this is your first encounter with Python: you definitely need the common user documentation (common to all platforms). You can find this (in various forms) on www.python.org and ftp.python.org. Through there, or via <http://www.cwi.nl/~jack/macpython.html> you can also find the most recent MacPython distribution.

Mac-specific documentation is included in this distribution in folder Mac:Demo. The documentation is sparse, but it will have to serve for now. The documentation is in HTML format, start with index.html.

Caveats

There are still problems with cfm68k Python. 68K Mac users should probably try to use the cfm68k distribution first, and revert to the classic 68k distribution in case the bugs make their Python unworkable. The main problem is that packages ("dotted import") and NumPy printing don't work.

What to install

There are three flavors of Python: PowerPC, cfm68k and Classic 68k (the FAT flavor is just a combination of the first two, which is handy if you want to install Python on a fileserver or so). 68K-mac owners should definitely use the cfm68k version if possible, since it enables the use of applets and dynamically loaded modules and usually has a smaller memory footprint. If you have an older system than MacOS 8 it does however need the CFM68K Runtime Enabler which is available from Apple (available for free from <http://support.info.apple.com/ftp/swhome.html>), included since MacOS 7.6.1 and builtin to the system since MacOS 8). If your machine is pre-68020 you cannot use cfm68k and you can install the classic 68k Python.

After the installer finishes it automatically launches the ConfigurePython applet, to finish configuration of your Python installation (except for classic 68K installations, where no extra configuration is needed).

If you have a pre-system 7 macintosh: sorry, this release will not work on your system. Too many sys7 features are used to make a sys6 python easy to create.

If you don't have enough memory: the sizes choosen are somewhat arbitrary. Try lowering the application sizes in the finder "get info" window, and seeing whether the resulting python is still usable. Some modules (Tkinter comes to mind) need a lot of memory, so it may also be necessary to increase the application size.

A final note to CFM68K (and possibly PPC) users: the Code Fragment Manager can (incorrectly) produce "library not found" and other strange error messages when it really means that there is not enough room in the system heap. Decreasing (yes, *de*creasing) the size of the interpreter and/or enabling virtual memory may solve these problems.

After installing

The first step thing you could try is to run "compileall.py" to create all .pyc files, but this isn't very important, as pyc files are created on-the-fly as well. You may also want to skip this step if you are low on diskpace.

Next, it is probably a good idea to run the automatic tests. Start Python and "import test.autotest". This should not print any errors. It will, however, print some messages about optional features not supported. Also, if you didn't run compileall before autotesting you may run out of memory the first time you run the tests. test_socket may also fail if you have no internet connection. Please also read the Relnotes file for other minor

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problems with this distribution.

PPC and CFM68K users have a couple of applets in the main folder they may want to try, (68K users can use the corresponding scripts from the "scripts" folder):

- EditPythonPrefs allows you to edit the preferences file, to change the python home folder or modify the initial sys.path setting. The default settings are somewhat arbitrary, you can remove tkinter if you don't use it and possibly add Extensions:img:Lib. - mkapplet creates a python applet, a tiny application written in python. Drop a python source on it and out comes the application. More information can be found in the "Mac:Demo" folder.

If you have a slow machine you may want to disable automatic site.py import since site.py does not do too much on the mac (unless you make it do something), and it can take a few seconds.

PPC and CFM68K users will see one more file in the python folder: PythonApplet. This is the template for building applets, leave it alone. The applet is "fat", containing both PPC and CFM68K code. Hence, applets built with it can be transported to machines with the other architecture.

Uninstalling

Two items are installed in the system folder: the interpreter shared library "PythonCore 1.5.2b1" lives in the Extensions folder and the "Python 1.5.2b1 Preferences" file in the Preferences folder. All the rest of Python lives in the folder you installed in.

Things to see

There are some readme files in the "Read me files" folder that may contain useful information. There is also a first stab at documentation (plus examples) in the Mac:Demo folder. The toplevel Demo folder has machine-independent demos. See the file Readme-mac for mac-specific notes. The Mac:Lib:test folder also has some programs that show simple capabilities of various modules.

The "scripts" folder has some sample scripts. Some are useful, some are just interesting to look at to see how various things work. The MkDistr, mkapplet and fullbuild scripts (plus the ones mentioned above) may help you to understand how to use AppleEvents and various other toolboxes from python.

The 'img' group of modules, which handles I/O of many different image formats is included, but without documentation. You can find docs at <ftp://ftp.cwi.nl/pub/jack/python/img> (or somewhere around there).

Finally there is a Mac:Contrib folder which contains some contributed software, including a Real Programming Environment and some AppleScript related modules.

Upgrading from older Python releases

Since release 1.4 Python releases are independent of each other, with separate Preferences files, shared library names, etc. The good news is that this means you can keep your older version around if you are unsure whether to upgrade. The bad news is that your old preference settings are lost and you have to set them again.

After you are satisfied that 1.5.2b1 works as expected you can trash anything in the system folder that has "python" in the name and not "1.5.2b1".

The installer

The installer for this product was created using Installer VISE Lite

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from MindVision Software. For more information on Installer VISE Lite,
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Just van Rossum <just@letterror.nl> created the installer.

Feedback

Send bug reports, suggestions, contributions and fanmail to
<jack@cwil.nl>. However, a better way to discuss MacPython is to join the
<pythonmac-sig@python.org> mailing list, which is explicitly meant for
this purpose.

Alternatively, you can try sending to comp.lang.python or
python-list@cwil.nl, but since I read the newsgroup, not the mailinglist,
I may miss it there (but other people may know quite a bit more than me
anyway:-).

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