

Anaconda Distribution Installation Guide

Step-by-Step Setup for Windows, macOS, and Linux Environments

Overview: Anaconda is the industry standard for Python-based data science and machine learning. This guide will walk you through downloading, installing, and validating your environment successfully.

Step 1: Download the Installer

1. Open your web browser and go to the official URL: anaconda.com/download
2. The website automatically detects your computer's operating system. Click the prominent **Download** button.
3. The installer file is relatively large (~1 GB). Wait for the download to complete before proceeding.

Step 2: Platform-Specific Installation Steps

Windows

1. Double-click the downloaded .exe file to launch the installation wizard.
2. Click **Next**, then click **I Agree** to accept the license terms.
3. Select **Just Me (Recommended)** and click Next.
4. Choose the default installation path directory and click Next.
5. **Advanced Options:** Leave "Add Anaconda3 to my PATH" unchecked. Check "Register Anaconda3 as my default Python". Click **Install**.

macOS

1. Double-click the downloaded .pkg graphical installer package to start.
2. Click **Continue** through the Introduction, Read Me, and License screens. Click **Agree**.
3. Select **Install for me only** as the destination type and click Continue.
4. Click **Install**. Enter your Mac computer user password if prompted to approve the system setup.

Linux

1. Open your system terminal window.
2. Navigate to your download tree folder location:
`cd ~/Downloads`
3. Run the interactive bash execution command script:
`bash Anaconda3-*.sh`
4. Press Enter to read terms, type yes to agree, accept default installation path.
5. When prompted to run conda init, type yes and hit Enter.

⚠ IMPORTANT (Windows Users): Leaving the "Add Anaconda3 to PATH" box unchecked prevents system-wide variable conflicts. Instead of using the default command prompt later, you will always launch commands using the dedicated **Anaconda Prompt** application.

I Step 3: Post-Installation Validation Steps

Perform these checkmarks to confirm your interactive environment is fully functional:

- ☐ **Open Anaconda Navigator:** Search for and launch "Anaconda Navigator" from your operating system application menu. This graphical dashboard loads your tool suite layout.
- ☐ **Launch Jupyter Notebook:** Locate the **Jupyter Notebook** application block icon grid item inside the Navigator dashboard window and click its corresponding **Launch** action button.
- ☐ **Browser Verification:** Confirm a local web browser page automatically loads showcasing a local server directory interface path tracking root file index maps.
- ☐ **Spawn a Test Environment Kernel:** On the top-right corner of the interface, click **New** → **Python 3** to open a clean computing workspace.
- ☐ **Run a Test Command:** In the first code cell window, type `print("Anaconda Setup Successful!")` and press **Shift + Enter** to execute it.

Need assistance? Please contact your course instructor or institutional IT laboratory support service channel desk.