

# Using the Python Distribution

This page provides important information for users of the Ice for Python distribution.

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## Overview of the Ice for Python Distribution

Ice for Python is available as a collection of Python packages on the [Python Package Index](#). Each package provides the following components:

- Ice extension for Python
- Standard Slice files
- Slice-to-Python compiler (`slice2py`)

## Installing the Ice for Python Distribution

Install Ice for Python using this command:

```
pip install zeroc-ice==3.6.4
```

On Linux this command will build and install the source package. On macOS and Windows it installs a pre-built wheel for the following configurations:

- Python 2.7 on macOS (64 bit) and Windows (32 bit and 64 bit)
- Python 3.6 on Windows (32 bit and 64 bit)

## Using Ice for Python

The installation process automatically adds the Ice modules to Python's package directory and adds the Slice-to-Python compiler (`slice2py`) to a directory that's likely already in your executable search path. To verify that Ice is installed, execute these commands:

```
python
>>> import Ice
>>> Ice.getSliceDir()
```

The output of `getSliceDir` shows where the standard Slice files have been installed.

The Ice manual provides a complete description of the [Python mapping](#), including the options for [generating Python code](#) from Slice definitions.

## Using the sample programs

Sample programs are provided in a separate [GitHub repository](#). You can browse this repository to see build and usage instructions for all supported programming languages. Simply clone this repository and use its 3.6 branch:

```
git clone -b 3.6 https://github.com/zeroc-ice/ice-demos.git
cd ice-demos
```