

Using the Python Distribution

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

On this page:

- [Overview of the Ice for Python Distribution](#)
- [Installing the Ice for Python Distribution](#)
- [Using Ice for Python](#)
- [Using the Sample Programs](#)

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:

- Ice extension for Python
- Slice files for all Ice components (Glacier2, Ice, IceGrid etc.)
- Slice-to-Python compiler (`slice2py`)



The [binary distributions for Linux](#) also include Python packages.

[Back to Top](#) ^

Installing the Ice for Python Distribution

Install Ice for Python using the pip source distribution. The following command will build and install the source package.:

```
pip install zeroc-ice
```

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)

[Back to Top](#) ^

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 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.

[Back to Top](#) ^

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:

```
git clone -b 3.7 https://github.com/zeroc-ice/ice-demos.git
cd ice-demos
```

[Back to Top ^](#)