



# Anaconda is squeezing us

Why and how to avoid Anaconda Inc.'s paid software and services

November 13, 2024 | Robert Speck & the JuRSE Team

# Background

## What is Anaconda?



**ANACONDA.** | [Products](#) [Solutions](#) [Resources](#) [Partners](#) [Company](#) [Free Download](#)

The Birthplace of Python Data Science

# We're not just a company; we're a movement.

Anaconda sits at the center of the AI revolution. We provide data science tools, MLOps, and data & model management to empower our customers and community with AI capabilities to propel their projects forward.

[Learn More >](#) [Careers >](#)

# Background

## What is Anaconda?



## Anaconda is ...

- ... a company providing lots of software and services around **Python** (and beyond)
- ... developer of software like the **Anaconda Distribution**
- ... driver of the “cross-platform, language-agnostic binary package manager” **conda**
- ... host of **conda repositories/”channels”** for Python packages (and beyond)
- ... quite well-known and widely used, especially in science, also here on campus
- ... a company that needs to earn money (and rightfully so)

# New Terms of Service

Already in 2020, but now "clarified"

"The distribution of packages Anaconda builds and maintains remains free for individuals and small organizations, which is defined in the Terms of Service as having less than 200 employees or contractors.

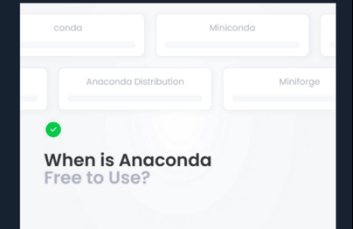
A paid license is required for large organizations, which is defined in the Terms of Service as having more than 200 employees or contractors.

Anaconda is **free for all educational entities**—even those with 200 or more employees or contractors—when used in a course curriculum, including teaching, learning, and researching, **at accredited universities worldwide.**"



Sep 18, 2024

## Update on Anaconda's Terms of Service for Academia and Research



Recently, our users at academic and research institutions have raised important questions about commercial fees in Anaconda's Terms of Service and their applicability in educational settings. We recognize that an update to the Terms of Service in March 2024 was not communicated as clearly as it should have been, causing confusion, concern, and unintentional exclusion of a large number of free users, particularly among our valued academic and research users. We take full responsibility for this lack of clarity and want to address it head-on.

Anaconda was founded with a vision to drive the adoption and growth of open-source tools for numerical computing, science, and data analytics. From the beginning, academic and research institutions have been at the heart of our ecosystem and community. **It's clear that our current legal language doesn't adequately reflect this commitment, and as such, we're preparing an update to our Terms of Service, End User License Agreement, and other related documents. Once updated, these documents shall continue to reflect our commitment to our valued academic and research users by, for example, reiterating that Anaconda remains free for students, researchers, and educators at accredited universities, with very limited exceptions.** This update, expected to conclude by year-end, aims to make our legal terms more accessible and understandable for our entire community.

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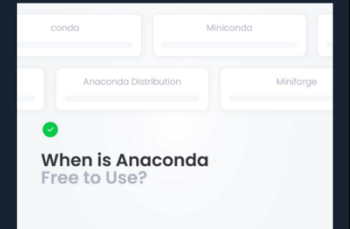
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# Details

## Avoiding license fees for FZJ



## Don'ts

- ❌ do not use Anaconda software like the Anaconda Distribution
- ❌ do not pull packages built and maintained by Anaconda (esp. `defaults` channel)
- ❌ do not keep using non-Anaconda packages managers with the `defaults` channel

## Dos

- ✅ use non-Anaconda package managers like `mini-forge` or `micromamba`
- ✅ use the `conda-forge` channel as alternative to the `defaults` channel
- ✅ check your existing environments for pulls from the `defaults` channel
- ✅ think about supporting open-source software development

# Alternatives

You have a choice!



**Mamba**

Search

**INSTALLATION**

- Mamba
- Micromamba

**USER GUIDE**

- Concepts
- Mamba
- Micromamba
- Configuration
- Troubleshooting

## Welcome to Mamba's documentation!

Mamba is a fast, robust, and cross-platform package manager.

It runs on Windows, OS X and Linux (ARM64 and PPC64LE included) and is fully compatible with `conda` packages and supports most of conda's commands.

The `mamba-org` organization hosts multiple Mamba flavors:

- `mamba`: a Python-based CLI conceived as a *drop-in* replacement for `conda`, offering higher speed and more reliable environment solutions
- `micromamba`: a pure C++-based CLI, self-contained in a single-file executable
- `libmamba`: a C++ library exposing low-level and high-level APIs on top of which both `mamba` and `micromamba` are built

**Note**

In this documentation, `Mamba` will refer to all flavors while flavor-specific details will mention `mamba`, `micromamba` or `libmamba`.

# Alternatives

You have a choice!



Miniforge Releases Latest History

**Latest**

Miniforge 24.7.1-2 #

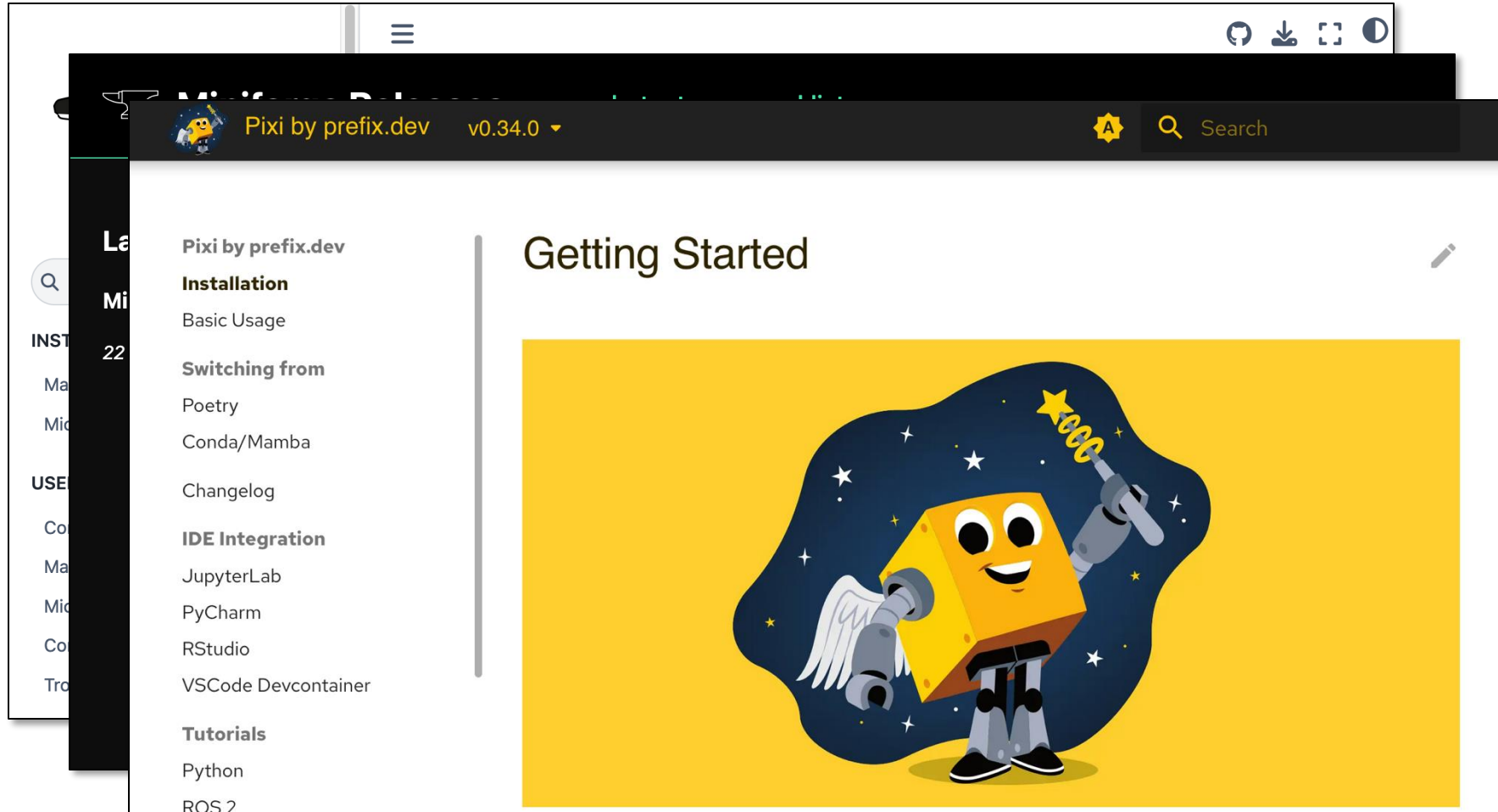
22 artifacts *released* 2024-09-22

Variant	OS	Arch	Artifact
Mambaforge	Linux	aarch64	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-Linux-aarch64
		ppc64le	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-Linux-ppc64le
		x86_64	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-Linux-x86_64
	MacOSX	arm64	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-MacOSX-arm64
		x86_64	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-MacOSX-x86_64
	Windows	x86_64	Mambaforge-24.7.1-2-Windows-x86_64
Mambaforge-pypy3	Linux	aarch64	Mambaforge-pypy3-24.7.1-2-Linux-aarch64
		ppc64le	Mambaforge-pypy3-24.7.1-2-Linux-ppc64le
		x86_64	Mambaforge-pypy3-24.7.1-2-Linux-x86_64



# Alternatives

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# Help?

JuRSE is here to help



## Resources for getting help:

#rse Rocket Chat channel

[https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/rse/the\\_latest/the-anaconda-is-squeezing-us](https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/rse/the_latest/the-anaconda-is-squeezing-us)

**Thank you for your attention!**

