

Virtual Environment Best Practices

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1. Always Use a Virtual Environment:

- Avoid conflicts between global and project-specific packages.

2. Name it 'venv':

- `python -m venv venv`
- Keeps the environment name consistent across projects.

3. Exclude from Git:

- Add 'venv/' to your .gitignore file.

4. Activate the Environment:

- Windows: `venv\Scripts\activate`
- Linux/macOS: `source venv/bin/activate`

5. Use requirements.txt:

- Save dependencies: `pip freeze > requirements.txt`
- Install later with: `pip install -r requirements.txt`

6. Use One venv per Project:

- Keeps dependencies isolated and manageable.

7. Document Setup Steps:

- Leave setup instructions in a README or SETUP.md file.

8. Use Environment Variables:

- Store secrets in a `.env` file
- Use libraries like ``python-dotenv`` to load them