

Installing Required QGIS Plugins in QGIS 2.8

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There are a range of plugins that you will need to install in order to complete our various books and courses. These should be installed immediately after you install QGIS 2.8.3 (or 2.8.4 for Mac users) on your computer. To install a plugin, open QGIS and click on PLUGINS on the main menu bar. Select MANAGE AND INSTALL PLUGINS. This will open the PLUGINS window. In this window, click on the ALL tab on the left hand side and then select the plugin you wish to install, and then click on the INSTALL PLUGIN button. Once it has been installed, check that there is a tick or a cross beside its name to ensure that it has been activated.

The Non-Python Plugins You Need To Install Are:

Spatial Query Plugin
Heatmap
Raster Terrain Analysis

The Python Plugins You Need To Install Are:

NNJoin
SpatialJoin
Numerical Vertex Editor
Spreadsheet Layers
Point Sampling Tool
Table Manager
OpenLayer

NOTE: As of August 2020, the web address for the plugins repository for QGIS has changed. This means that older versions of QGIS will no longer automatically connect to it and you cannot find and install plugins that are not downloaded with QGIS by default. This may cause problems when you try to install the above Python plugins (but not the non-Python ones) If you run into this problem when trying to install one of the above Python plugins, there are two ways to deal with this. The first involves updated the plugin repository address in QGIS and it should work for all PCs and some Macs, so try this first. Only if this doesn't work should you try the second option, which involves manually downloading and installing the required Python plugins.

NOTE: If you get an error message when you try to install any of the above Python plugins which states that the latest version is not compatible with your version of QGIS, you will need to manually download and install the required plugins using the instructions below. These instructions provide a way to download and install an older version of the plugins that will be compatible with QGIS 2.8. This issue is most likely to occur with the Point Sampling Tool plugin.

Instructions For Updating The Plugin Repository Address In QGIS:

In QGIS, open the Plugins Manager window (PLUGINS> MANAGE AND INSTALL PLUGINS). In this window, click on SETTINGS on the left hand side and then scroll down to the section called PLUGIN REPOSITORIES.

Next, click on the ADD button. This will open the REPOSITORY DETAILS window. In this window, for name enter OFFICIAL REPOSITORY 2. Next for URL, copy and paste in the following address:

<https://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/plugins.xml>

Once you have pasted in this address, click OK. If you get warning message. This is related to the old repository address and not the new one you have just made, so you can ignore it and click OK. Your newly created repository should now say CONNECTED at the start of it, and you can now access all the QGIS Python Plugins as before.

You can now click on the current plugin repository address so that it is highlighted and then click on the EDIT button. In the window that opens, click on the ENABLE box so that the cross in it disappears. This will turn disable this option, and should stop the warning message appearing every time you open the Plugin Manager. Now close this window.

Unfortunately, this approach only seems to work for PCs and not Macs. The second approach can be used for either Macs or PCs and involves manually downloading and installing the files for the plugins.

Instructions for Manually Downloading And Installing the Required Python Plugins:

First, start by downloading a Zip file containing the folders for all the additional Python plugins you need to install for the exercises in our courses and book. These can be downloaded from http://gisinecology.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/QGIS_2_8_Additional_Plugins.zip. Once you have downloaded this folder, you need to unzip it and copy all the folders it contains to the the clipboard of your operating system (these folders have the same names as the above plugins, and there should be seven of them). What you do next will depend on whether you are using a Mac or a PC.

Instructions of manually installing plugins on a Mac:

1. Open Finder and select APPLICATIONS.
2. Scroll down to find QGIS, right click on it and select SHOW PACKAGE CONTENTS.
3. In the window that opens, select> CONTENTS> RESOURCES> PYTHON.
4. Paste the copied contents of the unzipped folder you just downloaded into the subfolder called PLUGINS.
5. Restart QGIS.

6. You should now find that these additional plugins are available in the PLUGINS window (which can be opened by selecting PLUGINS on the main menu bar and then MANAGE AND INSTALL PLUGINS).

Instructions of manually installing plugins on a PC:

1. Open Windows explorer and navigate to the folder address containing the QGIS Python plugin files. This will be something like this: C:\Users\CDM\.qgis2\python\plugins. NOTE: Your computer will have its own username in this folder address and this will need to be used in place of the CDM in the example address provided here.
2. Paste the copied contents of the unzipped folder you just downloaded into the subfolder called PLUGINS.
3. Restart QGIS.
4. You should now find that these additional plugins are available in the PLUGINS window (which can be opened by selecting PLUGINS on the main menu bar and then MANAGE AND INSTALL PLUGINS).

If you need to find and manually install any additional Python plugins not included in the above zipped folder, you can find the plugin zip files by searching with the plugins name in the repository at <https://plugins.qgis.org/>