Anaconda & Intel® Python Distribution FAQ

1. **What is the difference between the [Intel Distribution for Python Powered by Anaconda](#) and the [Anaconda distribution](#)?**

Anaconda is the leading Open Data Science platform powered by Python. Anaconda includes an open source core Python distribution and over 700 packages. The Anaconda installer includes 150+ packages, and the balance of the packages are easily installed via the conda install package name command.

The Intel Distribution for Python Powered by Anaconda is focused on tools and techniques to accelerate the performance of Python and the widely used numerical computing packages, especially for the latest Intel processors. Both distributions work on Intel KNL, the recently released Intel Xeon Phi.

To ensure compatibility, the Intel Distribution for Python Powered by Anaconda shares build recipes with Anaconda and uses conda for packaging. The Intel packages for accelerating Python performance are available on [Anaconda Cloud](#).

Intel and Continuum provide paid and free forum support for their distributions. Whether you use the Anaconda or Intel Distribution, the goal is to provide you with the benefits of both powerhouses working together to bring the latest and fastest Python performance within your existing environment.

2. **What are the performance gains in the [Intel Distribution for Python Powered by Anaconda](#) ?**

Intel has benchmarked up to a 97X performance boost for numerical processing on the SciPy stack: NumPy, SciPy and scikit-learn boosted by the Intel® Math Kernel Library. The [Intel published benchmark](#) is described on the [Intel site](#).

3. **What are the differences in packages in each of the distributions?**

The Anaconda Distribution includes many more packages to provide a more complete ecosystem and focuses on supporting a wide user base that includes the latest as well as older hardware and operating systems. The Anaconda Distribution installers include over 150 packages and give users access to over 400 Python packages and over 200 R packages hosted on repo.continuum.io and installable with conda. The [full list of packages](#) available packages for the Anaconda Distribution is available on the Continuum website.

The Intel Distribution accelerates performance of Python packages with Intel® Performance Libraries, including Intel® Math Kernel Library (Intel® MKL), Intel® Threading Building Blocks (Intel® TBB), Intel® Data Analytics Acceleration Library (Intel® DAAL), and Intel® MPI. The packages have been optimized to take advantage of parallelism through the use of threading, multiple nodes, and vectorization. The [release notes](#) includes a full list of the packages included in the distribution.

Additionally, there are Intel packages for the Anaconda distribution available on [Anaconda Cloud](#). The unique packages in the Intel channel on Anaconda Cloud are: distarray, tbb, pydaal