

# How to fix Winget not recognized error on Windows

Sometimes when you run a WinGet command, you may get an error saying that the command is not recognized as a valid cmdlet, function, or script file.

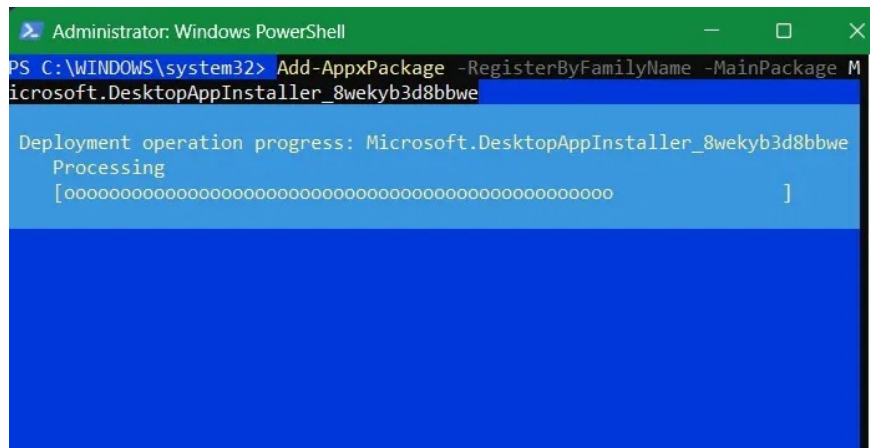
Windows users often use WinGet to install and manage applications through PowerShell , Command Prompt, and any other interpreter. Sometimes, when running the WinGet command, you may encounter an error stating that the command is not recognized as a valid cmdlet, function, or script file. Today's tutorial shows you how to fix this annoying error and get WinGet working again.

## 1. Re-register or repair WinGet

One of the biggest causes of this WinGet error is a corrupted or misconfigured Windows Package Manager installation. If this is the case, you can easily fix it by re-registering WinGet, which will reset the installation and potentially fix any issues that may be occurring.

Type **PowerShell** in the search box and click **Run as Administrator** . When the command prompt opens, copy and paste the following command into PowerShell:

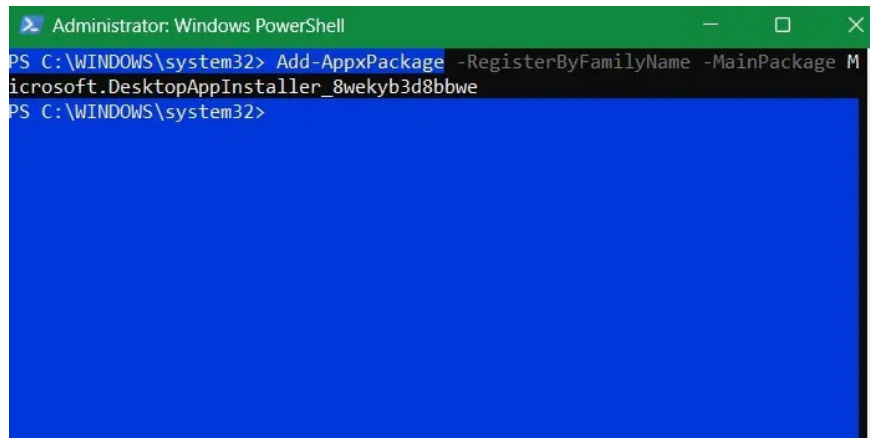
```
Add-AppxPackage -RegisterByFamilyName -MainPackage Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bbwe
```



The above command tells Windows to re-register the App Installer from its official Microsoft source, which will then restore WinGet functionality.

Instead of completely reinstalling, you can repair the existing WinGet package with the following command.

```
Add-AppxPackage -RegisterByFamilyName -MainPackage Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller
```



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Add-AppxPackage -RegisterByFamilyName -MainPackage M
icrosoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bbwe
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

When executed correctly, Windows will quickly re-register the WinGet application and fix Windows Package Installer issues like broken shortcuts, missing dependencies or any corrupted registry entries.

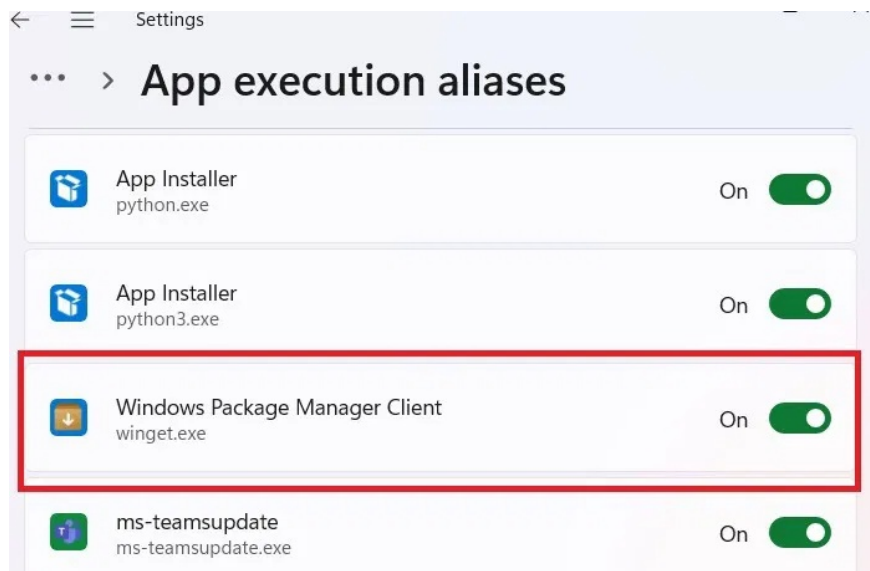
## 2. Enable App execution aliases for Windows Package Manager

In a command-line context, the name WinGet is the application executable alias name for Windows Package Manager.

Application execution aliases are essentially shorthand or abbreviated CLI commands. If you disable this feature for Windows Package Manager, the CLI may not recognize WinGet. This can also happen due to third-party cleanup tools or system optimizers.

To enable app execution aliases for Windows Package Manager, press **Win + I** to open the Settings app , go to **Apps -> Advanced app settings** and click **App execution aliases** .

If the toggle for **Windows Package Manager Client** is Off , switch it back to **On** .

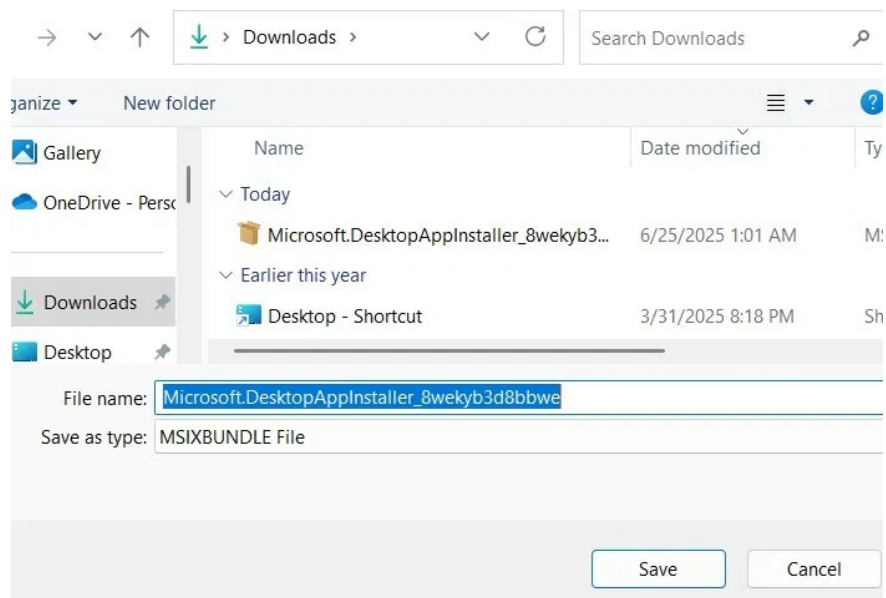


Windows 10 users can find the toggle for Windows Package Manager Client by going to **Settings -> Apps -> Apps & Features** and clicking the **App execution aliases** link .

### 3. Verify that you have the latest version of App Installer

WinGet is part of App Installer, a pre-installed Windows package that allows users to easily install and manage programs. If App Installer is malfunctioning, it can lead to WinGet errors. To fix App Installer, update from the Microsoft Store.

Go to the official App Installer download link and click the big blue **Download button**. **It will search your PC location to download the MSIXBUNDLE file.**



Now you will see a message that App Installer has been installed. You can click **Reinstall** , this will fix any missing dependencies.















Otherwise, you'll see the option to update through the Microsoft Store.

### 4. Reinstall App Installer from GitHub

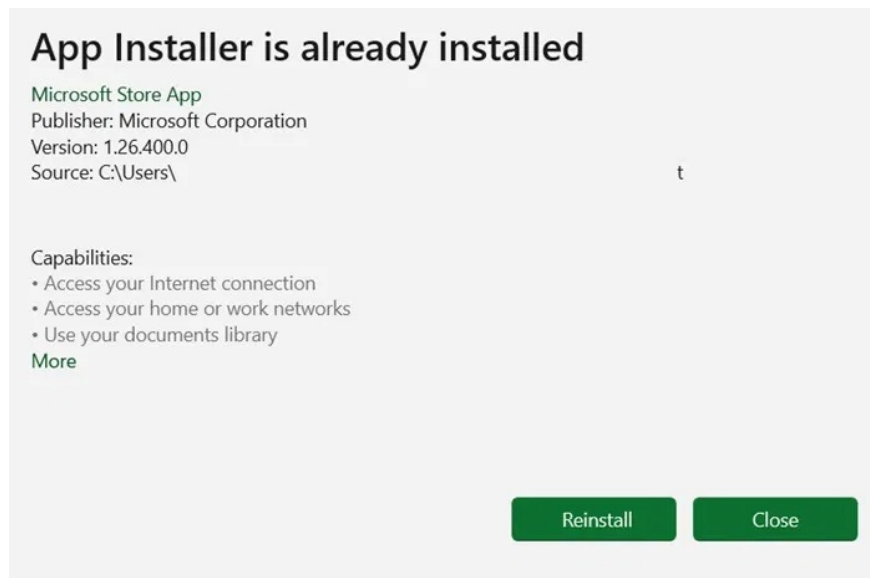
If updating the App Installer doesn't work, perhaps a reinstallation can help fix whatever is causing Winget to malfunction. To do so, follow the steps below:

Visit the Windows Package Manager GitHub page .

Scroll down to the **Assets** section and click on the Desktop App Installer MSIXBundle file to download.

 DesktopAppInstallerPolicies.zip	sha256:881db980cdc3ac...	
 DesktopAppInstaller_Dependencies.json	sha256:c7a8d97574ffbe...	
 DesktopAppInstaller_Dependencies.txt	sha256:35a3896d73ab07...	
 DesktopAppInstaller_Dependencies.zip	sha256:6941603530d049...	
 e53e159d00e04f729cc2180cfd1c02e_License.txt	sha256:bcb15118ec47df...	
 Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bfe...	sha256:427d60bddcc36e...	
 Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bfe...	sha256:162f45651e45fe...	

Double-click on the file you just downloaded and click **Reinstall** in the pop-up window.



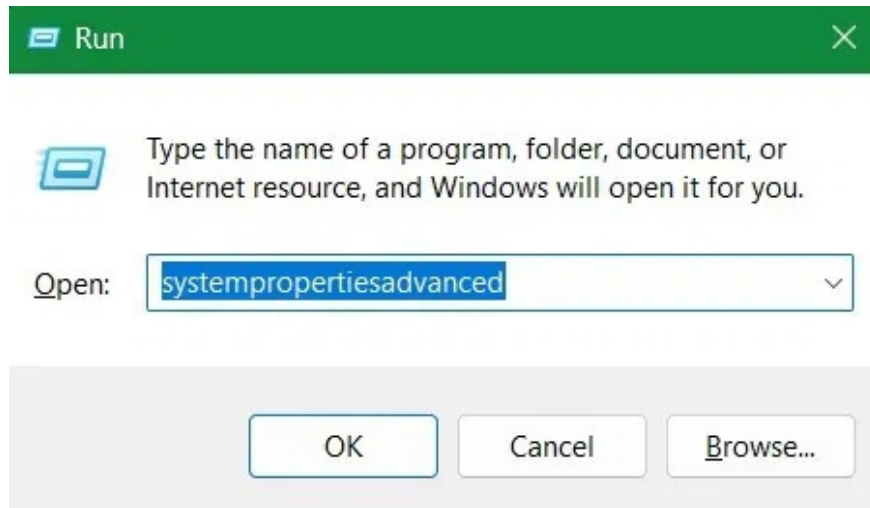
Follow the remaining instructions to complete reinstalling the App Installer.

## 5. Create Path environment variable for Winget

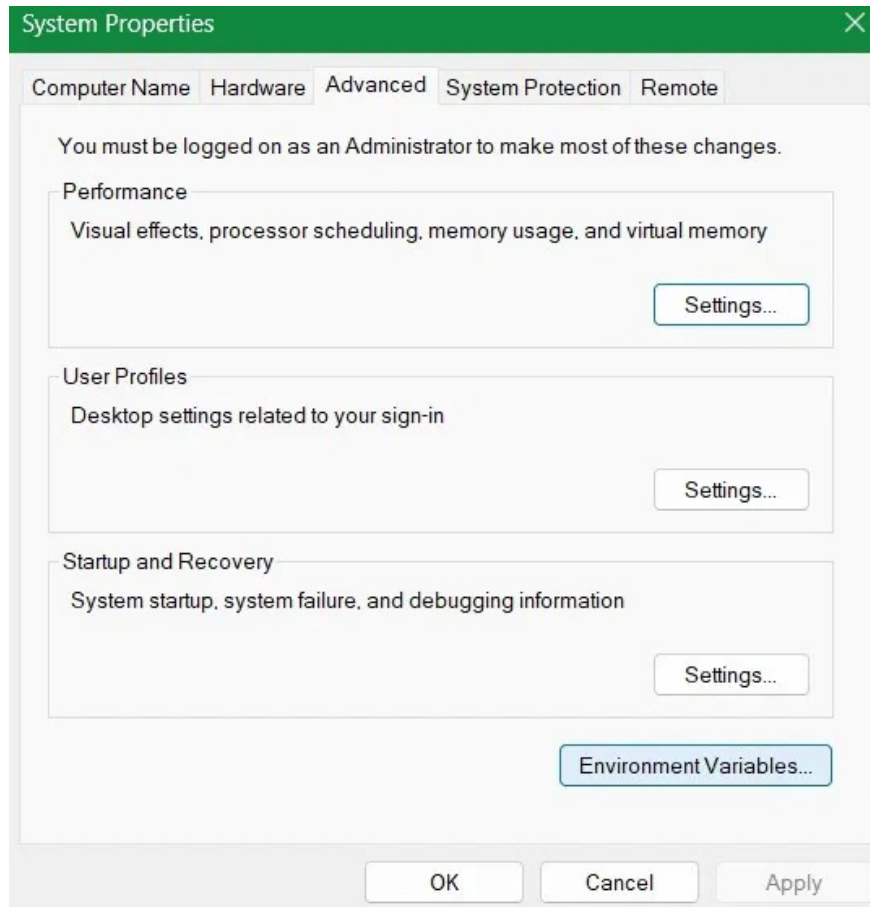
When you run a WinGet command in Command Prompt or PowerShell, Windows searches the PATH variable to find the executable file. In short, this variable maintains a list of directories that contain executable files for various Windows commands. If PATH doesn't list a directory that contains WinGet executable files, you'll get an error.

To fix this error, you will have to manually add the missing directory to the PATH variable:

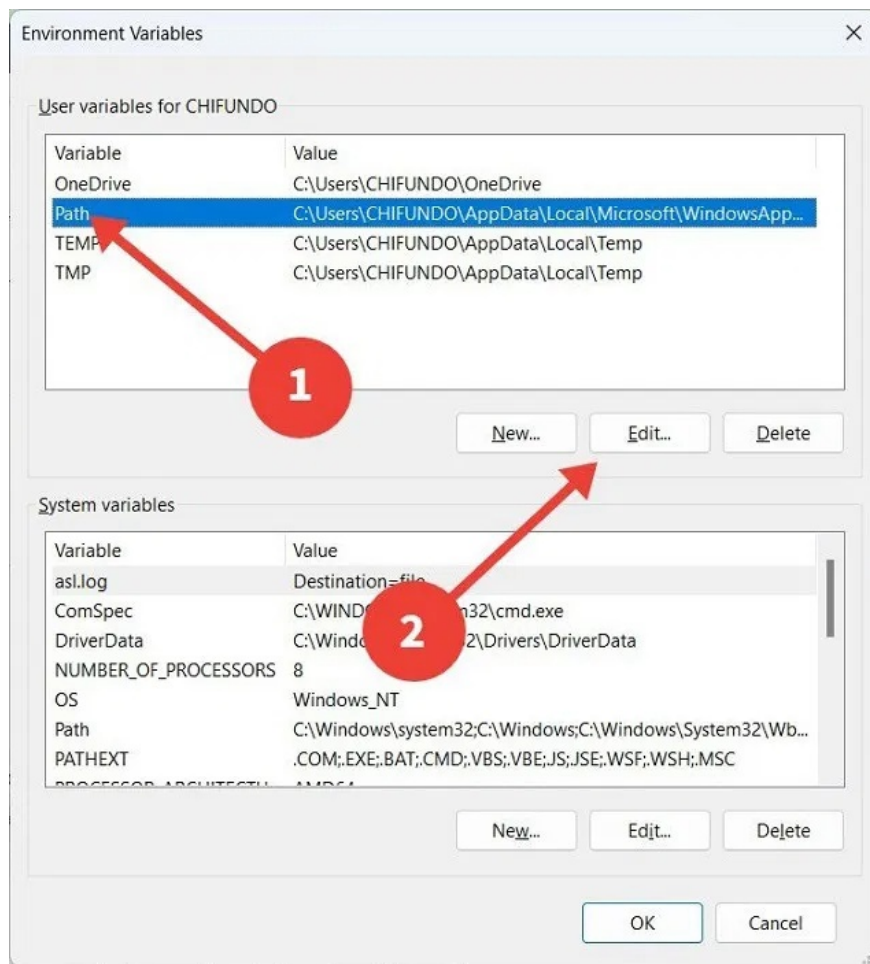
Press **Win + R** to open Windows Run , type **systempropertiesadvanced** into the text box and click **OK** . This will launch the **System Properties** window .



Select the **Advanced** tab , then click **Environment Variables**.

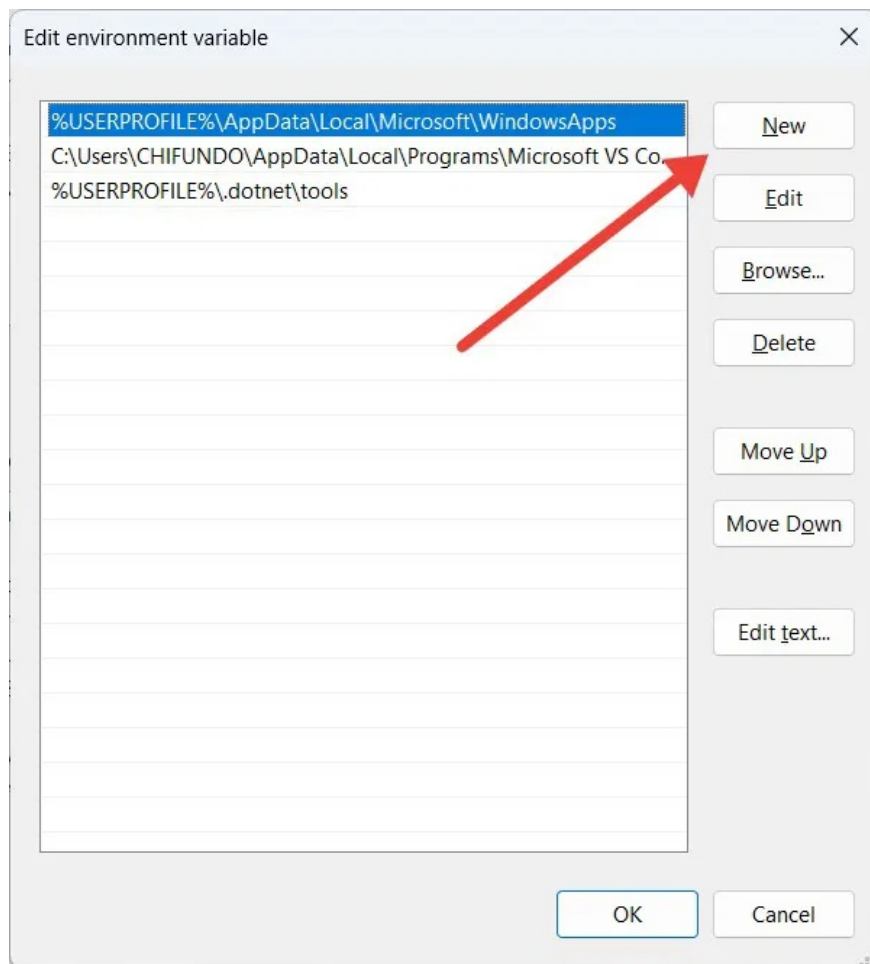


Select the **Path** variable , then click **Edit** to open the **Edit environment variable** window .



Copy the following file path: **%UserProfile\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps**.

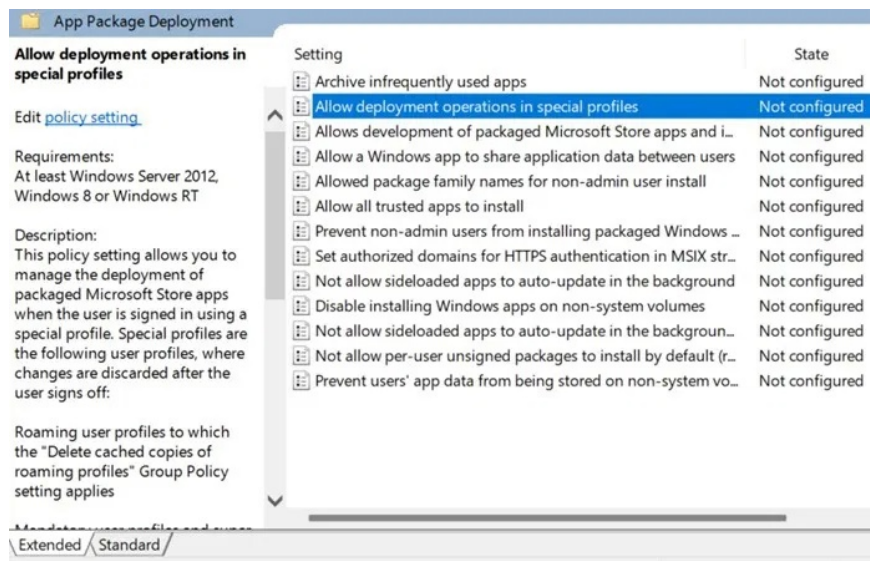
**In the Edit environment variable window** , click **New**. There, you should paste the file path you copied above, then click **OK** to save the changes.



## 6. Enable App Package Deployment setting in Local Group Policy Editor

On Windows Pro/Enterprise devices, open Group Policy by typing gpedit.msc into Run.

Navigate to the following path: **Computer Configuration -> Administrative Templates -> Windows Components -> App Package Deployment** .



Here you will see a Not configured status for most of the components. The ones we need to focus on in particular are "Allow deployment operations in special profiles" and "Allow all Trusted apps to install" . Double click on these entities and in the next pop-up screen, just click **Enabled** , followed by **OK** .

## 7. Fix App Installer cache using various methods

You can fix the cache of many different services. Open Control Panel and go to **Programs -> Programs and Features** . Find **App Installer** in the list.

If you find the program listed, right-click and select **Repair** (or **Uninstall** , then reinstall from GitHub as described earlier.

Alternatively, you can open Run and type **wsreset.exe** . This will clear the Microsoft Store cache, allowing you to run WinGet commands smoothly.

## 8. Reset Windows PC to factory settings

If all else fails, there may be a more serious bug or misconfiguration with your operating system. If you're not sure what to do, resetting Windows to factory settings will help you start over with settings and configurations that may be affecting Winget. But before resetting your PC , make sure you have backed up your important data, as it will be lost in the process.

## Make Winget work again on PC

If you like to set things up in Command Prompt or PowerShell, Winget is an essential utility. When command line tools on your PC fail to recognize it, it can slow down Windows performance. By following the troubleshooting steps above, you can get it working again.

If you are looking for an alternative to Winget, try using Chocolatey to install various applications on your Windows PC.

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