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# Workspace

Workspaces hold vector layers. A Workspace can be a GeoPackage database, a directory of Shapefiles, or a PostGIS database.

## Basics

You can open, close, and list Workspaces. The earliest Workspace to open is an in memory Workspace.

*Table 1. Open a Workspace*

Name	Description	Mandatory	Specified Default	Unspecified Default
name	The Workspace name	true		
params	The connection parameters	true		

```
geo-shell> workspace open --name mem --params memory
Workspace mem opened!
```

You can open a Workspace with --params or connection parameters. You can give it a name with --name flag.

*List open Workspaces*

```
geo-shell> workspace list
mem = Memory
```

Listing open Workspaces give you the name and the type Workspace.

*Table 2. Close a Workspace*

Name	Description	Mandatory	Specified Default	Unspecified Default
name	The Workspace name	true		

```
geo-shell> workspace close --name mem
Workspace mem closed!
```

Once you close a Workspace by name it will no longer appear with the list command.

## Layers

In this example, we will open a GeoPackage database filled with data from Natural Earth.

*Open a Workspace*

```
geo-shell> workspace open --name naturalearth --params src/test/resources/naturalearth.gpkg
```

Workspace naturalearth opened!

*List open Workspaces*

```
geo-shell> workspace layers --name naturalearth  
countries  
ocean  
places  
states
```

*Close a Workspace*

```
geo-shell> workspace close --name naturalearth  
Workspace naturalearth closed!
```