# Terminal and GitHub Basics & Python Refresher

#### **Programming Psychology Experiments**

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Lecture 1 | 10 September 2025

# Terminal Basics

#### Terminal Basics

The **Terminal** (on Mac and Linux) and **Git Bash** (on Windows) are applications that allow you to interact with your operating system by **typing commands** instead of **visualizing folders** + **clicking** 

In this class, you will need the Terminal to:

- Run python scripts
- Link your computer to GitHub

```
Barbu@Mac % python script.py
```

```
Barbu@Mac % git add .
Barbu@Mac % git commit -m "Changed X"
Barbu@Mac % git push origin
```

### Terminal Basics: pwd

The Terminal always opens in a working directory (by default, the user directory), just like your GUI File Explorer

To find out which directory you are currently in, type in pwd (print working directory)

Barbu@Mac % pwd /Users/Barbu/

#### Terminal Basics: 1s

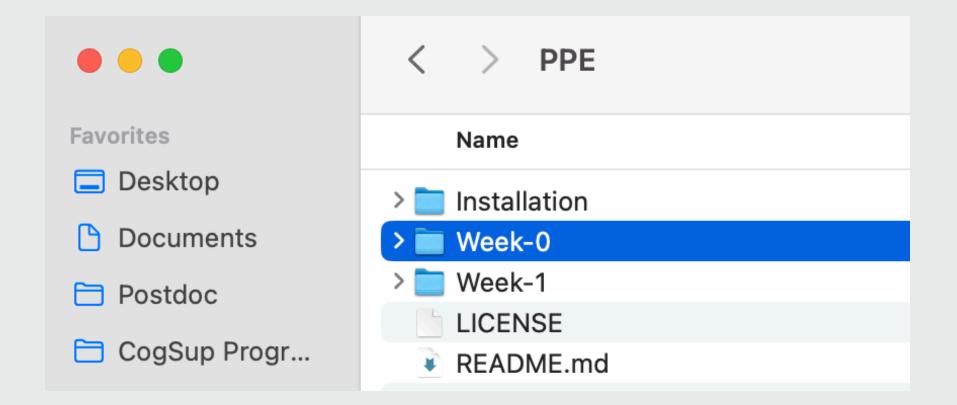
You can **check the contents** of the current working directory by typing in 1s (list directory contents)

```
Barbu@Mac % ls
Applications Desktop Music Calibre Library
Documents Library Pictures Downloads
Movies Public
```

Confirm this by opening the home folder in your Finder/File Explorer (MAC: Finder > Go > Home | WINDOWS: C:/Users/YOUR-USERNAME)

#### Terminal Basics: cd

#### The GUI way (Finder/File Explorer)



#### The Terminal/Git Bash way (cd = change directory):

```
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE Barbu@Mac PPE %
```

#### Terminal Basics: cd

Use 1s (list directory contents) and pwd (print working directory) in the new working directory

```
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE
Barbu@Mac PPE % ls
Installation LICENSE README.md Week-0
Barbu@Mac PPE % pwd
/Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE/Week-0
```

#### Terminal Basics: cd

Every file-related command takes into account the current directory, because the paths are specified relative to it

```
Barbu@Mac PPE % cd Week-0 # Equivalent to cd /Users/.../PPE/Week-0
Barbu@Mac Week-0 % ls
Lecture 0. Presentation.pdf
Barbu@Mac Week-0 % cd # Takes you back to the home folder
Barbu@Mac % cd Week-0
cd: no such file or directory
```

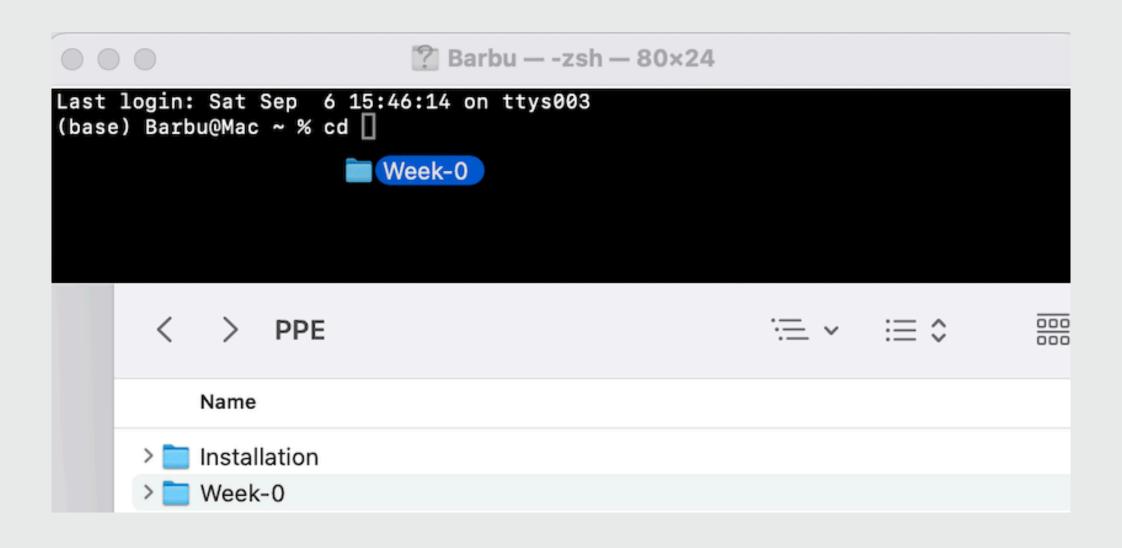
### Terminal Basics: cd..

Going back to the parent directory of the current working directory

```
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE/Week-0
Barbu@Mac Week-0 % cd ..
Barbu@Mac PPE % cd Installation
Barbu@Mac Installation % cd ../Week-0 # = cd .. | cd Week-0
Barbu@Mac Week-0 %
```

# Terminal Basics: cd + drag & drop

Instead of typing the entire path, you can write cd followed by space, then drag and drop the folder you want to set as your current working directory from your file explorer app



### Terminal Basics: ↑ ↓

Instead of retyping recent commands, you can use UP and DOWN arrow keys to toggle through the history of your commands

```
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE/Week-0 Barbu@Mac Week-0 % cd
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/Courses/Programming/PPE/Week-0 # Instead of typing the whole path again, tap ↑ twice to fill in the whole command, then press RETURN to execute it
```

# GitHub Basics

#### Class Roster

Go to https://docs.google.com/ spreadsheets/d/ 1XT9sPISpiC96Yhe34JNF8yhlZyRwK WZ8wSZt0tJcRSE/edit?usp=sharing

Enter your name, email address, and GitHub username (the GitHub homepage will be updated automatically)



# Setting Up the Course Folder

Depending on your organization preferences, create a folder dedicated to this class (e.g., .../Documents/CogSup/Programming)

```
Barbu@Mac % cd /Users/Barbu/Documents/
Barbu@Mac Documents % mkdir CogSup # Creates CogSup folder
Barbu@Mac Documents % cd CogSup # Go to CogSup folder
Barbu@Mac Cogsup % mkdir Programming # Create Programming folder
Barbu@Mac Cogup % cd Programming # Go to Programming subfolder
```

# Setting Up the Course Folder

The Programming folder will contain two further subfolders

The first subfolder will correspond to *our* GitHub repository, which will contain the course materials (slides, exercises, etc.)

Barbu@Mac **Programming** % git clone https://github.com/barburevencu/PPE

Typing in 1s should now print the PPE folder

Recommended: Rename the PPE folder to 'Materials' to identify it faster

Barbu@Mac **Programming** % mv PPE Materials

## Setting Up the Course Folder

The second subfolder will correspond to *your* GitHub repository, which you will use to upload your solutions to the exercises

```
Barbu@Mac Programming % git clone https://github.com/YOUR-GITHUB-USERNAME/cogsup-prog # Change cogsup-prog if your repo has another name
```

Use 1s to confirm that cogsup-prog is part of the Programming folder

Recommended: Rename the cogsup-prog folder to Assignments

```
Barbu@Mac Programming % mv cogsup-prog Assignments
```

### GitHub Basics: pull

Let's check that everything works as it should

To update the **PPE** (**Materials**) folder to the most recent version, go to the folder and *pull* our PPE repository

```
Barbu@Mac Programming % cd Materials
Barbu@Mac Materials % git pull
```

In plain language: Check if there are any new changes on GitHub that I don't have yet, download them, and update my local copy to include them

### GitHub Basics: push

To update your GitHub repository with the folders and files in your local folder, you need to *push* your local directory to GitHub

First, let's create a new folder called Week-1

```
Barbu@Mac PPE % cd ../Assignments
Barbu@Mac Assignments % mkdir Week-1
Barbu@Mac Assignments % ls
Week-0 Week-1
```

### GitHub Basics: push

#### Now let's upload it to GitHub

```
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git add .
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git commit -m "Created Week-1 folder"
Barbu@Mac Assignments % git push origin
```

#### In plain language:

- 1. Take a snapshot of all the files I've changed.
- 2. Save changes under a label to keep track of what this change was about.
- 3. Upload my changes so they're stored online where others can see them.

### How your folders should like

# Python Refresher

### GitHub Basics: push

#### Let's move all the materials for Week 1 to your repository

```
Barbu@Mac cogsup-prog % cd Week-1
Barbu@Mac Week-1 % cp -R ../Materials/Week-1/* .
```

#### In plain language:

- 1. Copy all of the contents
- 2. Save changes under a label to keep track of what this change was about.
- 3. Upload my changes so they're stored online where others can see them.

### Main data types

```
Integers: 1, 3, 17, -21
Floats (decimals): 1.0, 3 + 2.5, 3 * 2.1, math.pi
Boolean: True / False
Strings: "a", "My friend is annoying", ''
Lists (Ordered mutable collection): [1, 2, 3], ['a', 3.14]
Tuples (Ordered immutable collection): (1, 2, 3), ('a', 3.14)
Dictionaries (Key-value pairs): { 'name': 'Alice', 'age': 24}
```

#### Variables

```
Integers: 1, 3, 17, -21
Floats (decimals): 1.0, 3 + 2.5, 3 * 2.1, math.pi
Boolean: True / False
Strings: "a", "My friend is annoying", ''
Lists (Ordered mutable collection): [1, 2, 3], ['a', 3.14]
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