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Minor problem in Spyder that should be fixed soon (see minute 2:00 and following in accompanying video).

The latest installation of Anaconda Python includes Spyder version 3.0.0. (Spyder IDE 3.0.0). A button that we use was inadvertently left out of this latest version. That button sets the directory for the IPython Console to the Working Directory listed in the upper right of the screen. Below we give two simple alternatives to using this button, though it shouldn't be needed very often.

Is your installation affected? Only the most recent installations are. To find out, start Spyder and look up the version. If it is version 3.0.0 or 3.0.1 you will be missing the button. To look up your version on a PC, go to the help menu and click on 'About Spyder.' The first line will display the version. On a Mac, go to the python menu and click on 'About Spyder.' If you want to see how the button is used, go to Lesson 2 of Module 1 and run the video "Introduction to the Spyder IDE." It is discussed starting at minute 2.

You can change the directory in the IPython Console pane a couple of other ways. The simplest depends on what your experience is. Here are two of them:

1) Change the working directory as shown in the top right of Spyder. Then click away the IPython Console (click on the little x beside the word Console on a Mac or IP Console on a PC). A new IPython Console is opened automatically and it has the correct working directory. You can also open a new IPython Console by going to the Console Menu and choosing "Open an IPython Console." Enter the command `pwd` to see what directory you are actually in. You can also enter the command `ls` and you should see the same files as those in the 'File Explorer' pane just above it.

2) Use `cd "/Users/bill/Documents"` in the IPython Console to change to that directory. Use `pwd` to confirm that you are there. `cd ..` will move up a directory and `cd Documents` will move back down. You don't need the quotes unless a directory name has a space in it.

I'm truly sorry, but have no control over Spyder, Python, or Anaconda. Spyder is maintained by MIT and is in quite capable hands. Github shows that the button has already been restored in version 3.0.2, which I hope will be released soon.

When the new version is made available in Anaconda, the simplest way to update to it is to open a terminal on the Mac or `cmd.exe` window on the PC and run the command:

conda update spyder

In fact, you can run this any time and get the latest version. **If you have the button, don't run this command or you'll lose the button!**

Thanks for your patience.

Bill Boyd

Mark as completed

