Python Development Environment Comparison

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Both Spyder and PyCharm open Jupyter notebook files as a plain text file. That does not make it easy to edit a Jupyter Notebook. Google Colaborate allows you to download your work as either a Jupyter notebook or a Python file. Google Colaborate is nice, because you can access it through a web browser, which makes it very portable. PyCharm and Spyder both require an installation. Spyder is nice, because it is included with the Anaconda installation. PyCharm has more features and has a more user friendly IDE.

I would use Spyder or PyCharm if I were working on a larger Python project that included many files and a project structure. Google Colaborate could be used in a similar way as a Jupyter notebook, which lends itself to storytelling. Using a fully featured IDEs like Spyder or PyCharm would be good in a software project, and Google Colaborate would be good to share analysis.