

# bad config encountered during initialization #444

New issue

Closed

AndreWin opened this issue on 28 Feb 2016 · 21 comments



AndreWin commented on 28 Feb 2016

Hello!

On Windows 8.1 I installed Anaconda. It's strange, but jupyter notebook link wasn't created in start menu. Then I tried in my folder with python code:

```
jupyter notebook
```

After this I got error:

```
[C 18:45:58.227 NotebookApp] Bad config encountered during initialization:
[C 18:45:58.227 NotebookApp] Could not decode 'C:\\Users\\xc0\\xf0\\xe5\\xe9\\.jupyter' for
unicode trait 'config_dir' of a NotebookApp instance.
```

How can I fix it?

Best regards, Andrey.

Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

question

reference

Projects

None yet

Milestone

No milestone

Notifications

9 participants



Carreau commented on 29 Feb 2016

Member

@damianavila do you who to ping at continuum for that ? It looks like Anaconda is passing a flag on the command-line to the notebook.



AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016

Full output when I run `jupyter notebook` in command line in Windows 8.1:

The Jupyter HTML Notebook.

This launches a Tornado based HTML Notebook Server that serves up an HTML5/Javascript Notebook client.

Subcommands

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Subcommands are launched as ``jupyter-notebook cmd [args]``. For information on using subcommand `'cmd'`, do: ``jupyter-notebook cmd -h``.

list

List currently running notebook servers.

Options

-----

Arguments that take values are actually convenience aliases to full Configurables, whose aliases are listed on the help line. For more information on full configurables, see `'--help-all'`.

--script

DEPRECATED, IGNORED

```

--pylab

    DISABLED: use %pylab or %matplotlib in the notebook to enable matplotlib.

--debug

    set log level to logging.DEBUG (maximize logging output)

--no-browser

    Don't open the notebook in a browser after startup.

-y

    Answer yes to any questions instead of prompting.

--no-mathjax

    Disable MathJax

    MathJax is the javascript library Jupyter uses to render math/LaTeX. It is
    very large, so you may want to disable it if you have a slow internet
    connection, or for offline use of the notebook.

    When disabled, equations etc. will appear as their untransformed TeX source.

--no-script

    DEPRECATED, IGNORED

--generate-config

    generate default config file
--certfile=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.certfile)

    Default: u''

    The full path to an SSL/TLS certificate file.

--ip=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.ip)

    Default: 'localhost'

    The IP address the notebook server will listen on.

--pylab=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.pylab)

    Default: 'disabled'

    DISABLED: use %pylab or %matplotlib in the notebook to enable matplotlib.

--log-level=<Enum> (Application.log_level)

    Default: 30

    Choices: (0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 'DEBUG', 'INFO', 'WARN', 'ERROR', 'CRITICAL')

    Set the log level by value or name.

--port-retries=<Integer> (NotebookApp.port_retries)

    Default: 50

    The number of additional ports to try if the specified port is not
    available.

--notebook-dir=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.notebook_dir)

    Default: u''

    The directory to use for notebooks and kernels.

--keyfile=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.keyfile)

    Default: u''

    The full path to a private key file for usage with SSL/TLS.

--client-ca=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.client_ca)

    Default: u''

    The full path to a certificate authority certificate for SSL/TLS client
    authentication.

```

```
--config=<Unicode> (JupyterApp.config_file)

Default: u''

Full path of a config file.

--port=<Integer> (NotebookApp.port)

Default: 8888

The port the notebook server will listen on.

--transport=<CaselessStrEnum> (KernelManager.transport)

Default: 'tcp'

Choices: [u'tcp', u'ipc']

--browser=<Unicode> (NotebookApp.browser)

Default: u''

Specify what command to use to invoke a web browser when opening the
notebook. If not specified, the default browser will be determined by the
`webbrowser` standard library module, which allows setting of the BROWSER
environment variable to override it.

To see all available configurables, use `--help-all`

Examples
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jupyter notebook                # start the notebook
jupyter notebook --certfile=mycert.pem # use SSL/TLS certificate

[C 18:45:58.227 NotebookApp] Bad config encountered during initialization:
[C 18:45:58.227 NotebookApp] Could not decode 'C:\\Users\\xc0\\xf0\\xe5\\xe9\\.jupyter' for
unicode trait 'config_dir' of a NotebookApp instance.
```



AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016

I can try to find mistake and fix it, but I don't know how to debug .exe using Python. In Linux I use `python -m pdb my_script.py` but I can't adapt this to debug Jupyter on Windows....

How to debug .exe on Windows using Python?



AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016

I just noticed, that Anaconda works nice on Windows 7: there is link to Jupiter in start menu and Jupiter starts without any problems. All problems are on Windows 8. Maybe these problems are on Windows 10 too - I really don't know.

Also I'd like to say that my username in Windows 8 is written in cyrillic.

Best regards, Andrey.



minrk commented on 29 Feb 2016

Member

@AndreWin Are you using Python 3? If you have a non-ascii home directory on Windows, I would *strongly* recommend Python 3. There are loads of difficult unicode bugs with Python 2 on Windows. It's entirely possible that there's a unicode bug in the Jupyter paths code, though.

What do you get from:

- `os.path.expanduser('~')`
- `sys.getfilesystemencoding()`
- `os.path.expanduser('~').decode(sys.getfilesystemencoding())`

AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016



@minrk it seems for me I understood my problem. Anaconda installed fine on my work computer and other one, but not on my home computer. I thought that problem is in Anaconda, but I noticed now that username in my work computer is in English. Now I think that username is in English on other computer too. In other words it seems that problem isn't in Anaconda.

I use python 2.7, because the same version is used by [sage](#). Now I decided to use [this](#) decision. I will try it today and will adapt it for myself.

Now I have only one question: how can I use pdb or any other tool to debug jupyter? I want to know what .py files are used by jupyter.exe and in what order. Please help me to answer on this question.

Best regards, Andrey.



minrk commented on 29 Feb 2016

Member

You can run the notebook with pdb with:

```
python -m pdb C:\Path\to\Scripts\jupyter-notebook-script.py
```



AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016

Thanks a lot, @minrk!

I now noticed, that I can open .exe files like jupyter.exe as zip archives. And there are python files in these archives. This will helped me too.



AndreWin commented on 29 Feb 2016

@minrk, I found the decision: in file `C:\Path\to\Lib\site-packages\jupyter_core\paths.py` you need to append `.decode(sys.getfilesystemencoding())` at the line end:

- in function `get_homedir` :  

```
homedir = os.path.realpath(homedir).decode(sys.getfilesystemencoding())
```
- in function `jupyter_data_dir` :  

```
appdata = os.environ.get('APPDATA', None).decode(sys.getfilesystemencoding())
```

After that jupyter notebook started on my Windows!

Now I'd like to create shortcut for jupyter notebook in folder with my files. I found jupyter.ico and write program path as `jupyter notebook` (that is I wrote the same as in console). After doubleclick I see console, something text in it, but console closes after a second. How can I fix it?

Best regards, Andrey.



11



Carreau commented on 1 Mar 2016

Member

Thanks for looking into it.

I'm not sure the `.decode()` are the exact right fix as `os.environ` is not supposed to be bytes, the bytes version is exposed with `os.environb`, it's not clear what the Python 2 version does exactly though.



AndreWin commented on 1 Mar 2016

@Carreau, but it works! 😊

@Carreau, @minrk, I solved my problems with creating shortcuts! In folder we make right click and choose "create shortcut", target (path to program) is `C:\path\to\jupyter.exe` "notebook", start in (work folder) must be empty - at this case path will be place where shortcut is located. Run = minimized. As for icon, I downloaded it from [here](#).



AndreWin commented on 1 Mar 2016

I just created virtualenv and installed jupyter notebook in it. Jupyter notebook couldn't start. I added additional changes in Lib\site-packages\jupyter\_core\migrate.py :

```

184 def migrate_config(name, env):
185     """Migrate a config file
186
187     Includes substitutions for updated configurable names.
188     """
189     log = get_logger()
190     src_base = pjoin(['profile'], ['ipython_(name)_config']).format(name=name, **env) #####
191     dst_base = pjoin(['jupyter_config'], ['jupyter_(name)_config']).format(name=name, **env) #####
192     loaders = {
193         '.py': PyFileConfigLoader,
194         '.json': JSONFileConfigLoader,
195     }
196     migrated = []
197     for ext in ('.py', '.json'):
198         src = src_base + ext
199         dst = dst_base + ext
200         if os.path.exists(src):
201             cfg = loaders[ext](src).load_config()
202             if cfg:
203                 if migrate_file(src, dst, substitutions=config_substitutions):
204                     migrated.append(src)
205             else:
206                 # don't migrate empty config files
207                 log.debug("Not migrating empty config file: %s" % src)
208     return migrated
209
210
211 def migrate():
212     """Migrate IPython configuration to Jupyter"""
213     env = {
214         'jupyter_data': jupyter_data_dir(),
215         'jupyter_config': jupyter_config_dir(),
216         'ipython_dir': get_ipython_dir(),
217         'profile': os.path.join(get_ipython_dir(), 'profile_default')
218     }
219
220     migrated = False
221     for src_t, dst_t in migrations.items():
222         src = unicode(src_t).format(**env) #####
223         dst = unicode(dst_t).format(**env) #####
224         if os.path.exists(src):
225             if migrate_one(src, dst):
226                 migrated = True
227
228     for name in config_migrations:
229         if migrate_config(name, env):
230             migrated = True
231
232     custom_src = unicode(custom_src_t).format(**env) #####
233     custom_dst = unicode(custom_dst_t).format(**env) #####
234

```

I selected all my changes using multiple cursors.

After this jupyter notebook was be able to start.



Carreau commented on 1 Mar 2016

Member

@Carreau, but it works!

The following works, but is still not correct

```

$ python2
>>> 'hello'.decode().decode().decode()
u'hello'

```

Thanks for your changes, they will be incompatible Python3, but that will give us hint on how to fix them in a way which is compatible in both versions.

Side comment: you should really think of using Python3, it won't prevent you from having a Python2 kernel if necessary.



AndreWin commented on 1 Mar 2016

The following works, but is still not correct

@Carreau, sorry for that. I really didn't think about it. I don't write apps on Python 3 yet.

they will be incompatible Python3

To be honest, I'm just mechanical engineer but can use Python a little :-) It seems for me we can use `sys.version_info` for that.

you should really think of using Python3

I use Python 2 only because [sage](#) uses it. If sage will use python 3, I willn't have any reason not to switch on Python 3.

it won't prevent you from having a Python2 kernel if necessary

Unfortunately I don't know how to install other kernel in Jupyter. I didn't learn this because I didn't need in it.

Best regards, Andrey.



damianavila commented on 16 Mar 2016

@Carreau, reading this it does not seem Anaconda-related, but if you think still does, please let me know and I can ping someone about this...

matthiaskoenig referenced this issue in [sys-bio/tellurium](#) on 20 Apr 2016

**Tellurium not working with Windows non-ascii user names #121**

Closed



RflCsd commented on 5 May 2016

it worked for me by copying the files `IPython\utils\py3compat.py` , `IPython\utils\encoding.py` into `jupyter_core\utils\` and putting the code from the function `get_home_dir` in `IPython\utils\path.py` into the function `get_home_dir` in `jupyter_core\paths.py` .



YuriyOrlov commented on 30 May 2016

Well, I have had the same problem (also with Russian language),

I have changed:

```
homedir = os.path.expanduser('~')
```

to the absolute path:

```
homedir = os.path.abspath('C:/Anaconda2/Notebooks')
```

And all works.

Hope this will help.

willingc added **question** **reference** labels on 6 Jun 2016



willingc commented on 6 Jun 2016

Contributor

I am closing this issue as it looks as if this issue is resolved. I'm labelling it as "reference" since it may help users in the future. Thanks to everyone!



willingc closed this on 6 Jun 2016




ocefpaf commented on 27 Oct 2016



I am teaching a course in Brazil, where many have non-ascii characters in their path, and some of the students are suffering from this. I did not test [#444 \(comment\)](#) solution myself because I do not have a Windows machine but even if that works my students are not tech savy nor-Python programers, so asking them to fix this by themselves is not simple.

Would it be possible to fix that in `Jupyter` itself? Or that does not make sense?


  **ocefpaf** referenced this issue in [ocefpaf/2016-Python-course-CBO](#) on 27 Oct 2016

**Non-ASCII character in the PATH #6**



  **willingc** referenced this issue on 27 Oct 2016

**Redirect loop after starting server #836**





Carreau commented on 29 Oct 2016 Member

Would it be possible to fix that in Jupyter itself? Or that does not make sense?

I'm unsure if there is really anything we can do. Are your students using Python 2 ? Or 3 ? Most of unicode problems usually get solved when using Python 3.





yungongzi commented on 9 Mar 2017

I have also encountered the same problem

```
> [C 17: 23: 41.345 NotebookApp] Bad config encountered during initialization:
> [C 17: 23: 41.348 NotebookApp] No such notebook dir: u'D: \\ notebook2 \\ python2 '
```

Looked at the wrong tips, and looked at the D drive, found the 'notebook' folder was gone. Find the 'notebook' folder, put it on the D drive, or create a new one.  
problem solved!

 **consideRatio** pushed a commit to [consideRatio/jupyterhub](#) that referenced this issue on 19 Feb

  Merge pull request #444 from yuvipanda/kubespawner-bump-0.8 ...

Verified 1e60989