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How can I create a list of named folders in Windows automatically?



12








So, I am studying an online course which has hundreds of sub lectures. I need to download the source code for each lecture in a corresponding sub-folder. With over 120 lectures, creating a sub-folder one by one is a painstaking process.

Here's my current folder structure:



7

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Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 Lec-9	11/16/2015 3:25 PM	File folder	
 Lec-10	11/16/2015 3:36 PM	File folder	
 Lec-11	11/16/2015 3:55 PM	File folder	
 Lec-12	11/16/2015 4:04 PM	File folder	
 Lec-14	11/16/2015 4:21 PM	File folder	
 Lec-15	11/16/2015 4:27 PM	File folder	
 Lec-16	11/16/2015 4:29 PM	File folder	

Is there a way I can create all these sub-folders at once, along with the proper name, through a batch file or something similar.

[windows-7](#)[windows](#)[script](#)[batch-file](#)

asked Nov 16 '15 at 21:37



[Manish Giri](#)

378 4 6 15

@WesSayed I'm not sure what you mean. Wouldn't that just delete all the folders? I'm looking to create folders from 9 all the way to 122(or how many ever the number of lectures that are there). – [Manish Giri](#) Nov 16 '15 at 21:44

Since you specifically mention batch and script files I won't post this as an answer, but *real* super users know that it's much easier to just get the right tool for the job instead of writing your own ;). Just use a renaming tool and you can probably figure this out in less than a minute, including the download. I've personally used [Rename Master](#) and [Bulk Rename Utility](#) (contains ads) and both can handle this and many other annoying file and folder operations. (I am not affiliated with either tool.) – [Lilienthal](#) Nov 17 '15 at 18:03

Use a program like *getright* for downloading. It has a free version. Each file should be downloaded to its proper home. – [JDługosz](#) Nov 18 '15 at 4:18

5 Answers



How can I can create all these sub-folders at once, using my naming scheme?



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To create the sub-folders (sub-directories) in a specific directory (that is not the current directory), you can do one of the following:

- `cd C:\Dropbox\Development` first or
- Change the `md Lec-%i` command to `md C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%i`.

Note:

- `mkdir` is a synonym for `md` and can be used in its place.

Below I show both alternatives, first from a `cmd` shell (command line), and second using a batch file.

As a bonus (although not asked for in the original question) there is a `bash` shell alternative as well.

From a `cmd` shell:

```
cd C:\Dropbox\Development
for /l %i in (9,1,120) do md Lec-%i
```

or

```
for /l %i in (9,1,120) do md C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%i
```

From a batch file:

```
@echo off
cd C:\Dropbox\Development
for /l %%i in (9,1,120) do md Lec-%%i
```

Or

```
@echo off
for /l %%i in (9,1,120) do md C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%%i
```

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- 1 is the step. Do not change this.
- 120 the end number. Change if necessary to the number of the last directory you require.
- To create files in another directory, you can either
 - `cd C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%i` first or
 - change the `md` command to `md C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%i .`

Is there a way to do a similar thing for Mac OSX from the Mac terminal?

From a `bash` shell:

```
for i in {9..120}; do mkdir Lec-$i; done;
```

Or (for a more portable version)

```
for i in `seq 9 120`; do mkdir Lec-$i; done;
```

Further Reading

- [An A-Z Index of the Windows CMD command line](#) - An excellent reference for all things Windows cmd line related.
- [for](#) - Conditionally perform a command several times.
- [md](#) - Make Directory - Creates a new folder.

edited Jun 3 '18 at 9:41

answered Nov 16 '15 at 21:45



David Postill ♦

110k 27 240 277

If I were to create the sub-folders in a specific directory, such as `C:\Dropbox\Development`, would I need to `cd` to that directory first? Assuming I'm using the `cmd` shell? And many thanks! – [Manish Giri](#) Nov 16 '15 at 21:47

@Manish yes, you'd need to `cd` to the folder first. – [LPChip](#) Nov 16 '15 at 21:47

No. Just change the `md Lec-%i` to `md C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%i` – [David Postill](#) Nov 16 '15 at 21:48

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'15 at 11:33 

@Mehrdad I will add a note to that effect. – [DavidPostill](#) ♦ Nov 18 '15 at 11:34



There is another easy way, for limited number of folders. May be Useful here Or for someone else.

22

In Windows we can make numbered folder names by creating a folder "lec(1)" and copy pasting it how many time we want, if we paste 10 time there will be 11 folders with names "lect(1)" to "lec(10) - Copy"



Only trick here is that the first folder must include parentheses (n), where n is the number from where numbering starts.


Windows includes "- copy" at the and of pasted folder name "lec(1) - Copy" :(

If you don't like it, just select all and rename first lec(1) -> lec-(1) or anything.

All folder's names will be adjusted and "- copy" will be removed ;)

- Ctrl+C - Copy
- Ctrl+V - Paste
- F2 - rename
- Enter - to finish renaming.
- ESC- to cancel renaming.
- Ctrl+A or Ctrl+UP to select folders.

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Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 New folder	2015-11-17 1:30 AM	File folder	



answered Nov 17 '15 at 2:21



[shahid](#)

444 4 9

2 +1 for teaching me something I didn't know. :) – [LPChip](#) Nov 17 '15 at 8:49

The animation (".gif") is rather a nice touch, but repeating it over and over and over... endlessly, is very annoying. – [Kevin Fegan](#) Nov 17 '15 at 10:58

4 @KevinFegan I disagree. Looped GIFs makes sure the user (you) get to actually see the animation without reloading the page and scrolling down quickly to try and see it. Most browsers don't offer GIF control buttons. – [phyrfox](#) Nov 17 '15 at 16:27

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This will not work if you don't want parentheses in your folder names. For example I can create a list of folders: x0/, x1/, x2/, ... xN/. But I can't create a list: x0, x1, x2, ... xN – [Gil Epshtain](#) Mar 20 '18 at 9:31



This won't be better than a script for your particular scenario, but it's kind of nice to know this when your folder names are unrelated: you can make multiple directories from the command line by separating them by a space:

2



```
C:\temp\animals>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 82CB-BB0F

Directory of C:\temp\animals

11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        .
11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        ..
               0 File(s)                0 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  1,636,846,243,840 bytes free

C:\temp\animals>mkdir cats dogs penguins

C:\temp\animals>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 82CB-BB0F

Directory of C:\temp\animals

11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        .
11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        ..
11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        cats
11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        dogs
11/16/2015  03:55 PM    <DIR>        penguins
               0 File(s)                0 bytes
               5 Dir(s)  1,636,846,178,304 bytes free
```

answered Nov 16 '15 at 21:58



TTT

573 3 8

3 It is nice of you to point this out, but it doesn't answer the question... – [DavidPostill](#) ♦ Nov 16 '15 at 22:01

1 @DavidPostill I agree which is why I worded it the way I did. But it's MUCH better than creating folders 1 by 1. Perhaps I should delete the answer and

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▲ You might find that if you create numbered folders named like this, they won't display in the proper (expected) sort order:

1

▼

```
C:\Dropbox\Development> dir /b
Lec-10
Lec-100
Lec-101
Lec-102
Lec-103
Lec-104
Lec-105
Lec-106
Lec-107
Lec-108
Lec-109
Lec-11
Lec-110
Lec-111
Lec-112
Lec-113
Lec-114
Lec-115
Lec-116
Lec-117
Lec-118
Lec-119
Lec-12
Lec-120
Lec-13
Lec-14
Lec-15
Lec-16
Lec-17
Lec-18
Lec-19
Lec-20
Lec-21
...
Lec-89
Lec-9
Lec-90
Lec-91
...
```

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If it's important to you that the folders are sorted properly, use the batch file below to create folders with the numbered portion of the folder names padded with "0's" (zero's) so that all numbers are the same length, like this:

```
C:\Dropbox\Development> dir /b
Lec-009
Lec-010
Lec-011
Lec-012
Lec-013
Lec-014
Lec-015
Lec-016
Lec-017
Lec-018
Lec-019
Lec-020
Lec-021
...
```

Here is the batch file:

```
@echo off

for /L %%f in (9,1,120) do call :work 000%%f
goto :EOF

:work

set "dx=%~1"
set "dx=%dx:~-3%"

md "C:\Dropbox\Development\Lec-%dx%" >nul 2>&1

set "dx="
goto :EOF
```

edited Nov 17 '15 at 10:44

answered Nov 17 '15 at 10:38



Kevin Fegan

3,747 2 14 33

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[Explorer uses natural sort](#) so 2 will be put before 10 as one would expect (if you look at the OP's screenshot 9 is also sorted before 10). Only [dir suffers from that problem](#) and needs 0 paddings, but the OP didn't know much about the command line so I don't think it'll be a problem – [phucv](#) Jun 3 '18 at 9:48

@phucv - Yes, as you say, "OP didn't know much about the command line...". That's why I wrote this answer. To let OP know what to expect and to provide a solution (answer). I could imagine OP using DavidPostill's great answer, then to become confused to see `dir` listing folders out of order. Windows As you and [afrazier](#) mentioned, Windows Explorer will sort/list the folders correctly, but the OP was looking for a batch solution which means they will be (most likely) working from the command prompt. – [Kevin Fegan](#) Jun 13 '18 at 15:55

You could run this batch file in the same folder as the files. Each file will be moved into a folder of the same name.

0

```
for /f "delims=" %%a in ('dir /b') do (
if not "%%~fa"=="%~f0" (
md "%%~na" 2>nul
if exist "%%a" move "%%~na.*" "%%~na"
)
)
```

I use it with a warning below to avoid accidental use.

```
@echo off
echo.
set sure=
set /p sure=you want to put each file in this folder into their own folders?
if /i "%sure%"==" " exit
if /i "%sure:~0,1%"=="n" exit
if /i not "%sure:~0,1%"=="y" (exit) else (echo.&echo are you sure? Close window to
cancel or..)
echo.&pause
for /f "delims=" %%a in ('dir /b') do (
if not "%%~fa"=="%~f0" (
md "%%~na" 2>nul
if exist "%%a" move "%%~na.*" "%%~na"
)
)
```

edited Nov 17 '15 at 21:29

answered Nov 17 '15 at 21:02

 Terence

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