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



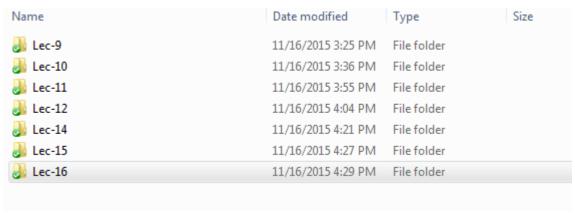
So, I am studying an online course which has hundreds of sub lectures. I need to download the source code for each lecture in a corresponding sub-folder. With over 120 lectures, creating a sub-folder one by one is a painstaking process.

Here's my current folder structure:





7



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.



asked Nov 16 '15 at 21:37



@WesSayeed 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?

^^



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
```

- 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



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. Trust shapes the Indiana Will to Indiana Companies Noval annual Language Population Annual Companies Noval Companies Noval
```

'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.



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"



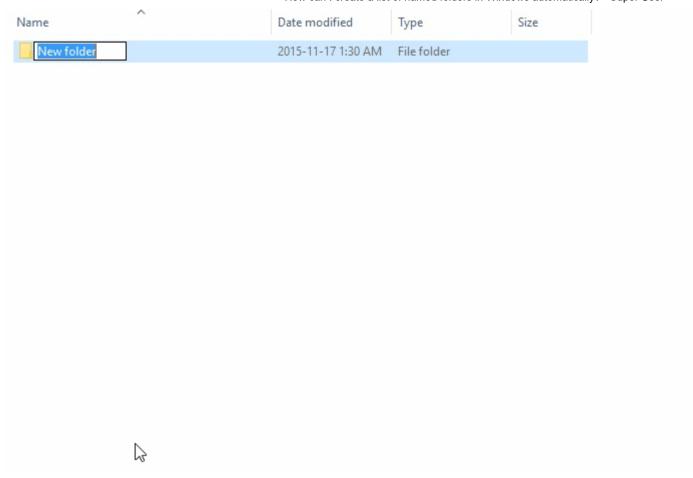
Only trick here is that the first folder must include parentheses (n), where n is the number from where numbering starts.

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.



answered Nov 17 '15 at 2:21



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 and over... endlessly, is very annoying. – Kevin Fegan Nov 17 '15 at 10:58

@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

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:

THE WILL HOLD WORD IN YOU WOLL WALL PALCELLOUGH IT YOU TO GOT HAILD. FOR CAMBRID FOUL OF GOING A HOLD HOMOLO, ALON, ALL NORTH, ALL NORTH DECLORATION

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



573

**3** 3

- 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 Ladree which is why I worded it the way I did But it's MLICH hetter than creating folders 1 by 1 Perhans I should delete the answer and By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



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

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

. . .

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 foldernames 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



Explorer uses natural sort so 2 will be put before 10 as one would expected (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 – phucly Jun 3 '18 at 9:48

@phuclv - 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.



```
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

Torongo