

# Jupyter notebooks: Using scripts to start in a desired directory

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This document summarizes how to create an icon that you can click on, starting jupyter in your desired working directory without going through the anaconda interface and clicking to get into a frequently used directory.

## Windows

Here we make a batch file and place it on your desktop. The file should have this as its text at be saved as a \*.bat:

```
[path of jupyter-notebook.exe file]/jupyter-notebook.exe --notebook-dir "[directory that you want to open to]"
```

(where the pathname in quotes is the root directory where I have my \*.ipynb files stored - note that this will be a 'root', so it won't be easy to navigate into parent directories if you set this as your root)

for example:

```
C:/Anaconda3/Scripts/jupyter-notebook.exe --notebook-dir  
"C:\Users\OWNER\Google Drive\_courses\16_sp_3281 - Expt1  
physics\python\jupyter notebooks"
```

Careful: Any time a path has a space in it, you need to put it all in quotes. E.g., if my jupyter-notebook.exe was in C:\Program Files\, then I would use instead:

```
"C:/Program Files/jupyter-notebook.exe" --notebook-dir  
"C:\Users\OWNER\Google Drive\_courses\16_sp_3281 - Expt1  
physics\python\jupyter notebooks"
```

When I save the extension of this file as \*.bat (you could for example save it to the desktop where it is convenient to find), then double clicking it will start jupyter and you will already be looking in the directory you are interested in. You can make multiple batch files if there are a few different directories that you will be working with regularly.

## Mac OS X:

The strategy here is slightly different - we will create a shell file that will do two things: move to the directory that we are interested in, and then start jupyter. Here's how to do it:

Determine the path of the working directory that you want - easiest way to do this is to open terminal (cmd+space bar, then type **terminal**), or find it in applications. Browse using linux commands into the directory you want - remember that you will need to use single quotes anytime there are spaces in the name of a directory. When you are in the directory you want, type **pwd** then hit enter. This will **print** the **working directory**. Copy this text.

Open a new document in text editor - for example TextEdit

Go to Format... Make Plain Text

Write the following text in the document:

```
cd '{stuff that you just copied from pwd command}'  
jupyter-notebook
```

for example:

```
cd '/Users/ryansmith/Google Drive/_courses/16_sp_3281 - Expt1  
physics/python/jupyter notebooks/'  
jupyter-notebook
```

Then save the file somewhere convenient (I choose the desktop) with a name that is something like "jupyter - Adv Lab data analysis" to remind you where the working directory will open.

Let's change the file to a shell file - right click, Get info..  
unclick "hide extension" and change the extension from \*.txt to \*.sh

When you close this window, it will ask to confirm.

You need to do an extra step - make this executable. Use terminal to browse to where this file is. Once you have found it, type:

```
chmod +x 'name of file'
```

for example:

```
chmod +x 'jup-E&M.sh'
```

This will make it executable for all users.

Now right click on your shell file, Open With.. Other Applications..  
and browse down into Utilities where you should enable "All Applications" and choose Terminal. Select "Always Open With". You are good to go. Click open.

A new terminal window should open - Jupyter should now be opened within your preferred working directory.