

MakeNewFolder version 3

© Ian Sharpe January 2009

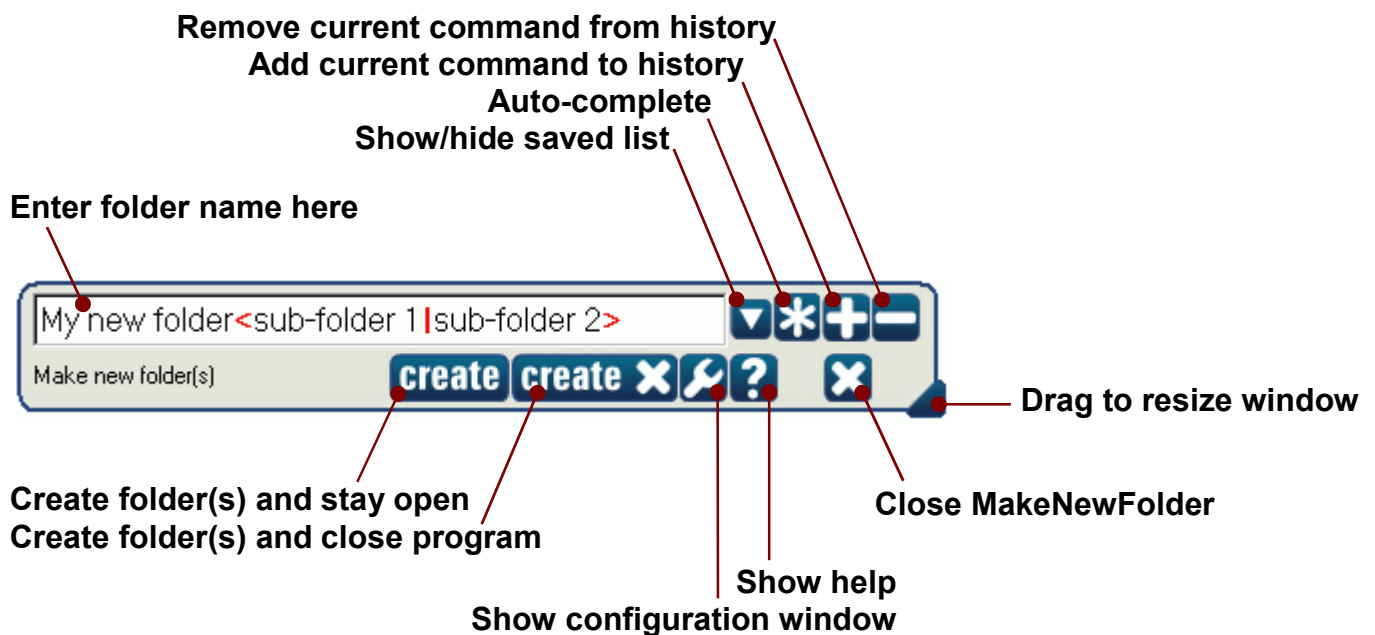
Latest version & information always at <http://www.iansharpe.com>

MakeNewFolder is free to use but is not public domain. You may distribute it only under the copyright terms published on my Web site

What it does

MakeNewFolder pops up a window from where you can create new folders in the currently active copy of Windows Explorer. It has the following advantages over Explorer's own folder creation tool:

- MakeNewFolder optionally stays open so you can create multiple folders more easily
- Advanced syntax enables multiple folder and sub-folder creation in one command (see below)
- Folder creation commands can be saved to a history list for re-use



Compatibility

This version has been tested on Windows XP only. It may work on other versions. If it does not, an earlier edition of MakeNewFolder known to be compatible with Windows 98, Me and 2000 is available on my web site. I do not have access to Windows Vista so unless somebody tells me, I cannot say how well MakeNewFolder works with it, if at all.

Essential installation steps

1. Read the disclaimer at the end of this file. Only proceed if you accept it
2. Install MakeNewFolder

(Installation steps continue on next page)

Steps 3–5 are important because the target Explorer window must have focus when MakeNewFolder is run:

3. Go to Start, Programs, MakeNewFolder
4. Right-click the MakeNewFolder program item and select Properties
5. Set up a shortcut key. I use Alt+F2 but pick whatever you like. Always run MakeNewFolder using the designated keystroke.

Steps 6 & 7 enable MakeNewFolder to discover the full path to the current folder by reading the address bar of the in-focus window:

6. In Windows Explorer, ensure that the address bar is on view
7. Under Tools, Options (or Folder Options), View, ensure that "Display the full path in the address bar" is ticked.

How to use MakeNewFolder

- Ensure that Windows Explorer is the active window, unless you intend to create folders on the desktop
- Press the shortcut key defined above
- Enter the new folder name(s) into the dialog
- Click 'Create' if you want MakeNewFolder to remain open, or 'Create X' (create and close) if you want to execute the command and close MakeNewFolder.
- The Return/Enter key does one of the above, depending how you have configured the Options dialog.
- Click 'X' to dismiss MakeNewFolder, aborting any folder creation commands not already executed. The Esc key does the same.

The history list

Command lines can be saved in a history list for future re-use:

- Click the '+' button to add the current command line to the history
- Click the down arrow to the right of the command line field to see and select items in the history
- The '-' button deletes the currently selected item from the list
- The auto-complete feature cycles through items in the history that match the command that has been entered so far. If the command line is empty, auto-complete cycles through all history items. Auto-complete is accessed with the '*' button or the Tab key

Advanced syntax

To create multiple folders separate the names with vertical bars (probably Shift - \):

```
Some folder | Another folder | Yet another folder
```

This would create three folders in the current directory. Create sub-folders by naming them inside angled brackets:

```
Some folder < Another folder >
```

This would create "Some folder" and inside (beneath) it, "Another folder". Whenever you type a '<' character, MakeNewFolder automatically adds the closing '>' and places the insertion point between them. This helps keep your brackets balanced. Automatic addition of > can be turned off in the Options dialog.

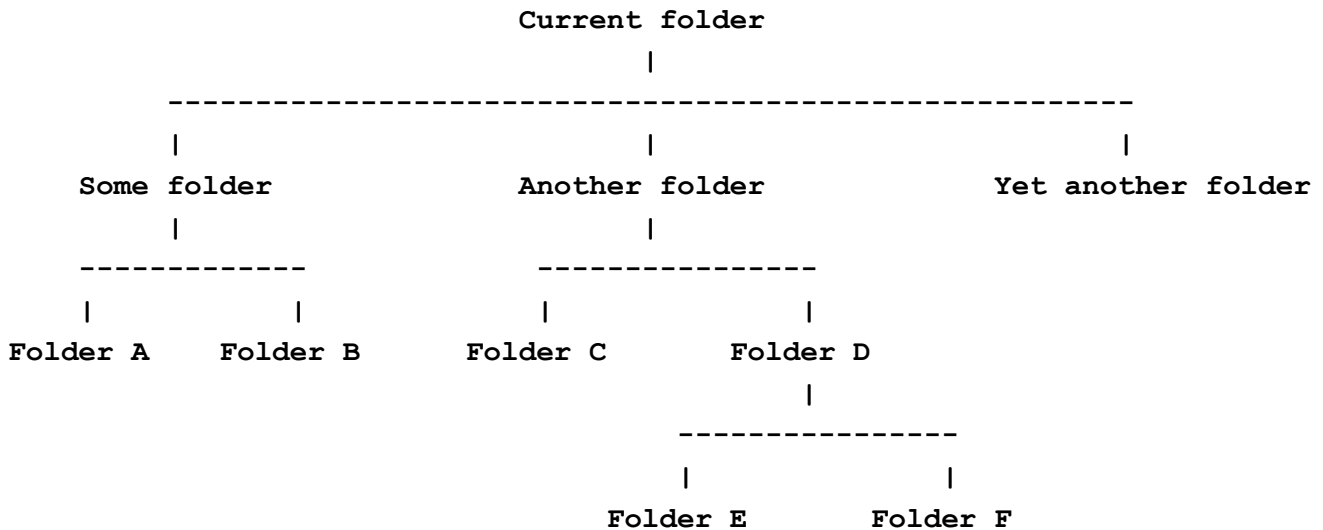
The syntax can be extended and nested to create any folder structure you like:

```
Some folder < Folder A > | Another folder | Yet another folder
```

```
Some folder < Folder A | Folder B > | Another folder | Yet another folder
```

```
Some folder < Folder A | Folder B > | Another folder < Folder C | Folder D < Folder E | Folder F >> Yet another folder
```

The last example produces this structure:



Tips

- A properly constructed command line has equal numbers of < and > characters. To help keep track of a complex structure, type them as pairs (<>) and then fill in the folder names
- Make command lines clearer by separating names and symbols with spaces. Leading and trailing spaces will be stripped before creation
- The vertical bar is optional when it would immediately follow a '>' – look carefully at the latter part of the last example.

Notes

- If Explorer is not the foreground window when MakeNewFolder starts, or if it cannot find Explorer's address bar, the program will offer to quit or to make folders on the desktop
- If MakeNewFolder is working with a specific Explorer window, it will quit automatically if that window is closed
- MakeNewFolder will not change target once it has determined it is working with a specific Explorer window or the desktop. If you want to use it with another window, close MakeNewFolder then restart it after the new window is selected

Known bugs

None at the time of writing, but that doesn't mean there aren't any.

If you find something, please let me know via www.iansharpe.com so that I can fix or at least document it for the benefit of others

Disclaimer

To the best of my knowledge, MakeNewFolder is free from serious defects. However, I make no guarantees and cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of using it.

DO NOT USE THE SOFTWARE IF YOU DO NOT ACCEPT THIS!

Tools

- Originally written with C++Builder in 2002, MakeNewFolder v3 was developed using Borland's excellent and free Turbo C++ Explorer.
- Installer built with Inno Setup.
- Help file created with MS Word and converted with Primo PDF.
- Graphics tools: Inkscape (vector), Irfanview, The Gimp.