

# Organization

Part of "Introduction to Positron" workshop



Posit Software, PBC



# Adopt a folder-oriented workflow

## Why:

- Work on more than one thing at a time across multiple Positron sessions.
- Collaborate, communicate, distribute.
- Start and stop.

## How:

- Dedicated folder containing all the associated with a given project together — input data, scripts, analytical results, and figures.
- (Maybe also) special files that designate the folder as a workspace.

# What's in a folder?

Open Folder = dedicated Positron window

- File explorer rooted at the folder.
- Dedicated R process with working directory set to the folder.
- Terminal working directory set to the folder.

New folder

3<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

# Your turn

## Create new folder

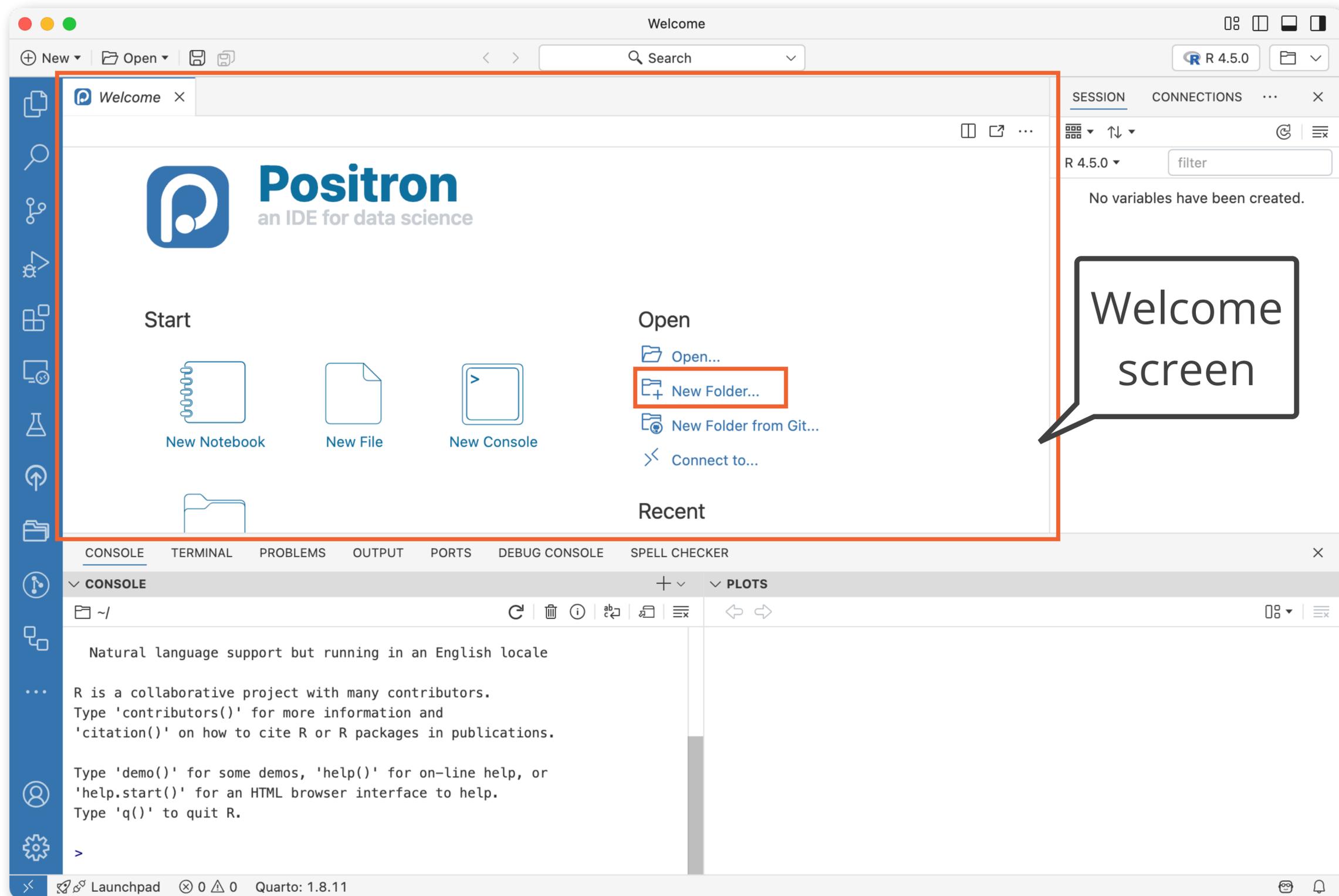
- In the Positron Welcome screen, follow the prompts to create a **New Folder...**:
  - Empty project
  - Name it `my-first-positron-project`.
  - Place it on your Desktop
  - Open in a New Window
- Add an R script to the folder and save it.
- How can you tell which folder is open in Positron?

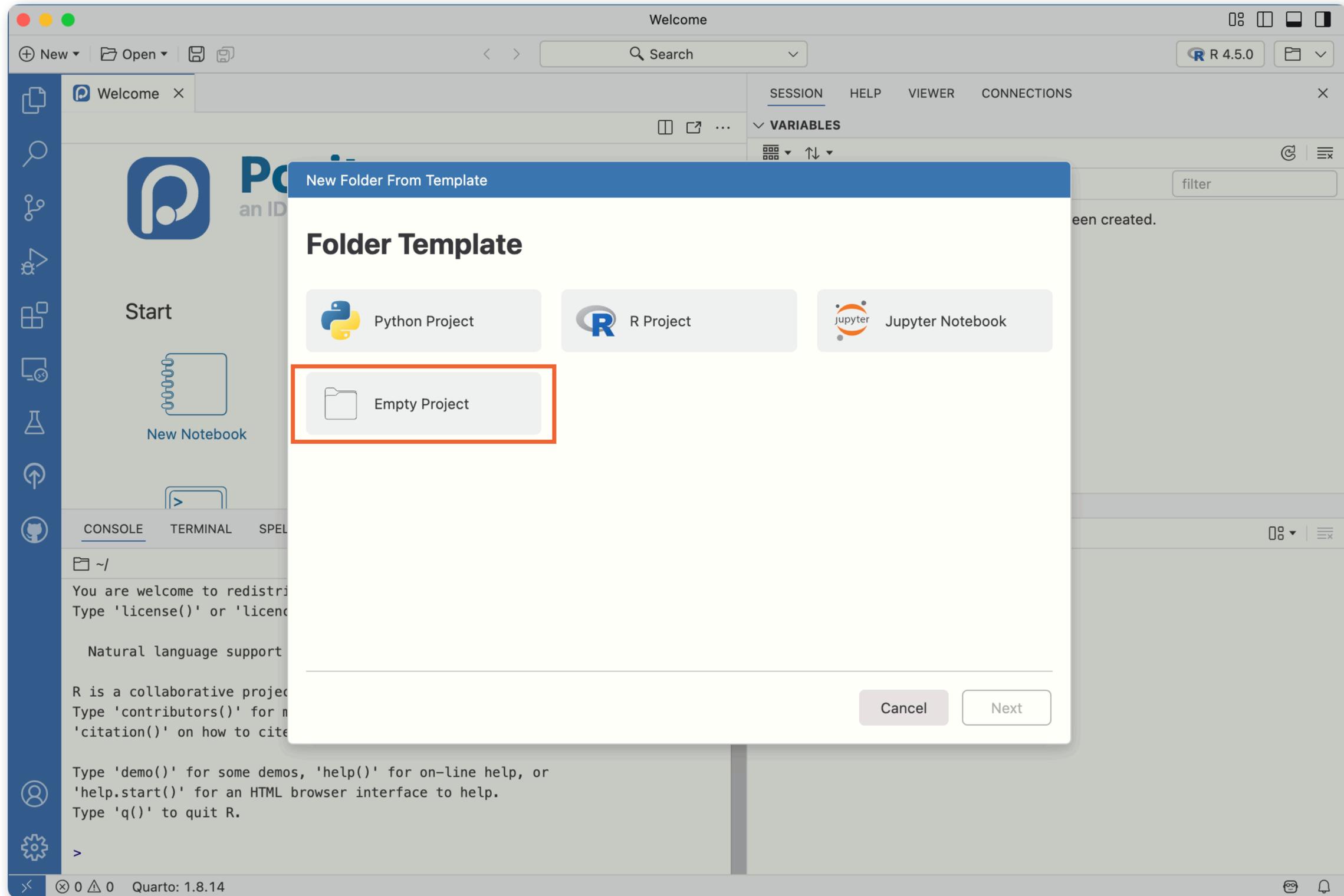
3<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

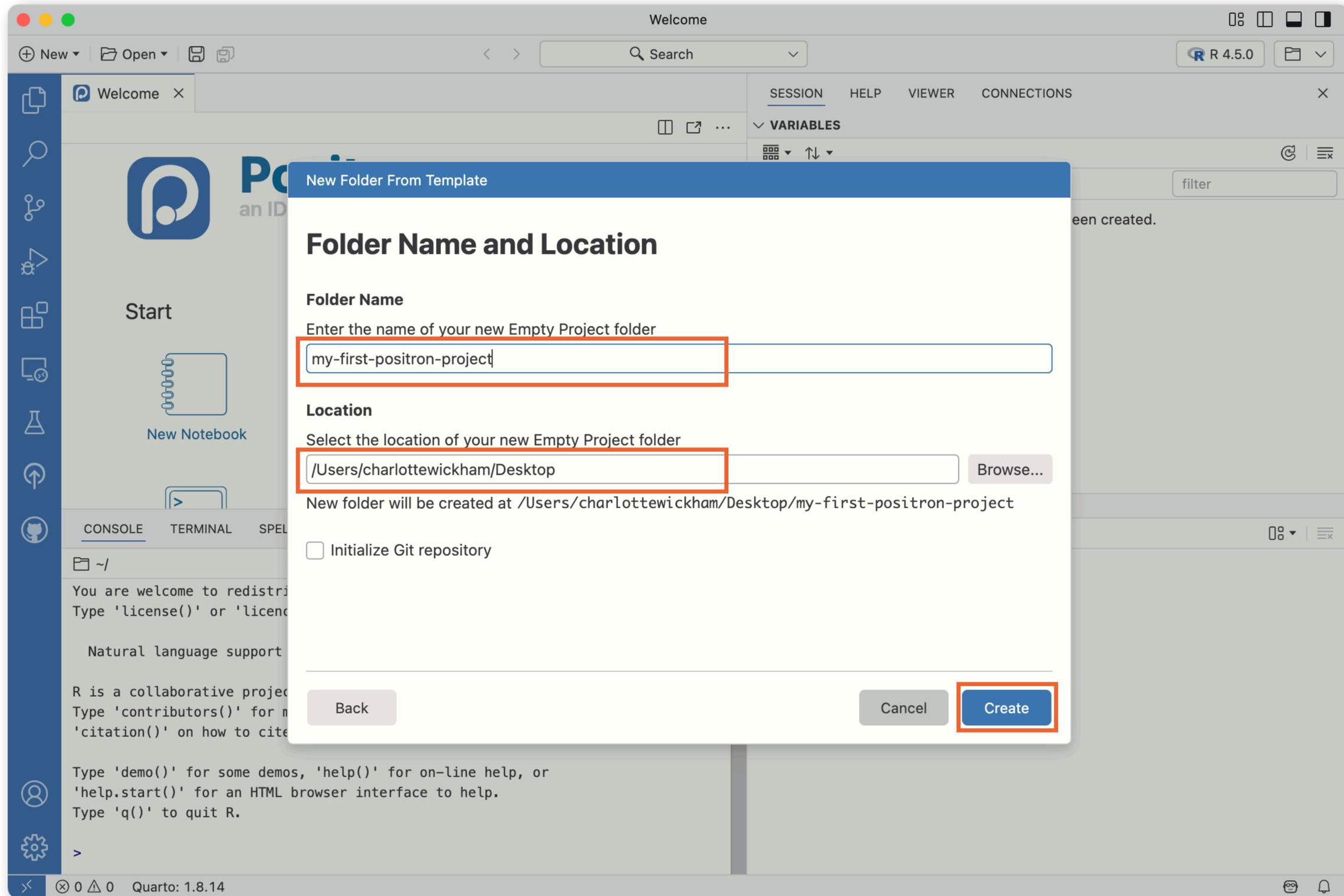
# Your turn

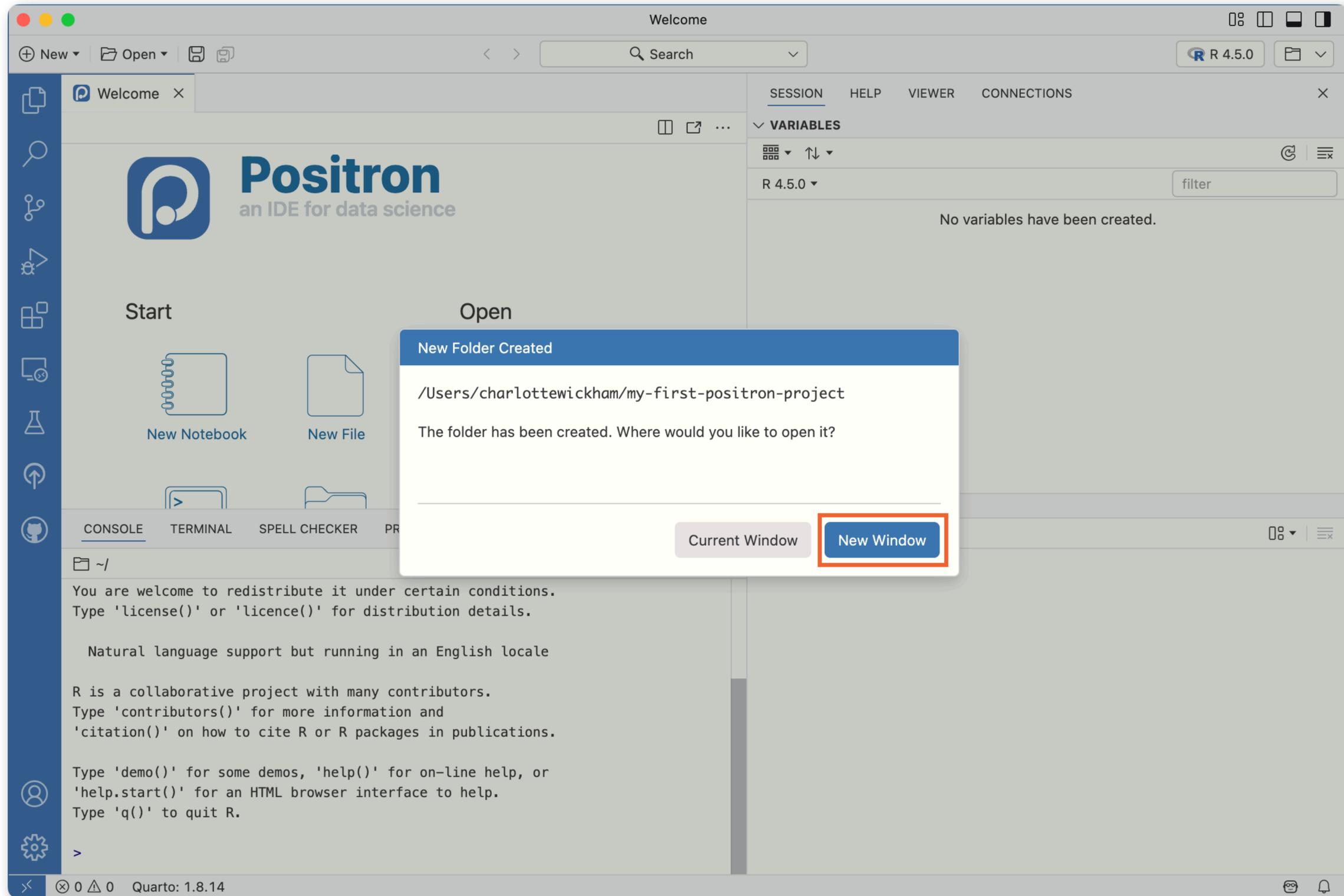
## Create new folder - v2025.06.0-167

- In the Positron Welcome screen, follow the prompts to create a **New Folder...**:
  - Name it my-first-positron-project.
  - Place it on your Desktop.
  - Check Open in a New Window
- Add an R script to the folder and save it.
- How can you tell which folder is open in Positron?

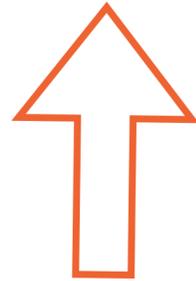








v2025.06.0-167



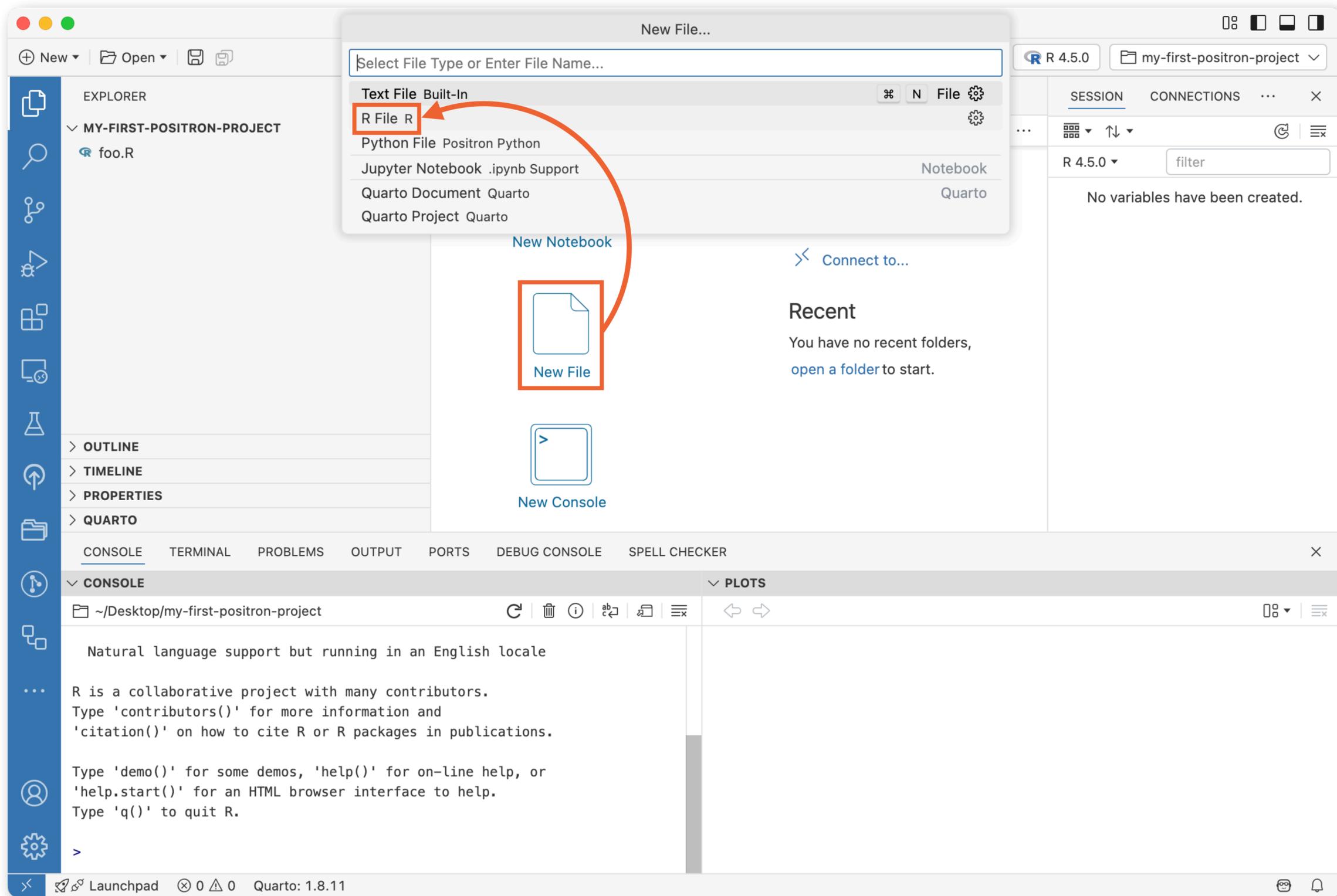
The screenshot shows the Positron IDE interface. At the top, the window title is "Welcome". The menu bar includes "New", "Open", and "Search". The main area displays the Positron logo and "an IDE for data science". Below this, there are options for "New Notebook" and "New File". A "New Folder" dialog box is open in the center, with the following fields and options:

- Folder name: my-first-positron-project
- Create folder as subfolder of: /Users/mine/Desktop (with a "Browse..." button)
- Open in a new window
- Buttons: Cancel and OK

The background shows the "CONSOLE" panel with the following text:

```
Natural language support but running in an English locale  
  
... R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.  
  
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.  
Type 'q()' to quit R.  
  
>
```

At the bottom of the window, the status bar shows "Launchpad", "0 0", and "Quarto: 1.8.11".



The image shows the RStudio IDE interface. At the top, the window title is "foo.R — my-first-positron-project". The top toolbar includes "New", "Open", "Search", and "R 4.5.0". The left sidebar shows the "EXPLORER" view with a tree structure for "MY-FIRST-POSITRON-PROJECT" containing a file named "foo.R". Below the explorer are sections for "OUTLINE", "TIMELINE", "PROPERTIES", and "QUARTO". The main editor area shows the file "foo.R" with the code `1 x <- 2`. The right sidebar shows the "SESSION" view for "R 4.5.0" with a "filter" input and the message "No variables have been created." Below the editor is a toolbar with "CONSOLE", "TERMINAL", "PROBLEMS", "OUTPUT", "PORTS", "DEBUG CONSOLE", and "SPELL CHECKER". The "CONSOLE" view is active, showing the path `~/my-first-positron-project` and the R startup message: "Natural language support but running in an English locale", "R is a collaborative project with many contributors. Type 'contributors()' for more information and 'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.", "Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or 'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.", "Type 'q()' to quit R.", and a prompt `>`. The bottom status bar shows "Launchpad", "0 0", "Quarto: 1.8.11", "Spaces: 2", "UTF-8", "R", and "Prettier".

# Demo

## Folder workflow

- Close one Positron window: **File > Close Window**
- Close all Positron windows: Windows: **File > Exit**, Mac: **Positron > Quit**
- Open Positron: last window(s) open will reopen
- Folder menu in top bar
  - Close folder
  - Open recent folder
- Open Recent (including folders): **Ctrl + R**

The screenshot shows the RStudio IDE interface. At the top, the window title is "foo.R — my-first-positron-project". The top bar includes a search field and a dropdown menu for the current project, which is "my-first-positron-project". This dropdown menu is open, showing a list of actions: "New Project...", "New Folder...", "New Folder from Git...", "Open Folder...", "Open Folder in New Window...", "Close Folder", and two paths: "~/my-first-positron-project" and "~/Desktop/my-first-positron-project". The "Close Folder" option is highlighted. The main editor area shows a file named "foo.R" with the following code:

```
foo.R > ...  
1 x <- 2
```

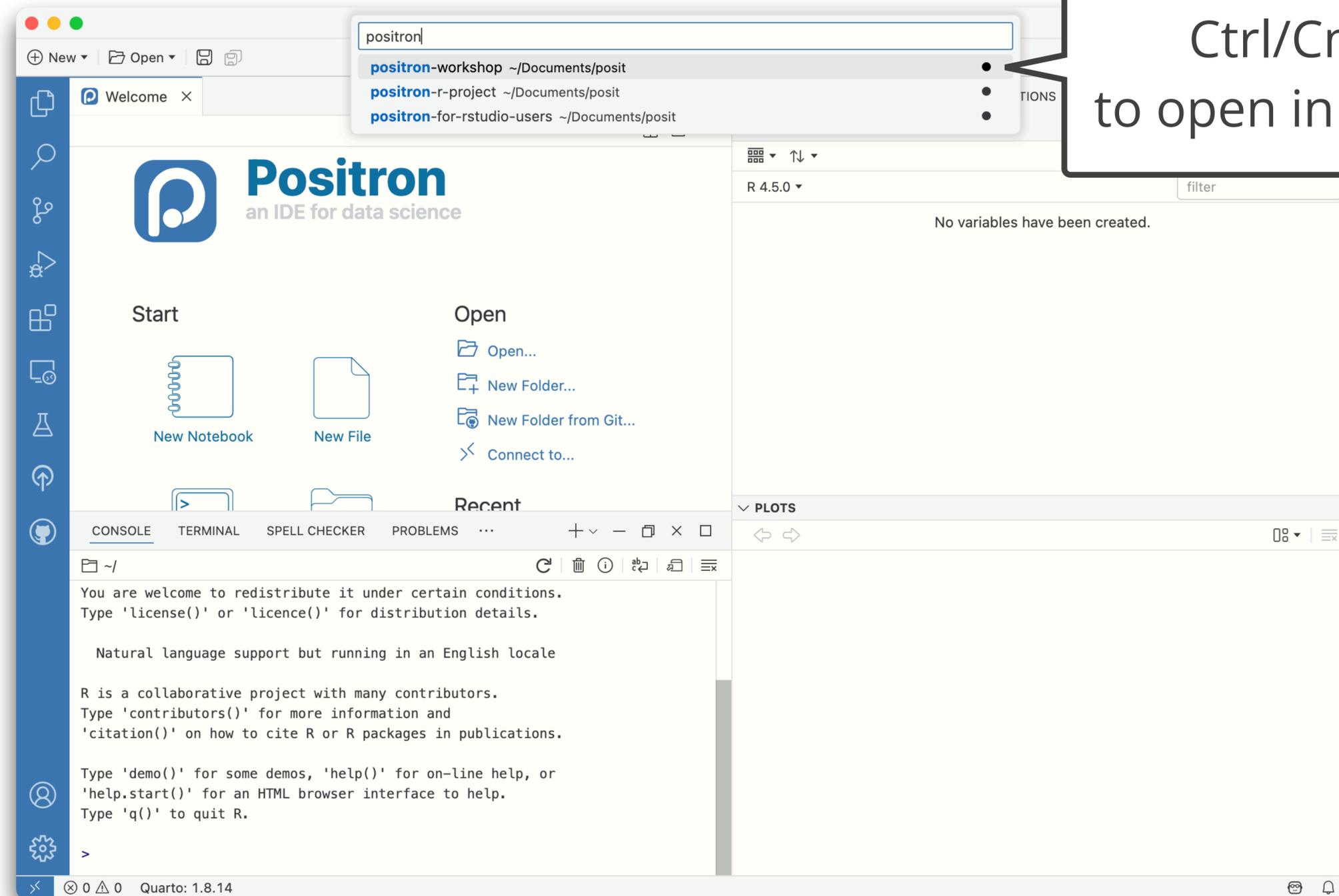
The left sidebar contains the "EXPLORER" view, showing the project structure with "MY-FIRST-POSITRON-PROJECT" and "foo.R". Below the explorer are sections for "OUTLINE", "TIMELINE", "PROPERTIES", and "QUARTO". The bottom panel is split into "CONSOLE" and "PLOTS". The console shows the output of the R session:

```
~/my-first-positron-project  
  
Natural language support but running in an English locale  
  
...  
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.  
  
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.  
Type 'q()' to quit R.  
  
>
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Launchpad", "0 0", "Quarto: 1.8.11", "Spaces: 2", "UTF-8", "R", and "Prettier".

Click to reveal menu

# Ctrl + R



3<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

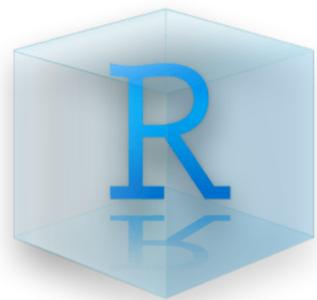
# Your turn

## Open RStudio Project as a folder

- Locate a project that you usually work on in RStudio that has an Rproj file.
- Open the project folder in Positron.

# RStudio Projects vs. Positron ???s

- RStudio places an `.Rproj` file in a folder to designate it as an RStudio Project.
- Used for storing project-level preferences, launching projects, and for identifying the project root (e.g., for `here::here()`).
- Positron doesn't place anything that functions exactly like an Rproj file in every folder.
- Unless you set workspace-level preferences, which prompts the creation of a `.vscode/settings.json` file that stores these preferences.
- *Note:* In Positron, `here::here()` will find the folder root typically through finding a `.git` folder.



# Positron and the Rproj file

- Positron doesn't do anything with the contents of an Rproj file.
- For example, your Rproj file might indicate preferences like using spaces for tabs (**UseSpacesForTab: Yes**) or using line breaks after each sentence in Quarto or R Markdown files (**MarkdownWrap: Sentence**).
- We'll discuss expressing some of these as Positron settings in a later module.
- For Quarto projects, some might be best set in `_quarto.yml`.

```
r4ds.Rproj
Version: 1.0

RestoreWorkspace: Default
SaveWorkspace: Default
AlwaysSaveHistory: Default

EnableCodeIndexing: Yes
UseSpacesForTab: Yes
NumSpacesForTab: 2
Encoding: UTF-8

RnwWeave: Sweave
LaTeX: XeLaTeX

StripTrailingWhitespace: Yes

BuildType: None

UseNativePipeOperator: Yes

MarkdownWrap: Sentence
MarkdownCanonical: Yes

SpellingDictionary: en_US
```

3<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

# Your turn

## Open new folder from Git

You'll need this project in the next module. Ask for help if you get stuck!

- Open a **New Folder from Git**:
  - The repo: <https://github.com/posit-dev/positron-workshop-project>
  - As a folder on your Desktop

### No Git?

Run in the R Console:

```
usethis::use_course("posit-dev/positron-workshop-project")
```

Welcome

New Open Search R 4.5.0

Welcome x

SESSION CONNECTIONS

R 4.5.0 filter

No variables have been created.



# Positron

an IDE for data science

## Start

- New Notebook
- New File
- New Console

## Open

- Open...
- New Folder...
- New Folder from Git...**
- Connect to...

## Recent

CONSOLE TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT PORTS DEBUG CONSOLE SPELL CHECKER

CONSOLE PLOTS

```
~/  
  
Natural language support but running in an English locale  
  
... R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.  
  
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.  
Type 'q()' to quit R.  
  
> |
```

Launchpad 0 0 Quarto: 1.8.11

Welcome

New Open Search R 4.5.0

Welcome X

SESSION CONNECTIONS

R 4.5.0 filter

No variables have been created.

# Positron

an IDE for data science

## Start

New Notebook New File

CONSOLE TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT

CONSOLE

~/

Natural language support but running in an English locale

... R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.  
Type 'q()' to quit R.

>

Launchpad 0 0 Quarto: 1.8.11

### New Folder from Git

Git repository URL  
`https://github.com/posit-dev/positron-workshop-project.git`

Create folder as subfolder of  
`/Users/mine/Desktop` Browse...

Open in a new window

Cancel OK

Welcome — positron-workshop-project

New Open Save Copy Search Start Session positron-workshop-project

EXPLORER

- POSITRON-WORKSHOP-PROJECT
  - .gitignore
  - hello.qmd
  - README.md
- OUTLINE
- TIMELINE
- PROPERTIES
- QUARTO

CONSOLE

There is no session running. Use [Start Session](#) to start one.

PLOTS

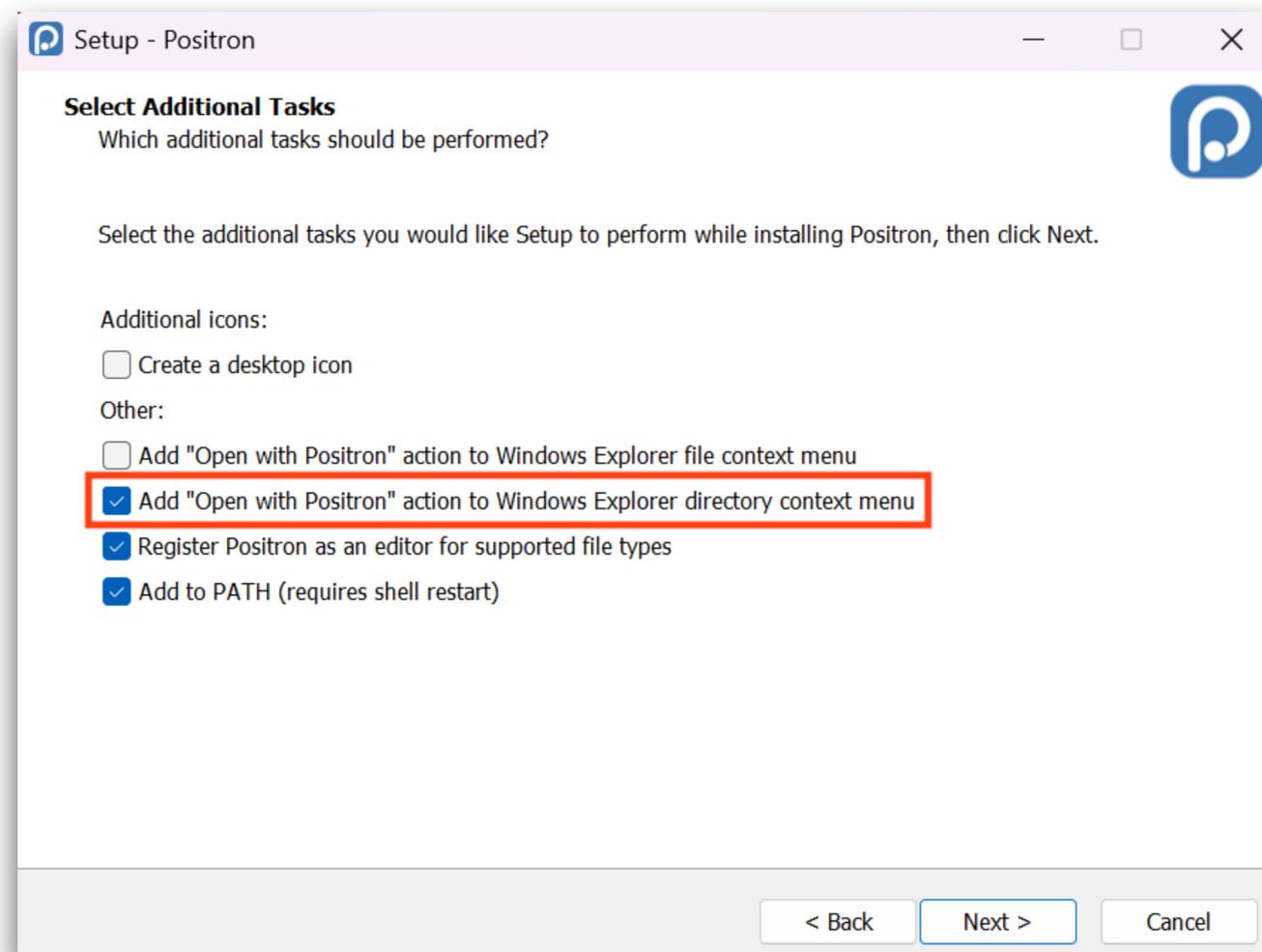
main Launchpad 0 0 Git Graph Quarto: 1.8.11

Launch Positron

# Launch from Windows File Explorer

**Setup:** When installing Positron, enable context menu integration in Setup > Select Additional Tasks by checking the box to “Open with Positron”.

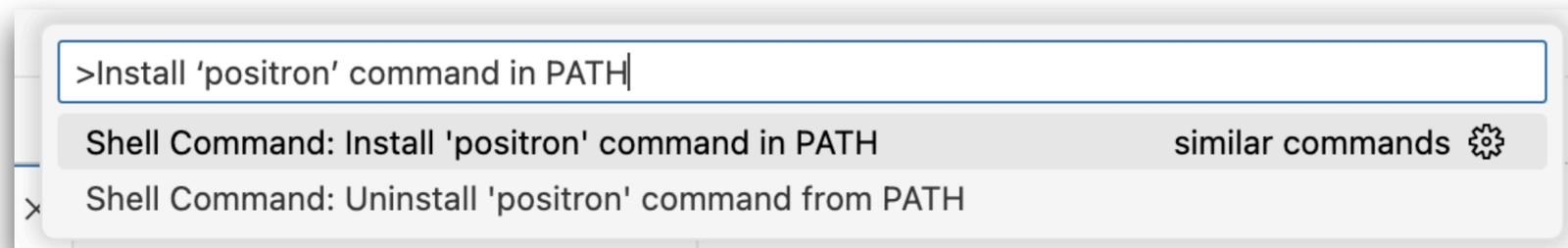
**In File Explorer:** Right-click on a folder and select “Open with Positron” from the context menu.



# Launch from Mac OS Finder (via Terminal)

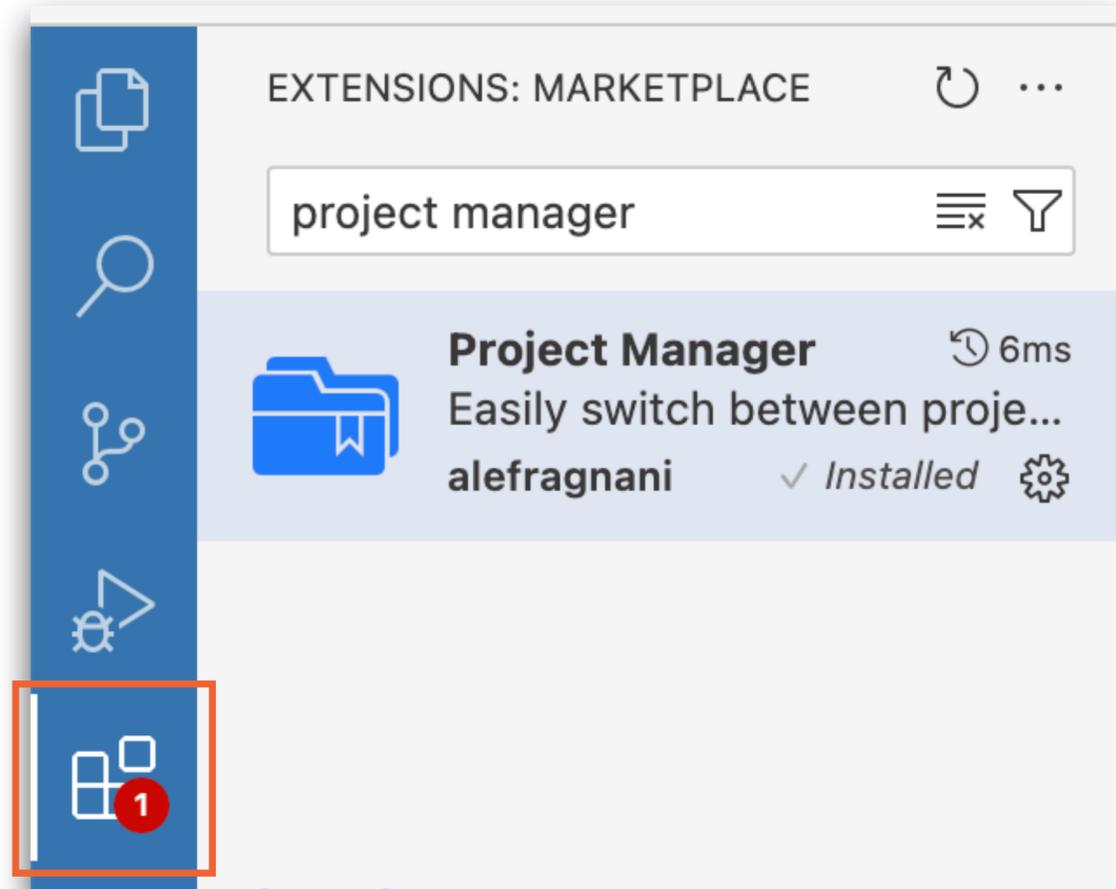
**Setup:** Add Positron to your `PATH` via the Command Palette by pressing `Cmd+Shift+P` to open the palette and typing *Install 'positron' command in PATH*.

**In Finder:** Right-click on a folder and select "New Terminal at Folder" then, in the Terminal, type `positron .` to launch Positron.

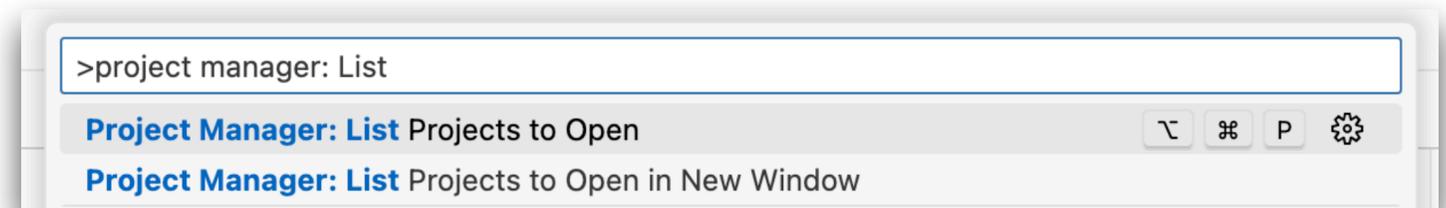


# Launch from the Project Manager extension

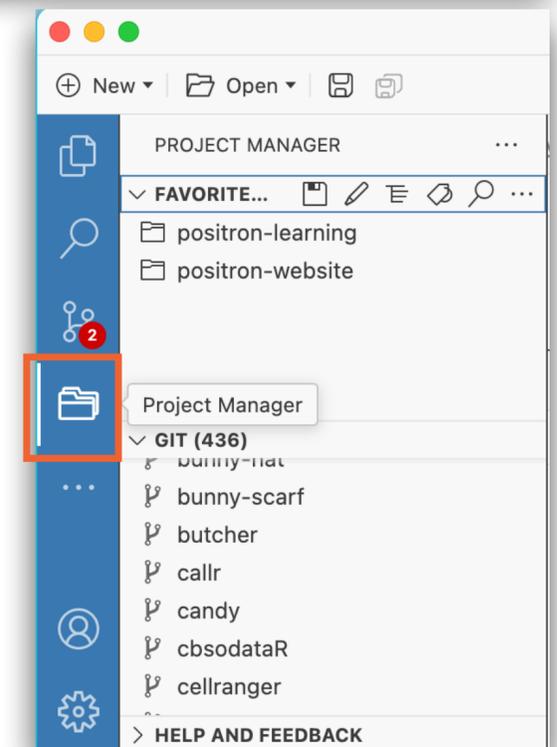
**Setup:** Install extension from Open VSX Registry.



**In the Command Palette:** Type *Project Manager: List projects to open* which gives you a nice searchable UI in the command palette.

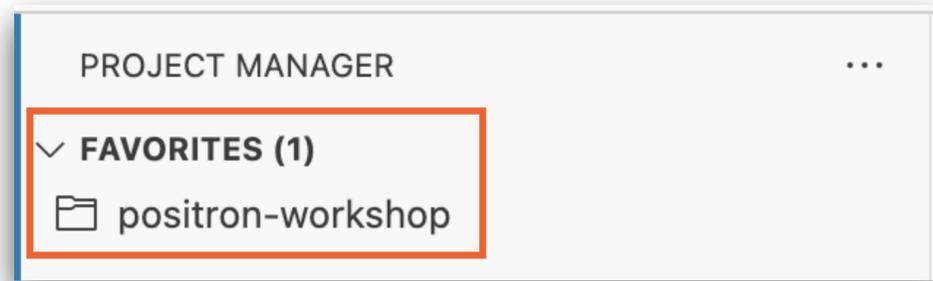
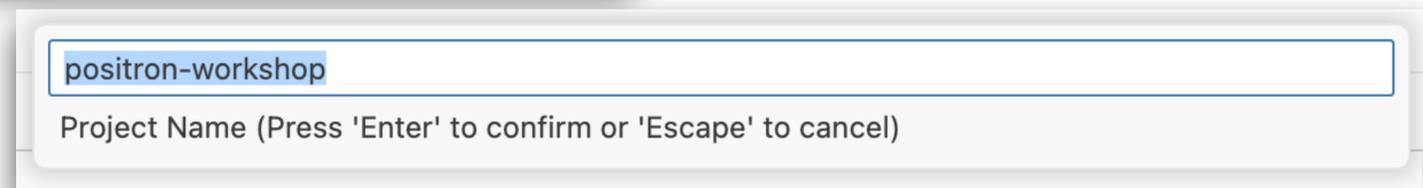
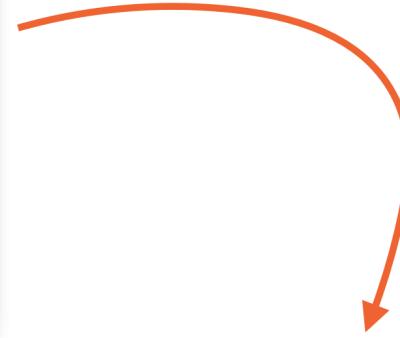
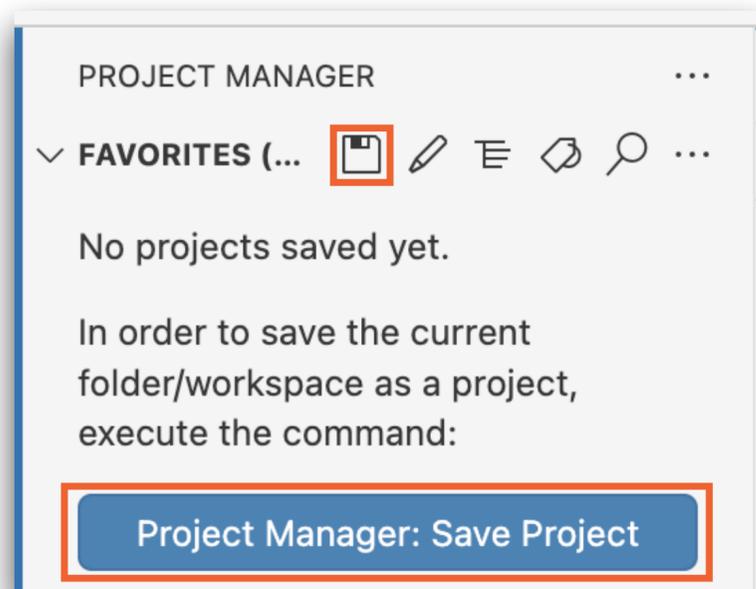


**In the Activity Bar:** Click on extension icon.

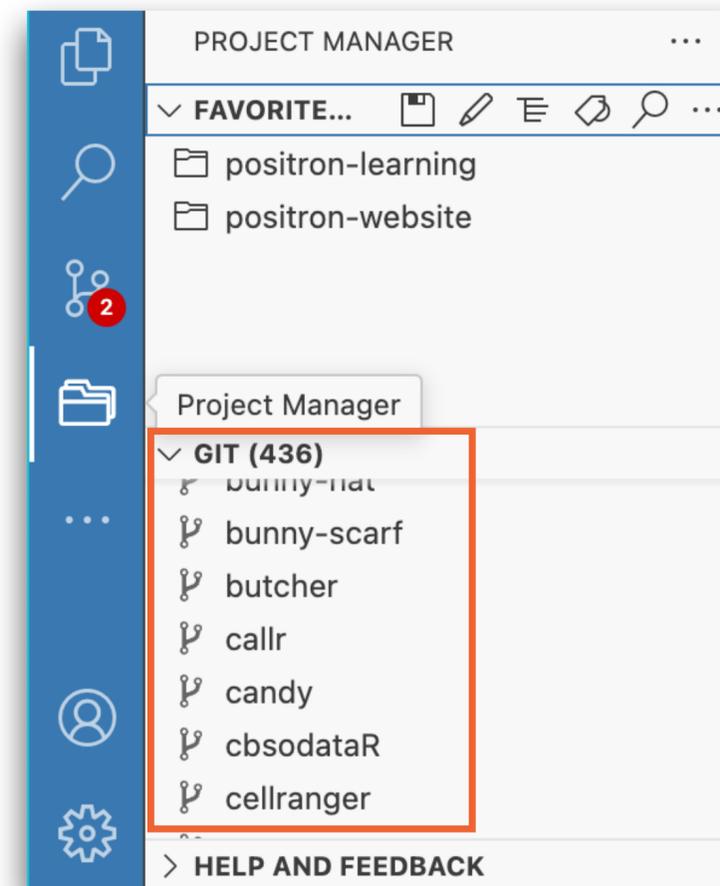


# Making your folders known to Project Manager

**Favorites:** Explicitly save specific folders as favorites.



**Git:** Tell the extension about specific folders where you tend to keep Git repositories — any subfolder of these base folders that is also a Git repo is automatically treated as a project.



# Learn more

**Positron docs:** Migrating from RStudio > The Rproj file

[positron.posit.co/rstudio-rproj-file.html](https://positron.posit.co/rstudio-rproj-file.html)