

Running iPython cleanly inside a virtualenv

PYTHON VIRTUALENV IPYTHON

If you run ipython directly on the commandline without having it installed inside the virtualenv you are working on you may get some awkward behaviour since it iPython will be running a mix of environments (system wide + virtualenv) ... normally you would see an warning as follows

```
WARNING: Attempting to work in a virtualenv. If you encounter problems, please install IPython inside the virtualenv.
Python 2.7.3 (default, Jan 2 2013, 13:56:14)
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
```

```
IPython 0.13.2 -- An enhanced Interactive Python.
?          -> Introduction and overview of IPython's features.
%quickref  -> Quick reference.
help       -> Python's own help system.
object?    -> Details about 'object', use 'object??' for extra details.
```

```
In [1]:
```

To avoid this I use an alias that makes sure iPython is loaded from inside the venv ... here it is:

```
alias ipy="python -c 'import IPython; IPython.frontend.terminal.ipapp.launch_new_instance()'"
```

Edit: as of ipython 1.0 this is the new alias

```
alias ipy="python -c 'import IPython; IPython.terminal.ipapp.launch_new_instance()'"
```

now running `ipy` I will know for sure that I am running within the venv.