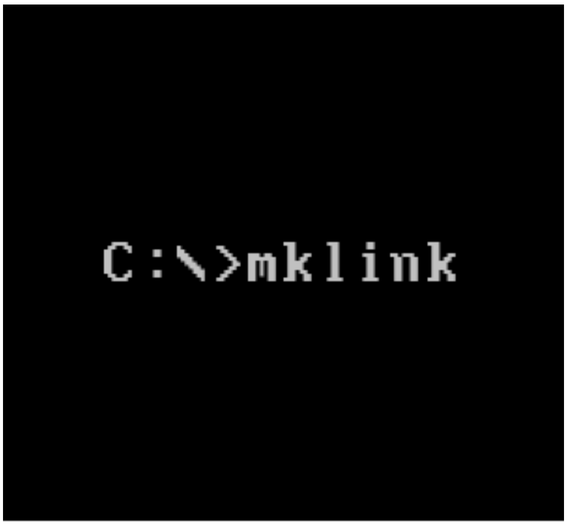
MS-DOS and Windows command line mklink command

Updated: 01/31/2019 by Computer Hope

The **mklink** command is used to create a symbolic link through the Windows command line.



```
C:\>mklink
```

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Availability

Mklink is an internal command that's available in the following Microsoft operating systems.

- Windows Vista
- Windows 7
- Windows 8
- Windows 10

Mklink syntax

```
MKLINK [[/D] | [/H] | [/J]] Link Target
```

/D	Creates a symbolic directory link. The default is a symbolic file link.
/H	Creates a hard link instead of a symbolic link.
/J	Creates a directory junction.
Link	Specifies the new symbolic link name.
Target	Specifies the path (relative or absolute) of the new link.

Mklink examples

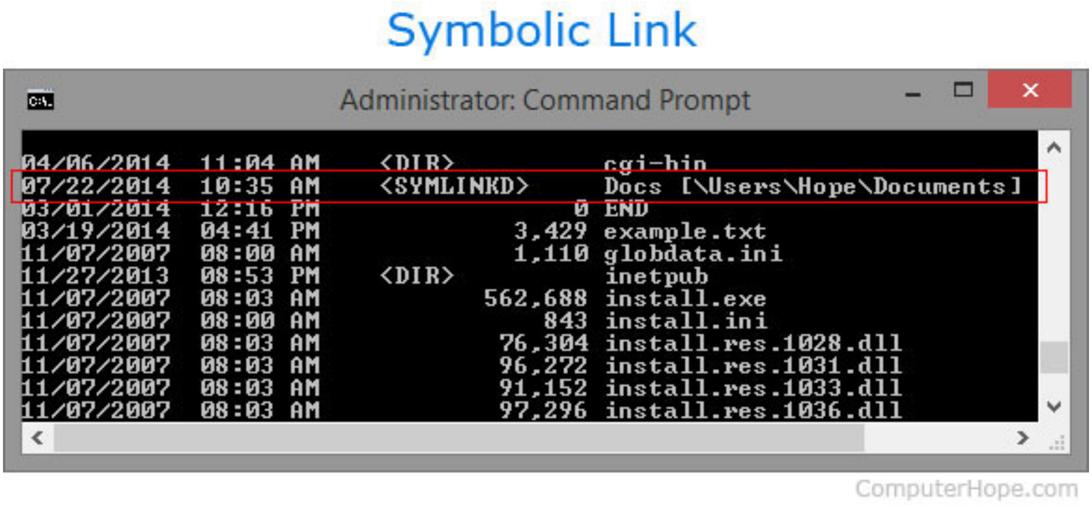
Tip: The mklink command requires you to be in an elevated command prompt.

```
mklink /d \Docs \Users\Hope\Documents
```

The example command above would create a symbolic link called *Docs* to the *\Users\Hope\Documents* directory, even if the directory does not exist. If the link is successfully created, you will see a message similar to the one shown below.

```
Symbolic link created for \Docs <<===>> \Users\Hope\Documents
```

Once the symbolic link is created, using the dir command you can see any symbolic link in the directory listing of where it was created. Below is an example of what the previous symbolic link directory, <SYMLINKD>, would look like in the command line.



Symbolic Link

```
04/06/2014  11:04 AM    <DIR>          cgi-bin
07/22/2014  10:35 AM    <SYMLINKD>     Docs [\Users\Hope\Documents]
03/01/2014  12:16 PM                 0 END
03/19/2014  04:41 PM             3,429 example.txt
11/07/2007  08:00 AM             1,110 globdata.ini
11/27/2013  08:53 PM    <DIR>          inetpub
11/07/2007  08:03 AM           562,688 install.exe
11/07/2007  08:00 AM               843 install.ini
11/07/2007  08:03 AM            76,304 install.res.1028.dll
11/07/2007  08:03 AM            96,272 install.res.1031.dll
11/07/2007  08:03 AM            91,152 install.res.1033.dll
11/07/2007  08:03 AM            97,296 install.res.1036.dll
```

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To get into the symbolic link directory, you would treat it like any other directory and use the cd command. To get into the *Docs* directory, you would type "cd docs" at the prompt as if it was a directory.

How do I create a junction point?

Tip: A junction point can only link to a local directory.

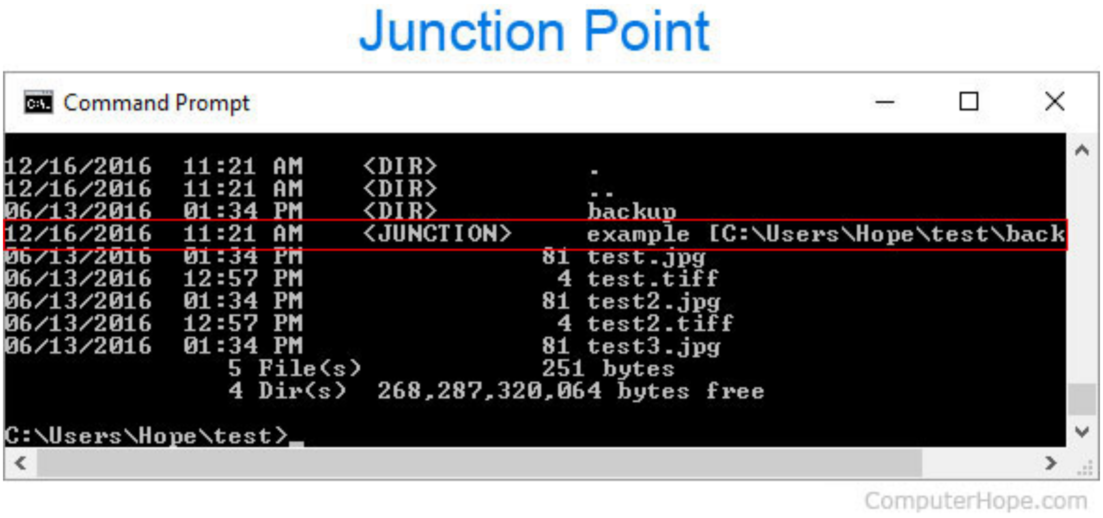
To create a junction point to a local directory, perform the following command. As seen, we are using the /j switch instead of the /d switch.

```
mklink /j example backup
```

If created successfully, you will see a message similar to the example shown below.

Junction created for example <<===>> backup

Once the junction is created, using the dir command you can see any junction in the directory listing of where the junction was created. Below is an example of what the above junction directory <JUNCTION> would look like in the command line.



Junction Point

```
12/16/2016  11:21 AM    <DIR>          .
12/16/2016  11:21 AM    <DIR>          ..
06/13/2016  01:34 PM    <DIR>          backup
12/16/2016  11:21 AM    <JUNCTION>     example [C:\Users\Hope\test\back
06/13/2016  01:34 PM                81 test.jpg
06/13/2016  12:57 PM                 4 test.tiff
06/13/2016  01:34 PM                81 test2.jpg
06/13/2016  12:57 PM                 4 test2.tiff
06/13/2016  01:34 PM                81 test3.jpg
               5 File(s)            251 bytes
               4 Dir(s)  268,287,320,064 bytes free

C:\Users\Hope\test>_
```

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How do I create a symbolic link or junction to a directory with a space?

If the file or directory you want to link or point to contains a space in its name, it must be surrounded with quotes. In the example below, we are creating a symbolic link to the "c:\program files" directory from the current directory.

```
mklink /d files "c:\program files"
```

How do I delete a symbolic link?

To delete a symbolic link, treat it like any other directory or file. If you created a symbolic link using the command shown above, move to the root directory since it is "\Docs" and use the rmdir command. If you created a symbolic link (<SYMLINK>) of a file, to delete a symbolic link use the del command.

How do I delete a junction point?

A junction point is only going to be a directory, so you should only need to use the rmdir command to remove it.

Will deleting a symbolic link or junction point delete the linked files or directory?

No. When you delete a symbolic link or a junction point, it's only removing the link or pointer and not the file or directory to which it's pointing. However, if you create a directory symbolic link or junction point and open that link or pointer and delete files in the directory, those files are deleted.