

Command Line Commands for Control Panel Applets

List of Control Panel Commands in Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP

by [Tim Fisher](#)

Updated April 24, 2018

Did you know that each [Control Panel applet](#) in Windows can be opened by executing a specific [command](#)? It's true! You just have to know what that command is.

Sometimes it's easier, or maybe even in some cases *necessary*, to open an applet in the [Control Panel](#) from a [command line](#) in Windows. For example, if you're building a script or software program that needs to open an applet, these little tricks help.

More common, however, is a situation where your computer is misbehaving in a certain way that prevents you from navigating around like usual, leaving you with no way to [open Control Panel normally](#), which you likely need to do to solve the issue! Frustrating, I know.

Often times, however, these situations still allow the execution of a command. That's where it's very handy to have the list of Control Panel command line tricks shown in the giant table below.

Start by [opening Command Prompt](#), or even just the Run box (**WIN+R** [keyboard](#) shortcut). Once open, execute, *exactly as shown below*, the command that corresponds with the Control Panel applet you want to open. It's as easy as that.

Note: See our [List of Control Panel Applets in Windows](#) for Control Panel applet descriptions and information about changes in applets between the Windows [operating systems](#).

"The" Control Panel Command

Maybe you don't want to open a specific Control Panel applet from Command Prompt, or the Run box, but instead you want Control Panel *itself* to open...the Control Panel "home page" so to speak.

This is as easy as executing **control** from a command line in any version of Windows. Don't add anything after it—just *control* by itself.

Control Panel will open just as it does when you do all the clicking or tapping you usually do to open it normally.

Control Panel Command Line Commands in Windows

Control Panel Applet	Command	OS Version
----------------------	---------	------------

Accessibility Options	control access.cpl	XP
Action Center	control /name Microsoft.ActionCenter	8, 7
	control wscui.cpl	8, 7
Add Features to Windows 8	control /name Microsoft.WindowsAnytimeUpgrade	8
Add Hardware	control /name Microsoft.AddHardware	Vista
	control hdwwiz.cpl	XP
Add or Remove Programs	control appwiz.cpl	XP
Administrative Tools	control /name Microsoft.AdministrativeTools	8, 7, Vista
	control admintools	8, 7, Vista, XP
Automatic Updates	control wuauclt.cpl	XP
AutoPlay	control /name Microsoft.AutoPlay	8, 7, Vista
Backup and Restore Center	control /name Microsoft.BackupAndRestoreCenter	Vista
Backup and Restore	control /name Microsoft.BackupAndRestore	7
Biometric Devices	control /name Microsoft.BiometricDevices	8, 7
BitLocker Drive Encryption	control /name Microsoft.BitLockerDriveEncryption	8, 7, Vista
Bluetooth Devices	control bthprops.cpl ¹³	8, 7, Vista
	control /name Microsoft.BluetoothDevices	Vista
Color Management	control /name Microsoft.ColorManagement	8, 7, Vista
Color ¹	WinColor.exe ²	XP
Credential Manager	control /name Microsoft.CredentialManager	8, 7
Client Service for NetWare	control nwc.cpl	XP
Date and Time	control /name Microsoft.DateAndTime	8, 7, Vista
	control timedate.cpl	8, 7, Vista
	control date/time	8, 7, Vista, XP
Default Location	control /name Microsoft.DefaultLocation	7
Default Programs	control /name Microsoft.DefaultPrograms	8, 7, Vista

Desktop Gadgets	control /name Microsoft.DesktopGadgets	7
Device Manager	control /name Microsoft.DeviceManager	8, 7, Vista
	control hdwwiz.cpl	8, 7, Vista
	devmgmt.msc	8, 7, Vista, XP ³
Devices and Printers	control /name Microsoft.DevicesAndPrinters	8, 7
	control printers	8, 7
Display	control /name Microsoft.Display	8, 7
	control desk.cpl	XP
	control desktop	XP
Ease of Access Center	control /name Microsoft.EaseOfAccessCenter	8, 7, Vista
	control access.cpl	8, 7, Vista
Family Safety	control /name Microsoft.ParentalControls	8
File History	control /name Microsoft.FileHistory	8
Flash Player Settings Manager	control flashplayercplapp.cpl	8
Folder Options	control /name Microsoft.FolderOptions	8, 7, Vista
	control folders	8, 7, Vista, XP
Fonts	control /name Microsoft.Fonts	8, 7, Vista
	control fonts	8, 7, Vista, XP
Game Controllers	control /name Microsoft.GameControllers	8, 7, Vista
	control joy.cpl	8, 7, Vista, XP
Get Programs	control /name Microsoft.GetPrograms	8, 7, Vista
Getting Started	control /name Microsoft.GettingStarted	7
Home Group	control /name Microsoft.HomeGroup	8, 7
Indexing Options	control /name Microsoft.IndexingOptions	8, 7, Vista

	rundll32.exe shell32.dll,Control_RunDLL srchadmin.dll	8, 7, Vista, XP
Infrared	control /name Microsoft.Infrared	8, 7
	control irprops.cpl	8, 7, Vista
	control /name Microsoft.InfraredOptions	Vista
Internet Options	control /name Microsoft.InternetOptions	8, 7, Vista
	control inetcpl.cpl	8, 7, Vista, XP
iSCSI Initiator	control /name Microsoft.iSCSIInitiator	8, 7, Vista
Keyboard	control /name Microsoft.Keyboard	8, 7, Vista
	control keyboard	8, 7, Vista, XP
Language	control /name Microsoft.Language	8
Location and Other Sensors	control /name Microsoft.LocationAndOtherSensors	7
Location Settings	control /name Microsoft.LocationSettings	8
Mail ⁴	control mlcfg32.cpl ⁵	8, 7, Vista, XP
<u>Mouse</u>	control /name Microsoft.Mouse	8, 7, Vista
	control main.cpl	8, 7, Vista
	control mouse	8, 7, Vista, XP
Network and Sharing Center	control /name Microsoft.NetworkAndSharingCenter	8, 7, Vista
Network Connections	control ncpa.cpl	8, 7, Vista
	control netconnections	8, 7, Vista, XP
Network Setup Wizard	control netsetup.cpl	8, 7, Vista, XP
Notification Area Icons	control /name Microsoft.NotificationArealcons	8, 7
ODBC Data Source Administrator	control odbccp32.cpl	XP ⁶

Offline Files	control /name Microsoft.OfflineFiles	8, 7, Vista
Parental Controls	control /name Microsoft.ParentalControls	7, Vista
Pen and Input Devices	control /name Microsoft.PenAndInputDevices	Vista
	control tabletpc.cpl	Vista
Pen and Touch	control /name Microsoft.PenAndTouch	8, 7
	control tabletpc.cpl	8, 7
People Near Me	control /name Microsoft.PeopleNearMe	7, Vista
	control collab.cpl	7, Vista
Performance Information and Tools	control /name Microsoft.PerformanceInformationAndTools	8, 7, Vista
Personalization	control /name Microsoft.Personalization	8, 7, Vista
	control desktop	8, 7, Vista
Phone and Modem Options	control /name Microsoft.PhoneAndModemOptions	Vista
	control telephon.cpl	Vista, XP
Phone and Modem	control /name Microsoft.PhoneAndModem	8, 7
	control telephon.cpl	8, 7
Power Options	control /name Microsoft.PowerOptions	8, 7, Vista
	control powercfg.cpl	8, 7, Vista, XP
Printers and Faxes	control printers	XP
Printers	control /name Microsoft.Printers	Vista
	control printers	Vista
Problem Reports and Solutions	control /name Microsoft.ProblemReportsAndSolutions	Vista
Programs and Features	control /name Microsoft.ProgramsAndFeatures	8, 7, Vista
	control appwiz.cpl	8, 7, Vista
Recovery	control /name Microsoft.Recovery	8, 7
Region	control /name Microsoft.RegionAndLanguage	8

	control intl.cpl	8
	control international	8
Region and Language	control /name Microsoft.RegionAndLanguage	7
	control intl.cpl	7
	control international	7
Regional and Language Options	control /name Microsoft.RegionalAndLanguageOptions	Vista
	control intl.cpl	Vista
	control international	Vista, XP
RemoteApp and Desktop Connections	control /name Microsoft.RemoteAppAndDesktopConnections	8, 7
Scanners and Cameras	control /name Microsoft.ScannersAndCameras	8, 7, Vista
	control sticpl.cpl	XP
Scheduled Tasks	control schedtasks	XP ⁷
Screen Resolution	control desk.cpl	8, 7
Security Center	control /name Microsoft.SecurityCenter	Vista
	control wscui.cpl	XP
Software Explorers ⁸	msascui.exe ⁹	XP
Sound	control /name Microsoft.Sound	8, 7
	control /name Microsoft.AudioDevicesAndSoundThemes	Vista
	control mmsys.cpl	8, 7, Vista
Sounds and Audio Devices	control mmsys.cpl	XP
Speech Recognition Options	control /name Microsoft.SpeechRecognitionOptions	Vista
Speech Recognition	control /name Microsoft.SpeechRecognition	8, 7
Speech	control sapi.cpl ¹⁰	XP
Storage Spaces	control /name Microsoft.StorageSpaces	8
Sync Center	control /name Microsoft.SyncCenter	8, 7, Vista

System	control /name Microsoft.System	8, 7, Vista
	control sysdm.cpl	XP
System Properties	control sysdm.cpl	8, 7, Vista
Tablet PC Settings	control /name Microsoft.TabletPCSettings	8, 7, Vista
Task Scheduler ⁷	control schedtasks	8, 7, Vista
Taskbar	control /name Microsoft.Taskbar	8
	rundll32.exe shell32.dll,Options_RunDLL 1	8
Taskbar and Start Menu	control /name Microsoft.TaskbarAndStartMenu	7, Vista
	rundll32.exe shell32.dll,Options_RunDLL 1	7, Vista, XP
Text to Speech	control /name Microsoft.TextToSpeech	8, 7, Vista
Troubleshooting	control /name Microsoft.Troubleshooting	8, 7
User Accounts	control /name Microsoft.UserAccounts	8, 7, Vista
	control userpasswords	8, 7, Vista, XP
Welcome Center	control /name Microsoft.WelcomeCenter	Vista
Windows 7 File Recovery	control /name Microsoft.BackupAndRestore	8
Windows Anytime Upgrade	control /name Microsoft.WindowsAnytimeUpgrade	7, Vista
Windows CardSpace	control /name Microsoft.CardSpace	7, Vista
	control infocardcpl.cpl	7, Vista
Windows Defender	control /name Microsoft.WindowsDefender	8, 7, Vista ¹¹
Windows Firewall	control /name Microsoft.WindowsFirewall	8, 7, Vista
	control firewall.cpl	8, 7, Vista, XP
Windows Marketplace	control /name Microsoft.GetProgramsOnline	Vista
Windows Mobility Center	control /name Microsoft.MobilityCenter	8, 7, Vista
Windows Sidebar Properties	control /name Microsoft.WindowsSidebarProperties	Vista
Windows SideShow	control /name Microsoft.WindowsSideShow	8,7, Vista
Windows Update	control /name Microsoft.WindowsUpdate	8, 7, Vista ¹²

Wireless Link	control irprops.cpl	XP
Wireless Network Setup Wizard	?	XP

[1] Color is not available by default but is available for free from Microsoft. You can grab a copy from [MajorGeeks](#).

[2] WinColor.exe must be run from the C:\Program Files\Pro Imaging Powertoy\Microsoft Color Control Panel Applet for Windows XP folder.

[3] I've listed Device Manager here because it's such a commonly used feature of Windows but please know that it is not a true Control Panel applet in Windows XP. See [How to Open Windows XP Device Manager](#) for more information.

[4] The Mail applet is only available if a version of Microsoft Office Outlook is installed.

[5] The control mlcfg32.cpl command must be run from the C:\Programs Files\Microsoft Office\OfficeXX folder, replacing OfficeXX with the folder pertaining to the Microsoft Office version you have installed.

[6] ODBC Data Source Administrator was removed from Control Panel after Windows XP but is still available from Administrative Tools.

[7] In Windows 8, 7, and Vista, task scheduling is performed by Task Scheduler which is not directly accessible from Control Panel. However, executing this command in those versions of Windows will forward to Task Scheduler.

[8] Software Explorers is the name for the Control Panel applet for Windows Defender, available for free [here](#) as part of Microsoft Security Essentials.

[9] Msascui.exe must be run from the C:\Program Files\Windows Defender folder.

[10] The control sapi.cpl command must be run from the C:\Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\Speech folder.

[11] Windows Defender is available in Windows XP but the Control Panel applet is instead called Software Explorers.

[12] Windows Update is also used in Windows XP but only via the [Windows Update website](#), not via a Control Panel applet like in later versions of Windows.

[13] In Windows 8, bthprops.cpl opens Devices in PC Settings which will list any Bluetooth Devices. In Windows 7, bthprops.cpl opens the Bluetooth Devices list under Devices and Printers. In Windows Vista, bthprops.cpl opens a true Control Panel applet called Bluetooth Devices.