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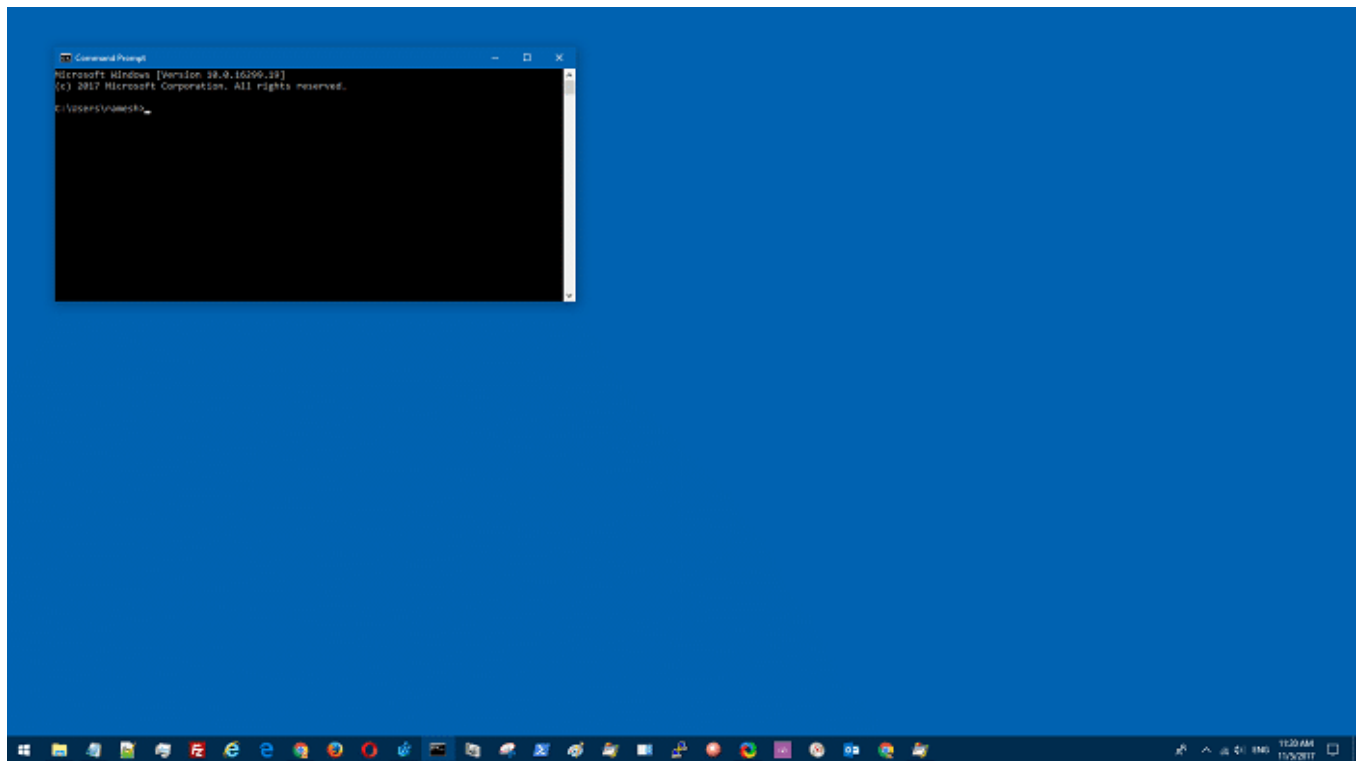
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Set Command Prompt Default Window Size and Position



When you open Command Prompt by default, it's positioned randomly on the screen. Also, when you resize the Command Prompt window and close it, the setting is not retained the next time. This system managed positioning annoys many users

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customize the default Command Prompt window size (width and height), and set its default position screen coordinates.

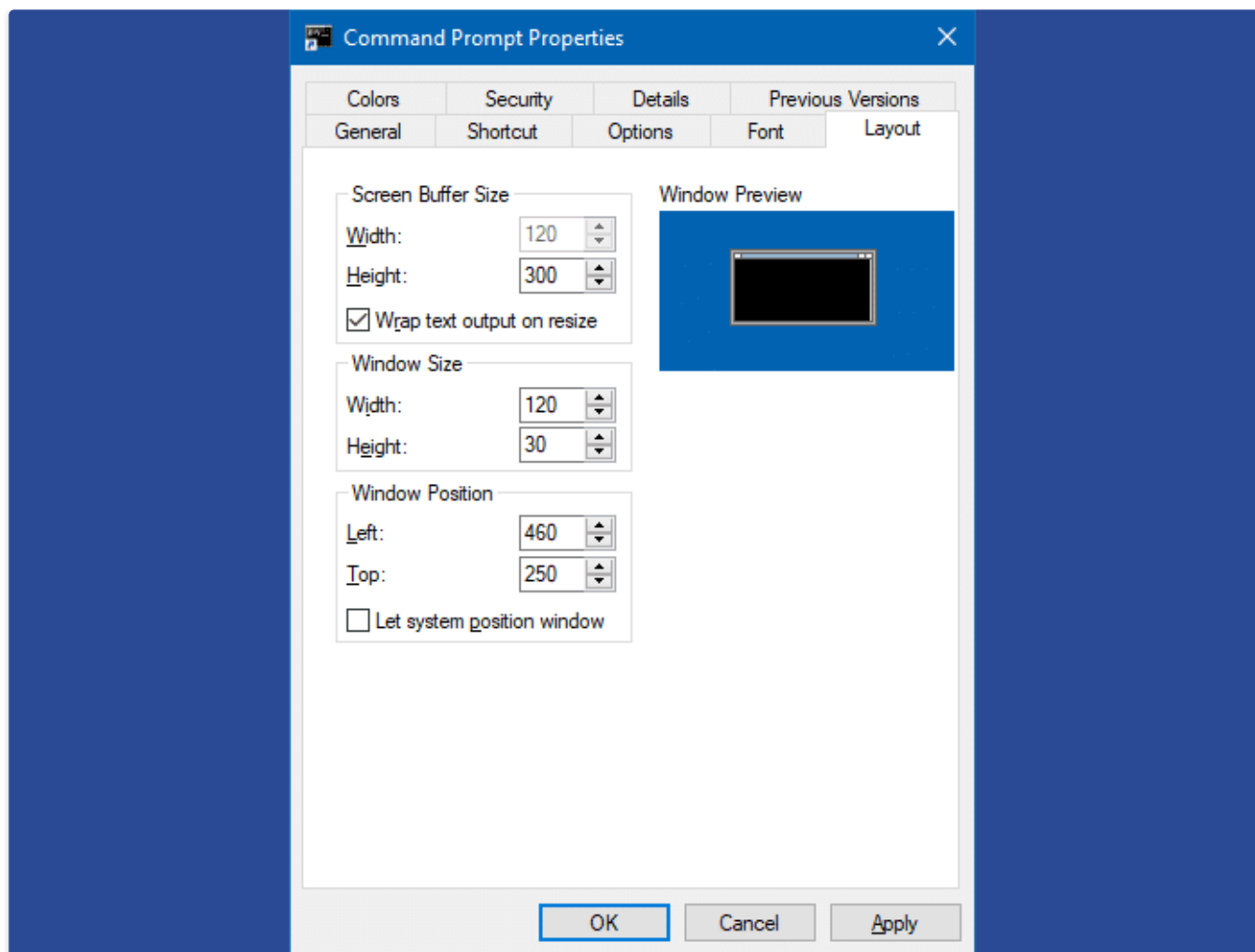
Set Command Prompt Default Window Size & Position for a Particular Shortcut

You can customize the appearance of a Command Prompt window, changing its window size, position, font and colors. You can save these settings independently for each shortcut that launches a Command Prompt so that you can make appropriate settings for different tasks. Also you configure a global default window size, position and font settings which will apply when you launch Command Prompt window using other means — for example, when you run `cmd.exe` directly.

To customize a Command Prompt window for a **particular shortcut**, use these steps:

Right-click on a Command Prompt shortcut, and click Properties. Alternately, double-click the shortcut to launch Command Prompt. Right-click on the Command Prompt title bar and click Properties.

Click on the Layout tab.

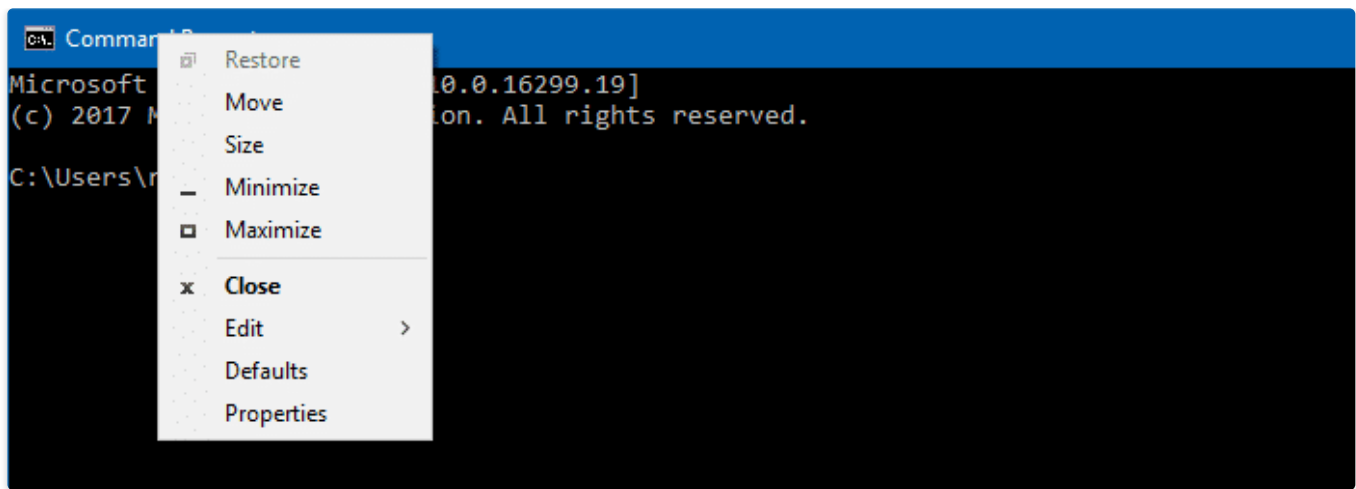


Change the Window size and Window Position settings in that tab. As you alter the Width, Height, Left and Top values, you can see the Window preview which will help you set the desired size and position. Note that you'll need to first uncheck **Let system position window option** setting to input custom values.

Click OK. Changes made here affect all future Command Prompt sessions launched from that **particular** shortcut.

Set Command Prompt Global Default Window Size & Position

Open a Command Prompt window by running cmd.exe from the Start Run dialog. In Windows 8 and Windows 10, you can right-click on the Start button to open the Win + X menu, and select "[Command Prompt](#)" option to open it easily.



Difference between “Properties” and “Defaults” options

Right-clicking on the Command Prompt window title offers access to the **Properties** dialog box. (If Command Prompt is running in full-screen mode, press Alt+Enter to switch to window display.) Changes you make here affect the current session, and all future sessions launched only from that shortcut. The changes made are saved inside that particular shortcut (.lnk) file, instead of the registry.

Right-clicking on the Command Prompt window title and choosing **Defaults** from the Control menu lets you make changes that will not affect the current session but instead will affect all future sessions (except for those launched from a shortcut whose properties have been customized). These changes also affect future sessions in character-mode, MS-DOS-based applications that do not have a program-information file (PIF) and do not store their own settings. This setting is saved in the registry.

Right-click on the Command Prompt title bar, and click **Defaults**. Select the Layout tab and configure the size and position accordingly, as explained earlier.

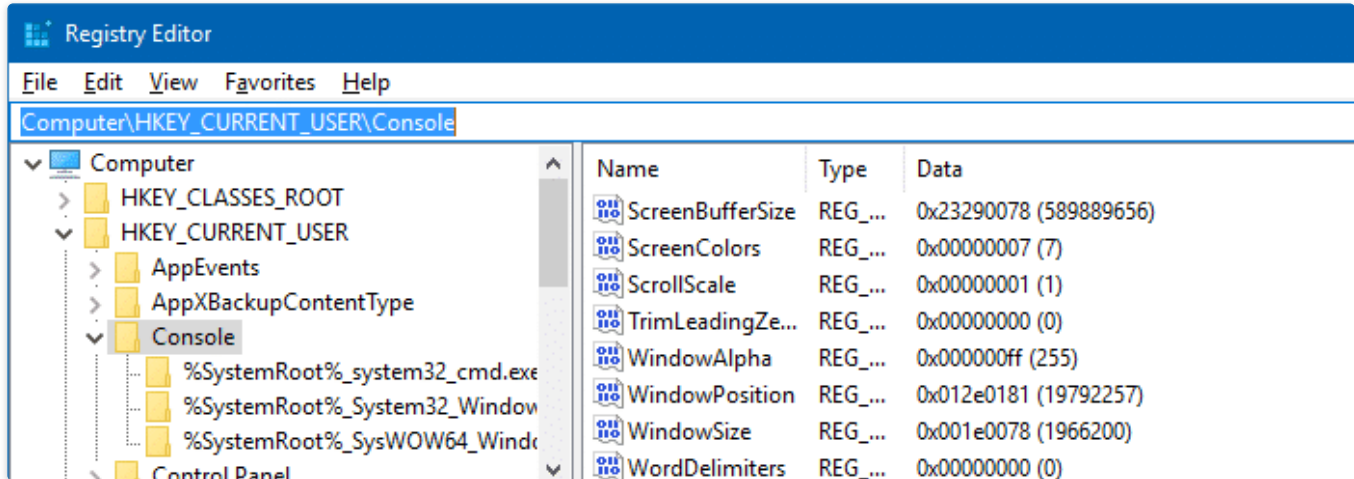
The changes you make here affects all future sessions (except for CMD windows launched from a shortcut whose properties have been customized). These changes also affect future sessions in character-mode, MS-DOS-based applications that do not have a program-information file (PIF) and do not store their own settings. The global settings are used when you launch cmd.exe manually or via the Win + X menu.

Registry Key

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The global default settings are stored in the following per-user registry key, in case you want to propagate the changes to other systems.

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Console



Reset Command Prompt Settings to Defaults

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

;Reset Command Prompt settings to default

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Console]
"CtrlKeyShortcutsDisabled"=dword:00000000
"CursorSize"=dword:00000019
"EnableColorSelection"=dword:00000000
"ExtendedEditKey"=dword:00000001
"ExtendedEditKeyCustom"=dword:00000000
"FaceName"="__DefaultTTFont__"
"FilterOnPaste"=dword:00000001
"FontFamily"=dword:00000000
"FontSize"=dword:00100000
"FontWeight"=dword:00000000
"ForceV2"=dword:00000001
"FullScreen"=dword:00000000
"HistoryBufferSize"=dword:00000032
"HistoryNoDup"=dword:00000000
"InsertMode"=dword:00000001
"LineSelection"=dword:00000001
"LineWrap"=dword:00000001
"LoadConIme"=dword:00000001
"NumberOfHistoryBuffers"=dword:00000004
"PopupColors"=dword:000000f5
"QuickEdit"=dword:00000001
```

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```
"WindowAlpha"=dword:000000ff
"WindowSize"=dword:001e0078
"WordDelimiters"=dword:00000000
"ColorTable00"=dword:00000000
"ColorTable01"=dword:00800000
"ColorTable02"=dword:00008000
"ColorTable03"=dword:00808000
"ColorTable04"=dword:00000080
"ColorTable05"=dword:00800080
"ColorTable06"=dword:00008080
"ColorTable07"=dword:00c0c0c0
"ColorTable08"=dword:00808080
"ColorTable09"=dword:00ff0000
"ColorTable10"=dword:0000ff00
"ColorTable11"=dword:00ffff00
"ColorTable12"=dword:000000ff
"ColorTable13"=dword:00ff00ff

"ColorTable14"=dword:0000ffff
"ColorTable15"=dword:00ffffff
"CurrentPage"=-
"WindowPosition"=-
```

To reset Command Prompt preferences to defaults, copy the above contents to Notepad and save the file with `.reg` extension, say `reset_cmd.reg`. Double-click the file to apply the settings. The default colors, font face, font family, window size, position (system managed) and other settings are restored. As stated earlier, this is a per-user setting.



About the author

Ramesh Srinivasan founded Winhelponline.com back in 2005. He is passionate about Microsoft technologies and has a vast experience in the ITeS industry — delivering support for Microsoft's consumer products. He has been a Microsoft MVP [2003 to 2012] who contributes to various Windows support forums.

by Ramesh Srinivasan

Windows

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Gerrit

So useful, thank you!

Fred

Great! Thanks!

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