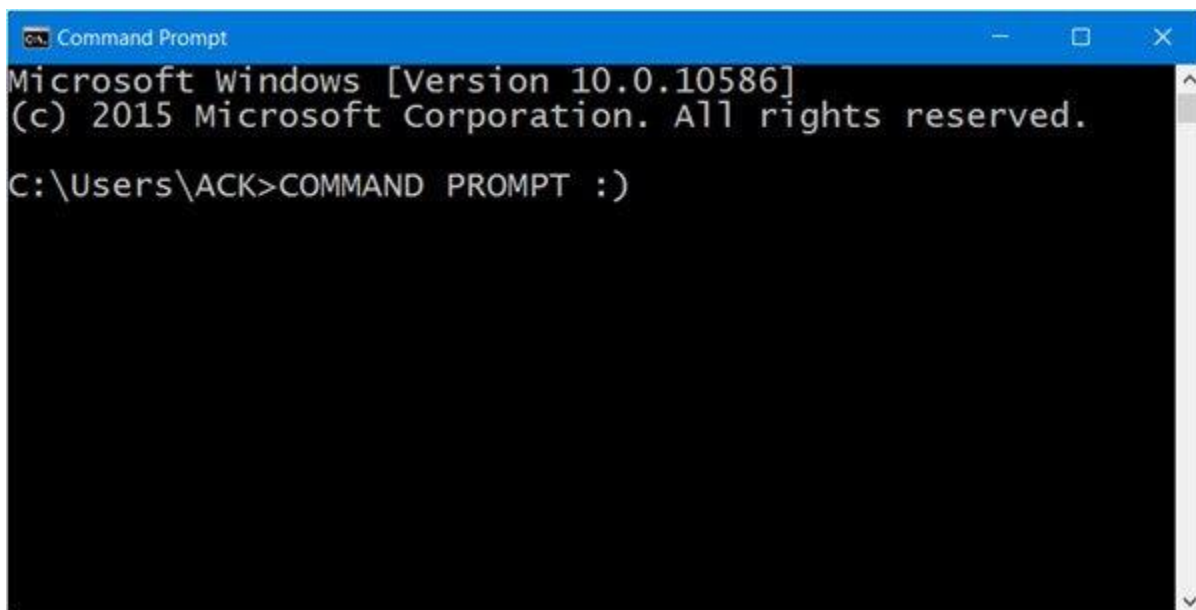


# How to open/launch Command Prompt

Many folks might not know this, but there are several ways to **open or launch the Command Prompt (CMD) in Windows 10**. It's so easy to do that even if a newborn could do it. OK, maybe we're exaggerating here, but that still doesn't mean the processes are not downright simple. Don't believe us? That's fine because we're going to share with you how to do this without much fuss.

First, you'll need to have Windows 10 or any other version of Windows. For this, we're going to focus on Windows 10 so some aspects of opening the command prompt might be slightly different due to the new Start Menu and other things.



## Launch Command Prompt in Windows 10

### 1] Locating the CMD from the apps menu

Click on the Start Button then go to "All Apps." Wait for it to load then scroll down to the Windows System folder, from there, the Command Prompt software should be visible. Bear in mind that if you do not want to scroll, just click on the letter "A" then "W" for faster access.

### 2] Launch Control Prompt from the Explorer address bar

Bet you had no idea this was possible, eh? To do it, just slide into the area by launching the File Explorer. Move the cursor to the search bar. Type "CMD" and click search, the Command Prompt should launch right after.

Read: [Ways to open Command Prompt in a folder in Windows.](#)

### 3] Launch Command Prompt from Task Manger

If you're a regular user of the Task Manager, then there is a cool way to open the CMD without having to move away from the tool. Open Task Manager. Now just press and hold **CTRL** while clicking on File > **Run New Task**. That's it, the CMD should now be visible.

### 4] Launch CMD using Win+X keyboard shortcut

This option is one of the easiest ways to get the job done. Just click on **WinKey** and **X**. After that, look for the words Command Prompt and click on it. Easy right? We agree. This option also makes it possible to fire up the CMD as an administrator.

### 5] Open Command Prompt via the Start Button Win+X Menu

Right-click on the Start Button and select Command Prompt!

### 6] Launch the Command Prompt using Cortana

Launch Cortana from the Windows taskbar, then search for "CMD" and right away the tool should pop up. This is one of the fastest ways to start the Command Prompt from anywhere on your desktop.

### 7] Launch the Command Prompt from File Explorer

If everything we've noted above does not work, then go directly to where the file is located. Open your File Explorer, and visit the following section:

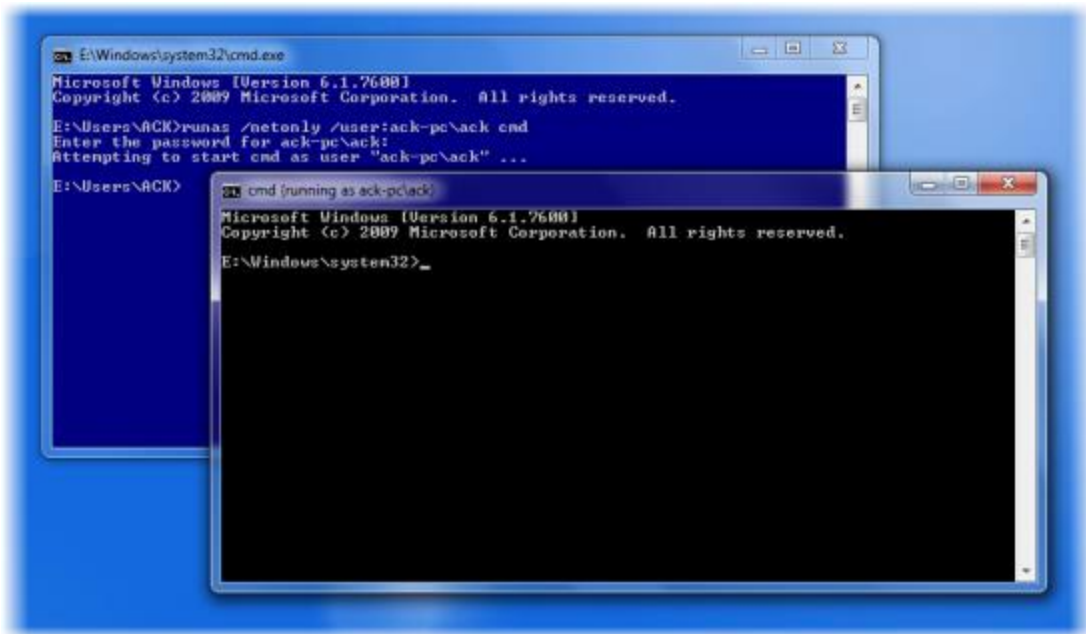
C:\Windows\System32. The CMD.exe file is right there, so just right-click and click "Open."

## How to open an elevated command prompt using a CMD

If you need to [open an elevated command prompt](#) USING the default 'regular' command prompt, you can do so by typing in the following command and hitting Enter:

```
runas /netonly /user:ack-pc\ack cmd
```

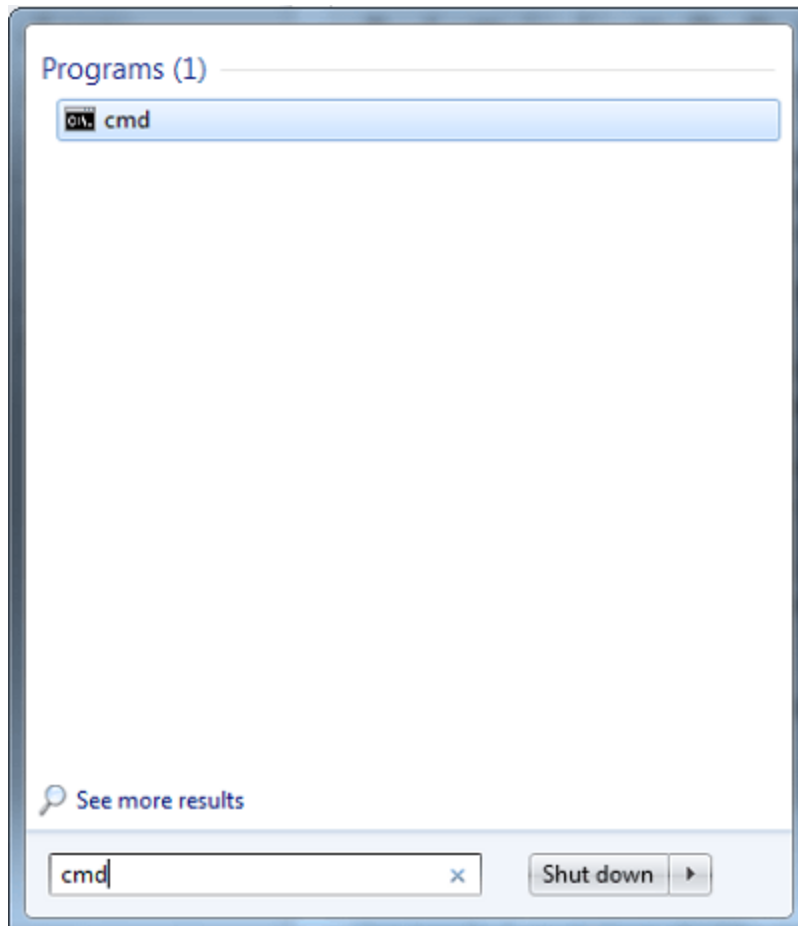
Replace *ack* with your admin user name.



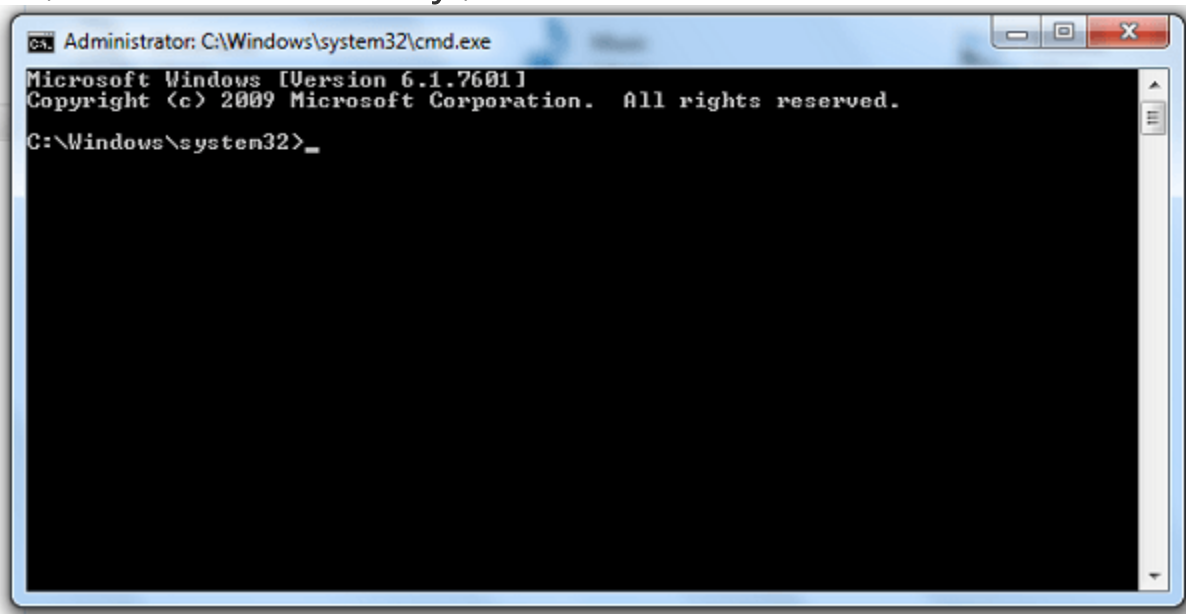
That's all you need to do. You will find that a Command Prompt (Admin) window opens.

## Run Commands from Windows Start Search Box as an Administrator

To run the Command Prompt, as an Administrator, from Windows 7 Search Box, simply type the command line in the Start menu.



Then, hold the Shift and Ctrl keys, and hit Enter.



In Windows Vista and later, certain applications are prevented from running due to a lack of permissions. So to upgrade its capabilities, you may have to run it as an Administrator.

Normally, one would search for `cmd`, right-click on it, and then from the context menu which pops up, select 'Run as Administrator', to [open a command prompt as admin](#). Windows 10/8/7/Vista Start Search Box serves the same function, if you enter a command, **hold the Shift and Ctrl keys**, and press **Enter**.

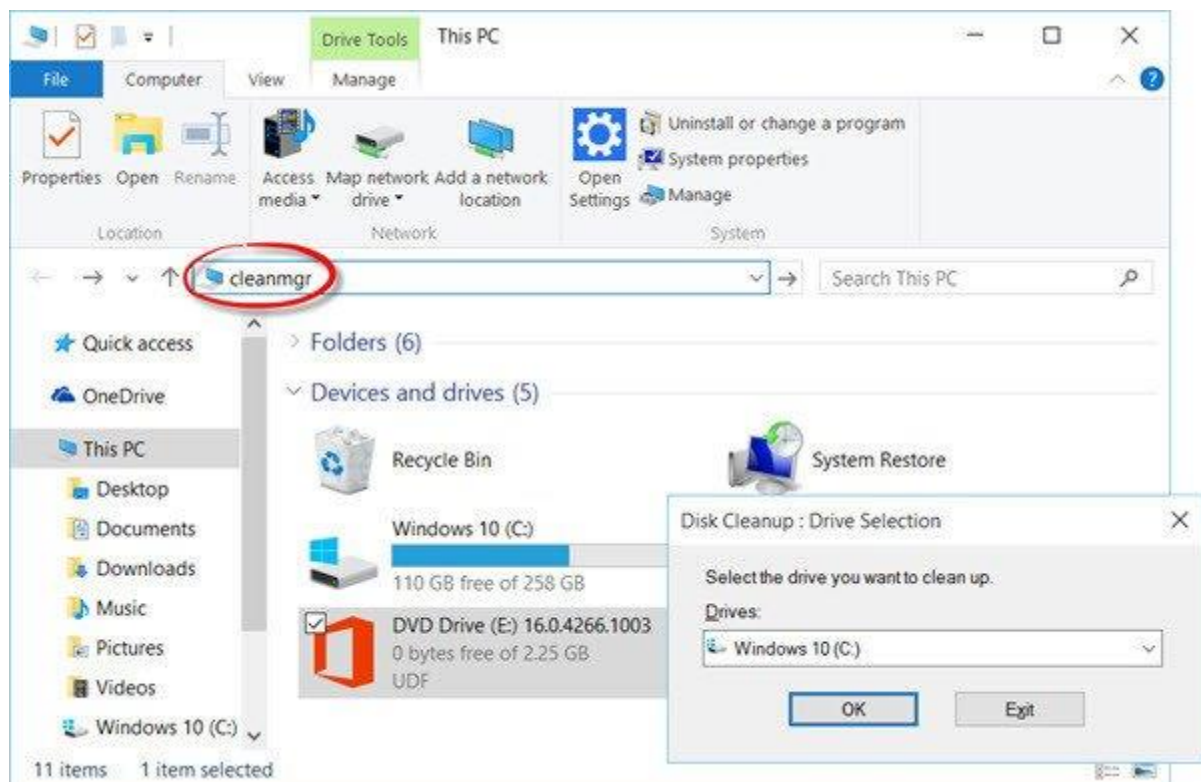
If you have User Account Control (UAC) enabled, then the UAC screen is opened which you have to accept.

This applies to **Windows 10/8.1** too. Try typing CMD, when on the Start Screen, then hold Shift+Ctrl and hit Enter. You will see the UAC prompt and after that, an elevated command prompt windows opened. Sure – one can open it using the WinX Menu too, but this is yet another way to do so.

## Use the Explorer address bar as a Run box for executing commands in Windows 10

One among our several [one-liner quick tips for Windows](#) is that you can use the Explorer address bar as a Run box. The Windows File Explorer lets you manage your files and folders. You can navigate it by using the links in the left navigation pane or by typing the folder locations in the address bar.

### Use Explorer address bar as Run box



There are several [new features in Windows 10 File Explorer](#). The prominent changes among them include Quick Access instead of Favorites, New tabs Home and Share, Direct access to One Drive. It opens to Quick Access now, and so on. Most of us use the Run box, the Start Search box or the Taskbar address bar to execute Run commands. Now you may not have done this before, but you can also use the **Explorer address bar** as a Run box. It is quite simple to do it. Now, this feature is not something new in Windows 10 – it existed in Windows 8.1 and maybe even in earlier versions.

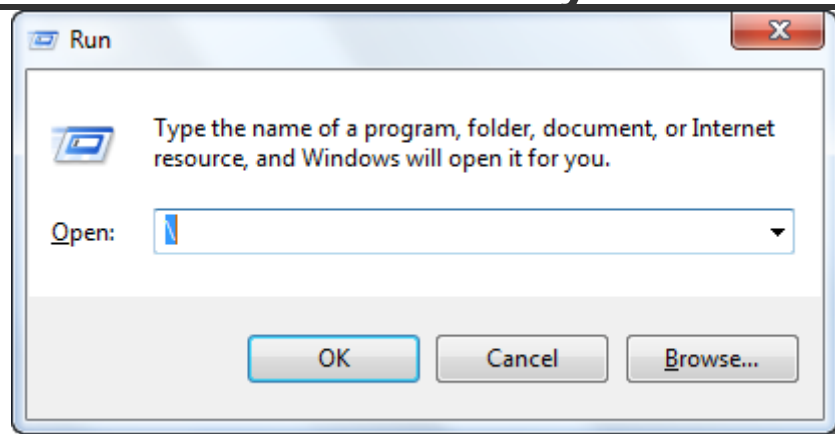
If you have Windows File Explorer open, and you need to open any of built-in Windows tools, Control Panel applet or features, there is no need for you to open a Run box. We have seen how you can [Run Commands from Start Search](#), now let us see how to do this.

## **Execute Run commands from Explorer address bar**

To execute Run command from Windows File explorer, simply type any of the usual [Run commands](#) like *msconfig*, *cmd*, *gpedit.msc*, *regedit*, *cleanmgr*, etc., in the address bar and hit Enter. The command will be executed, and the tool or setting opened.

You can even open your system folders like Documents, Downloads, Pictures, Videos, etc. Simply type documents, downloads, pictures, videos, etc., respectively to navigate directly to that folder.

## **Windows Run commands you want to know**



## **Windows Run commands**

The **Run command** in Windows, let you run any Windows task or process. While its usage was very popular in Windows XP, in later Windows versions, its importance reduced a bit, as the Windows search box acted as a Run box too. Still, many power users prefer to use the **Run dialog box**.

Now here are three lesser-known but geeky Run commands you may not have heard of!

First, open the Run box by pressing **Win+R** keys.

1. Now to open your System Drive, simply type '**\**' and hit OK.
2. To open the Username's folder, type '**.'**' and hit OK.
3. To open the Users folder, type '**..**' and hit OK.

## **Create your own Run command & Run any application from Windows Search Box**

Using the **Run command** in Windows, you can use certain pre-defined commands to open up applications. In fact, in Windows 10/8/7/Vista, its Start Menu Search box itself acts as a Run box.

If you type the name of an application, say [Ultimate Windows Tweaker](#) (uwt) in the start box, it will search for the app and display it in the results. Hitting Enter will open the app. But typing it in the **Run** box will not open it.

With the help of this tip, you can open any software or application via the Windows Run box. That is, you can create your own custom RUN commands.

## **Create your RUN commands**

There are four ways to create your own Run command in Windows OS:

1. Creating a shortcut
2. Editing the Registry
3. Using a 3rd party app
4. Editing the Environment variables.

### **(1) Creating a shortcut**

Create a shortcut of the application or program. Rename it to say, *uwt*, and place this shortcut in the Windows folder.

Now type *uwt* in the Start search box and hit Enter, and you will see the Ultimate Windows Tweaker start. To reconfirm, open the Run box and type *uwt* and hit Enter. The Tweaker opened.

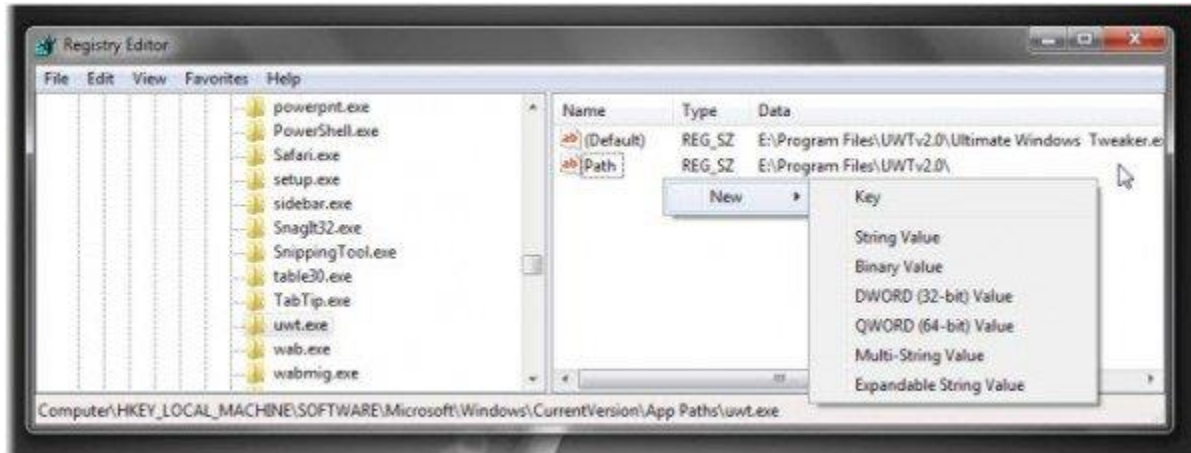
I have also tried it with a folder, and it works I created a shortcut of my oft used folder, renamed it to *f1* and saved the shortcut in the Windows folder. Typing *f1* in the Start search box or in the Run box will open the folder.



## (2) Editing the Registry

Open *regedit* and navigate to the following key:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\App Paths



In the left panel, right-click this tools **Path** key and choose New > Key. Name it as *uwt.exe* (I am using [UWT](#) as an example). Don't forget to add the file types.

Now in the right panel, double click on the Default string value and in the Value and in the box which opens, enter the path of the executable ie

E:\Program Files\UWTV2.0\Ultimate Windows Tweaker.exe.

My Windows OS is installed in E drive; hence shows 'E' here.

Again in the right side, empty spot, right-click > select New > String Value. Name the key as **Path**. Double click and give it the value as the folder path, i.e. in this example: E:\Program Files\UWTV2.0\

Exit *regedit*.

Now type *uwt* in Start Search Box (or the Run box) and hit Enter, and you will see the Tweaker start! You can start any file type this way.

TechnixUpdate.com has suggested to us, two more ways, in which it can be done.

## 3) Use 3rd party portable app called AddToRun

AddToRun is a [FREE to use utility](#) which will allow you to run or open any file or application from the Start menu Run prompt (which open up when you press Window Key + R ).

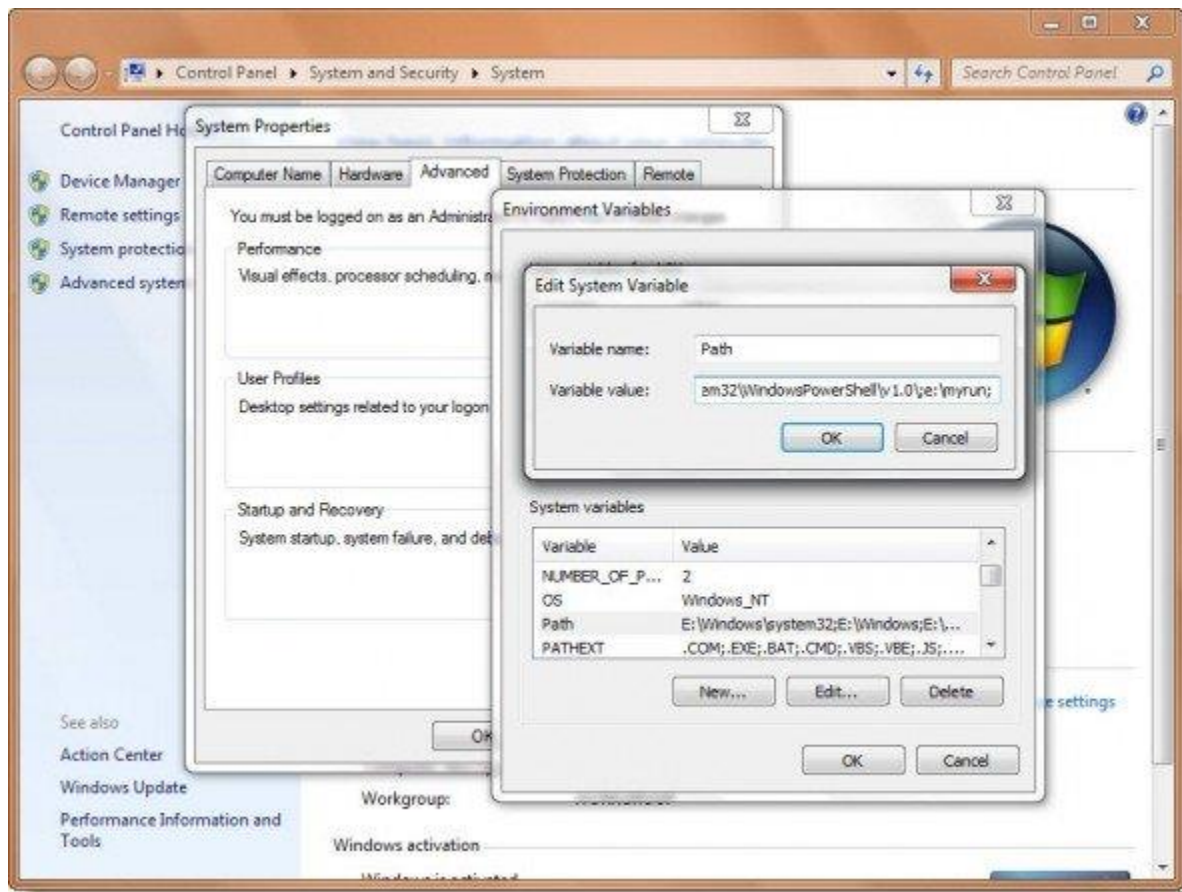




It has a very easy and simple to use interface which will allow you to select a file or application shortcut and define an alias or friendly name with which you can run the application from the Run prompt.

#### **4) Edit the Environment Variables.**

Open you System Drive and create a folder, named say, *E:\myrun*.  
Now right click on Computer folder and open its Properties.



Select Advanced System Protection and click on Environment Variables. In the lower half, double click on the 'Path' System Variable.

At the end of the variable value, add the following: ";e:\myrun;". If your Windows is on 'C' drive, make sure you write c instead of e.

Click OK. Exit.

Now create a shortcut to any application and give it a short, simple name. You will be able to run it through the start box.