

[LeMoDa top page](#)[Microsoft Windows](#)[Unix](#)[Command line](#)[Equivalents](#)

# Windows and Unix command line equivalents



This page was created on **Sat Oct 09 2010** and last changed on **Mon Mar 04 2013**.

This lists similar commands between Windows and Unix command lines.

To get help on a Windows command, use the `/?` option, for example `date /?`.

Windows command	Unix command	Notes
<code>arp</code>	<a href="#"><code>arp</code></a>	
<code>assign</code>	<a href="#"><code>ln</code></a>	Create a file link
<code>assign</code>	<a href="#"><code>ln -s</code></a>	On Unix, a directory may not have multiple links, so instead a symbolic link must be created with <code>ln -s</code> .
<code>assoc</code>	<a href="#"><code>file</code></a>	
<code>at</code>	<a href="#"><code>at</code></a> <a href="#"><code>batch</code></a> <a href="#"><code>cron</code></a>	
<code>attrib</code>	<a href="#"><code>chown</code></a> <a href="#"><code>chmod</code></a>	Sets ownership on files and directories
<code>cd</code>	<a href="#"><code>cd</code></a>	On Windows, <code>cd</code> alone prints the current directory, but on Unix <code>cd</code> alone returns the user to his home directory.
<code>cd</code>	<a href="#"><code>pwd</code></a>	On Windows, <code>cd</code> alone prints the current directory.
<code>chkdsk</code>	<a href="#"><code>fsck</code></a>	Checks filesystem and repairs filesystem corruption on hard drives.
<code>cls</code>	<a href="#"><code>clear</code></a>	Clear the terminal screen
<code>copy</code>	<a href="#"><code>cp</code></a>	
<code>date</code> <code>time</code>	<a href="#"><code>date</code></a>	<code>Date</code> on Unix prints the current date and time. <code>Date</code> and <code>time</code> on Windows print the date and time respectively, and prompt for a new date or time.
<code>del</code>	<a href="#"><code>rm</code></a>	
<code>deltree</code>	<a href="#"><code>rm -r</code></a>	Recursively deletes entire directory tree

<b>dir</b>	<a href="#"><u>ls</u></a>	"dir" also works on some versions of Unix.
<b>doskey /h</b> <b>F7 key</b>	<a href="#"><u>history</u></a>	The Unix <b>history</b> is part of the Bash shell.
<b>edit</b>	<b>vi</b> <b>emacs</b> <b>etc.</b>	<b>edit</b> brings up a simple text editor in Windows. On Unix, the environment variable <b>EDITOR</b> should be set to the user's preferred editor.
<b>exit</b>	<a href="#"><u>exit</u></a> Control-D	On Unix, pressing the control key and D simultaneously logs the user out of the shell.
<b>explorer</b>	<b>nautilus</b> <b>etc.</b>	The command <b>explorer</b> brings up the file browser on Windows.
<b>fc</b>	<a href="#"><u>diff</u></a>	
<b>find</b>	<a href="#"><u>grep</u></a>	
<b>ftp</b>	<a href="#"><u>ftp</u></a>	
<b>help</b>	<a href="#"><u>man</u></a>	"help" by itself prints all the commands
<b>hostname</b>	<a href="#"><u>hostname</u></a>	
<b>ipconfig /all</b>	<a href="#"><u>ifconfig</u></a> -a	The /all option lets you get the MAC address of the Windows PC
<b>mem</b>	<a href="#"><u>top</u></a>	Shows system status
<b>mkdir</b>	<a href="#"><u>mkdir</u></a>	
<b>more</b>	<a href="#"><u>more</u></a> <a href="#"><u>less</u></a>	
<b>move</b>	<a href="#"><u>mv</u></a>	
<b>net session</b>	<a href="#"><u>w</u></a> <a href="#"><u>who</u></a>	
<b>net statistics</b>	<a href="#"><u>uptime</u></a>	
<b>nslookup</b>	<a href="#"><u>nslookup</u></a>	
<b>ping</b>	<a href="#"><u>ping</u></a>	
<b>print</b>	<b>lpr</b>	Send a file to a printer.
<b>reboot</b> <b>shutdown -r</b>	<a href="#"><u>shutdown</u></a> -r	
<b>regedit</b>	<b>edit /etc/*</b>	The Unix equivalent of the Windows registry are the files under <b>/etc</b> and <b>/usr/local/etc</b> . These are edited with a text editor rather than with a special-purpose editing program.
<b>rmdir</b>	<a href="#"><u>rmdir</u></a>	
<b>rmdir /s</b>	<a href="#"><u>rm</u></a> -r	Windows has a y/n prompt. To get the prompt with Unix, use <b>rm -i</b> . The <b>i</b> means "interactive".
		<b>Set</b> on Windows prints a list of all

<b>set</b>	<a href="#"><u>env</u></a>	environment variables. For individual environment variables, <code>set &lt;variable&gt;</code> is the same as <code>echo \$&lt;variable&gt;</code> on Unix.
<b>set Path</b>	<code>echo \$PATH</code>	Print the value of the environment variable using <b>set</b> in Windows.
<b>shutdown</b>	<a href="#"><u>shutdown</u></a>	Without an option, the Windows version produces a help message
<b>shutdown -s</b>	<a href="#"><u>shutdown</u></a> -h	Also need -f option to Windows if logged in remotely
<b>sort</b>	<a href="#"><u>sort</u></a>	
<b>start</b>	<code>&amp;</code>	On Unix, to start a job in the background, use <b>command &amp;</b> . On Windows, the equivalent is <b>start command</b> . See <a href="#">How to run a Windows command as a background job like Unix ?</a> .
<b>systeminfo</b>	<a href="#"><u>uname</u></a> -a	
<b>tasklist</b>	<a href="#"><u>ps</u></a>	"tasklist" is not available on some versions of Windows. See also <a href="#">this article on getting a list of processes in Windows using Perl</a>
<b>title</b>	<code>?</code>	In Unix, changing the title of the terminal window is possible but complicated. Search for "change title xterm".
<b>tracert</b>	<a href="#"><u>tracert</u></a>	
<b>tree</b>	<a href="#"><u>find</u></a> <a href="#"><u>ls</u></a> -R	On Windows, use <code>tree   find "string"</code>
<b>type</b>	<a href="#"><u>cat</u></a>	
<b>ver</b>	<a href="#"><u>uname</u></a> -a	
<b>xcopy</b>	<a href="#"><u>cp</u></a> -R	Recursively copy a directory tree

## Please note

Links open in a separate window. The links on the Unix commands go to an online version of the FreeBSD manual page.

## Web links

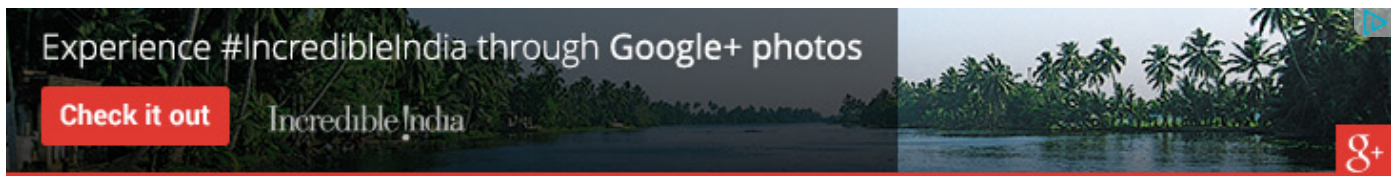
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