FTP Commands for Windows

[FTP](https://www.serv-u.com/features/file-transfer-protocol-server-windows) (File Transfer Protocol) is a standard network protocol used to exchange files between computers on a private network or through the Internet.

There are three ways in which FTP is commonly accessed:

* Command-line FTP client.
* Web browser.
* Graphical FTP clients.

The first two are straightforward methods that allow you to directly use a Web browser (such as Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer) or an FTP client application (such as FileZilla, [FTP Voyager®](https://www.serv-u.com/ftp-voyager)) to connect to the FTP server to exchange files. Using the command-line interface, you need to enter a set of commands to send or receive files from other computers.

Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux operating systems have built-in command-line clients that can be used for establishing an FTP connection. To initiate an FTP connection from Windows, type ftp at the command prompt, and press enter.

Here is a list of the most commonly used FTP commands in the Windows command-line prompt.

FTP commands for Windows command prompt

| **FTP Command** | **Description of Command** |
| --- | --- |
| *!* | This command toggles back and forth between the operating system and ftp. Once back in the operating system, typing exit takes you back to the FTP command line. |
| *?* | Accesses the Help screen. |
| *append* | Append text to a local file. |
| *ascii* | Switch to [ASCII](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/a/ascii.htm) transfer mode. |
| *bell* | Turns bell mode on or off. |
| *binary* | Switches to binary transfer mode. |
| *bye* | Exits from FTP. |
| *cd* | Changes directory. |
| *close* | Exits from FTP. |
| *delete* | Deletes a file. |
| *debug* | Sets debugging on or off. |
| *dir* | Lists files, if connected. dir -C = lists the files in wide format. dir -1 = Lists the files in bare format in alphabetic order. dir -r = Lists directory in reverse alphabetic order. dir -R = Lists all files in current directory and sub directories. dir -S = Lists files in bare format in alphabetic order. |
| *disconnect* | Exits from FTP. |
| *get* | Get file from the remote computer. |
| *glob* | Sets globbing on or off. When turned off, the file name in the **put** and **get** commands is taken literally, and wildcards will not be looked at. |
| *hash* | Sets hash mark printing on or off. When turned on, for each 1024 bytes of data received, a hash-mark (#) is displayed. |
| *help* | Accesses the Help screen and displays information about the command if the command is typed after help. |
| *lcd* | Displays local directory if typed alone or if path typed after lcd will change the local directory. |
| *literal* | Sends a literal command to the connected computer with an expected one-line response. |
| *ls* | Lists files of the remotely connected computer. |
| *mdelete* | Multiple delete. |
| *mdir* | Lists contents of multiple remote directories. |
| *mget* | Get multiple files. |
| *mkdir* | Make directory. |
| *mls* | Lists contents of multiple remote directories. |
| *mput* | Send multiple files. |
| *open* | Opens address. |
| *prompt* | Enables or disables the prompt. |
| *put* | Send one file. |
| *pwd* | Print working directory. |
| *quit* | Exits from FTP. |
| *quote* | Same as the literal command. |
| *recv* | Receive file. |
| *remotehelp* | Get help from remote server. |
| *rename* | Renames a file. |
| *rmdir* | Removes a directory on the remote computer. |
| *send* | Send single file. |
| *status* | Shows status of currently enabled and disabled options. |
| *trace* | Toggles packet tracing. |
| *Type* | Set file transfer type. |
| *user* | Send new user information. |
| *verbose* | Sets verbose on or off. |

FTP command-line options for Windows

Command-line options (also known as options, flags, or switches), are used to modify the operation of an FTP command. A command-line option typically follows the main FTP command after a space. Here’s a list of the most commonly used FTP command-line options for Windows.

| **Command-Line Option** | **Description of Command** |
| --- | --- |
| *-v* | Suppresses verbose display of remote server responses. |
| *-n* | Suppresses auto-login upon initial connection. |
| *-i* | Turns off interactive prompting during multiple file transfers. |
| *-d* | Enables debugging, displaying all ftp commands passed between the client and server. |
| *-g* | Disables filename globbing, which permits the use of wildcard characters in local file and path names. |
| *-s:filename* | Specifies a text file containing ftp commands; the commands automatically run after ftp starts. No spaces are allowed in this parameter. Use this switch instead of redirection (>). |
| *-a* | Use any local interface when binding data connection. |
| *-w:windowsize* | Overrides the default transfer buffer size of 4096. |
| *computer* | Specifies the computer name or IP address of the remote computer to connect to. The computer, if specified, must be the last parameter on the line. |

Given the availability of numerous graphical FTP clients, the text-based FTP client built into Windows and Mac OS X operating systems is a reliable tool for testing and troubleshooting. Learning these commands helps you exchange files between computers without installing additional software.