

Best Tricks of Command Prompt

Abstract

Although not as popular as its Unix counterpart, **Command Prompt** is still one of the most powerful tools within the Windows OS allowing users to do almost anything they want to do with a GUI, but simply in words. Commonly known as **cmd.exe** or **cmd**, it is the default command-line interpreter for the OS/2, eComStation, ArcaOS, and Microsoft Windows operating systems. It is a real executable application created by Microsoft and is used to issue various commands to the system. The purpose of the article was to explain some of the best tricks that command prompt users should know. Users can prevent themselves from installing powerful software to solve their problem and get their task solved in easy steps following the commands.

1.Find the Wi-Fi password of a connected network

Sometimes, we forget our own network passwords and the process of resetting the wifi password all over again could be tedious. But with the help of cmd from just a couple of commands, we can view passwords that had the network being connected to our laptop once in the past.

Step1: Open cmd

Step2: Type `netsh wlan show profile` and press Enter. On the screen, we can see the list of network names we connect to

Command Prompt

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.708]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\user>netsh wlan show profile_
```

Command Prompt

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.708]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\user>netsh wlan show profile

Profiles on interface Wi-Fi:

Group policy profiles (read only)
-----
    <None>

User profiles
-----
All User Profile      : Void
All User Profile      : Nice
All User Profile      : bikalpa sarkar
All User Profile      : AndroidShare_2051
All User Profile      : .....
All User Profile      : Redmi 9 Power
All User Profile      : saritapanta_fctwn_2.4
All User Profile      : ACERTEST6_5G
```

Step3: Type `netsh wlan show profile name= "Wi-fi name" key=clear`

For the example we are going to find the wifi password of **Void** so, our command is going to be `netsh wlan show profile name=Void key=clear`

```
C:\> Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.708]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\user>netsh wlan show profile

Profiles on interface Wi-Fi:

Group policy profiles (read only)
-----
    <None>

User profiles
-----
    All User Profile      : Void
    All User Profile      : Nice
    All User Profile      : bikalpa sarkar
    All User Profile      : AndroidShare_2051
    All User Profile      : .....
    All User Profile      : Redmi 9 Power
    All User Profile      : saritapanta_fctwn_2.4
    All User Profile      : ACERTEST6_5G

C:\Users\user>netsh wlan show profile name=Void key=clear
```

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\user>netsh wlan show profile name=Void key=clear

Profile Void on interface Wi-Fi:
=====
Applied: All User Profile
Profile information
-----
Version                : 1
Type                   : Wireless LAN
Name                   : Void
Control options        :
    Connection mode    : Connect automatically
    Network broadcast  : Connect only if this network is broadcasting
    AutoSwitch         : Do not switch to other networks
    MAC Randomization  : Disabled
Connectivity settings
-----
Number of SSIDs        : 1
SSID name              : "Void"
Network type           : Infrastructure
Radio type             : [ Any Radio Type ]
Vendor extension       : Not present
Security settings
-----
Authentication         : WPA2-Personal
Cipher                 : CCMP
Authentication         : WPA2-Personal
Cipher                 : GCMP
Security key           : Present
Key Content             : 
Cost settings
-----
Cost                   : Unrestricted
Congested              : No
Approaching Data Limit : No
Over Data Limit        : No
Roaming                : No
Cost Source            : Default

C:\Users\user>
```

You can see the password on the Key Content. Here, blurred by white for privacy purposes.

2.Find the IP address of any website.

We can know the IP address of any website by using a single command “ping”.

Step1: Open cmd

Step2: Type “ping” and the URL of the website of which you wish to know the IP address. Press Enter.

For example, we will use the command `ping www.google.com` to find the IP address of Google.

From the second picture, we can find the IP address of Google as [216.58.196.164].

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.675]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\lenov>ping www.google.com
```

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.675]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\lenov>ping www.google.com

Pinging www.google.com [216.58.196.164] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 216.58.196.164: bytes=32 time=46ms TTL=114
Reply from 216.58.196.164: bytes=32 time=49ms TTL=114
Reply from 216.58.196.164: bytes=32 time=48ms TTL=114
Reply from 216.58.196.164: bytes=32 time=48ms TTL=114

Ping statistics for 216.58.196.164:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 46ms, Maximum = 49ms, Average = 47ms

C:\Users\lenov>
```

3.Display the route path between your computer and website

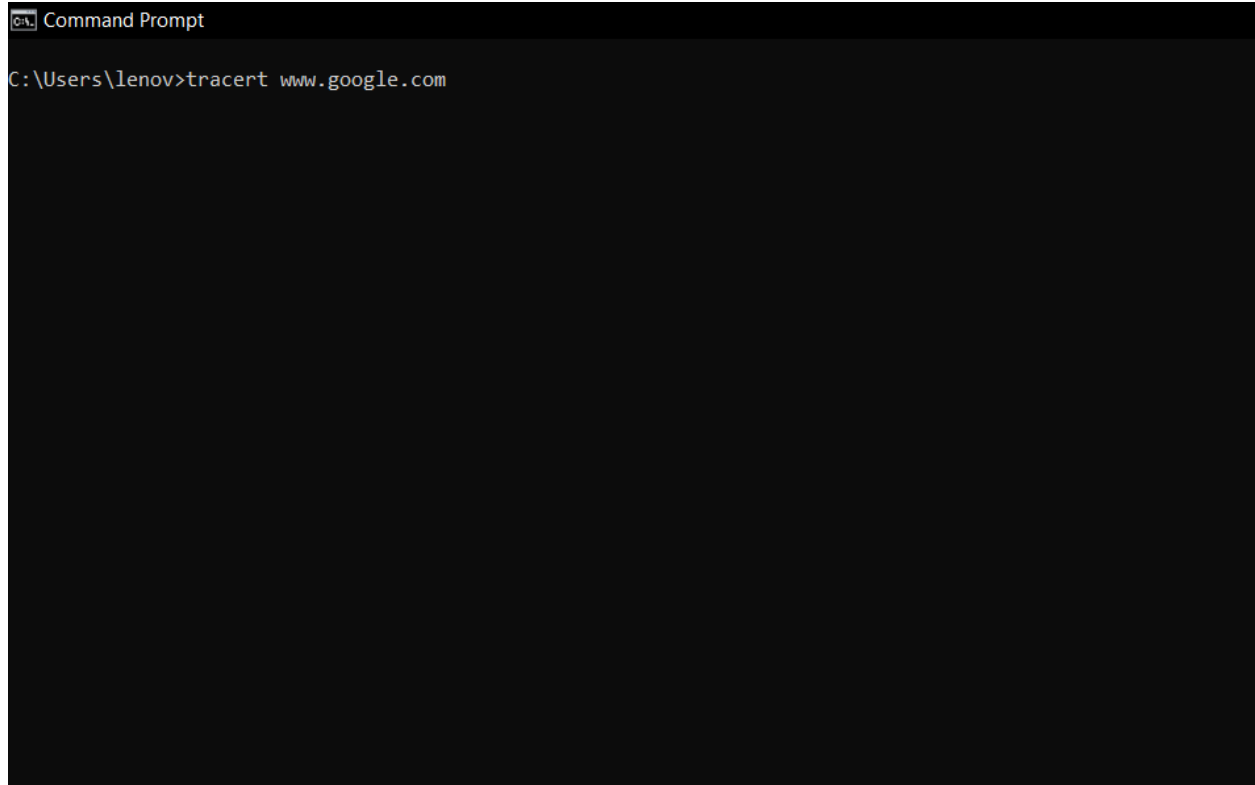
Would you like to see all the paths that the signal takes as it travels around the Internet to the website you want to visit? The process is simple.

Step1: Open cmd.

Step2: Type “tracert” and then the IP address or a domain name. For example, I’ll trace the path my pc travels to visit Google’s webpage.

Cmd for our example is [tracert www.google.com](#)

This command also displays the response times that occurred at each stop along the route.

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar at the top reads "Command Prompt". The command prompt shows the current directory as "C:\Users\lenov>" followed by the command "tracert www.google.com" entered. The rest of the window is empty, indicating the command has not yet been executed or the output is not visible in this frame.

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\lenov>tracert www.google.com
```

```
Command Prompt

C:\Users\lenov>tracert www.google.com

Tracing route to www.google.com [142.250.205.228]
over a maximum of 30 hops:

  1  16 ms    4 ms    2 ms  myblink.cn [192.168.16.1]
  2   3 ms    3 ms    3 ms  dsldevice.lan [192.168.1.254]
  3   6 ms    7 ms   10 ms  103.41.174.145
  4  26 ms   10 ms   12 ms  103.41.174.140
  5  36 ms   16 ms   10 ms  103.10.28.34
  6  37 ms   79 ms    9 ms  ae0-bg2.vianet.com.np [110.44.112.66]
  7  10 ms   13 ms   11 ms  125.18.98.249
  8  43 ms   50 ms   41 ms  116.119.94.45
  9  55 ms   44 ms   46 ms  72.14.216.192
 10  63 ms   51 ms   57 ms  142.251.227.213
 11  55 ms   51 ms   40 ms  142.251.60.185
 12  51 ms   45 ms   44 ms  maa05s28-in-f4.1e100.net [142.250.205.228]

Trace complete.

C:\Users\lenov>
```

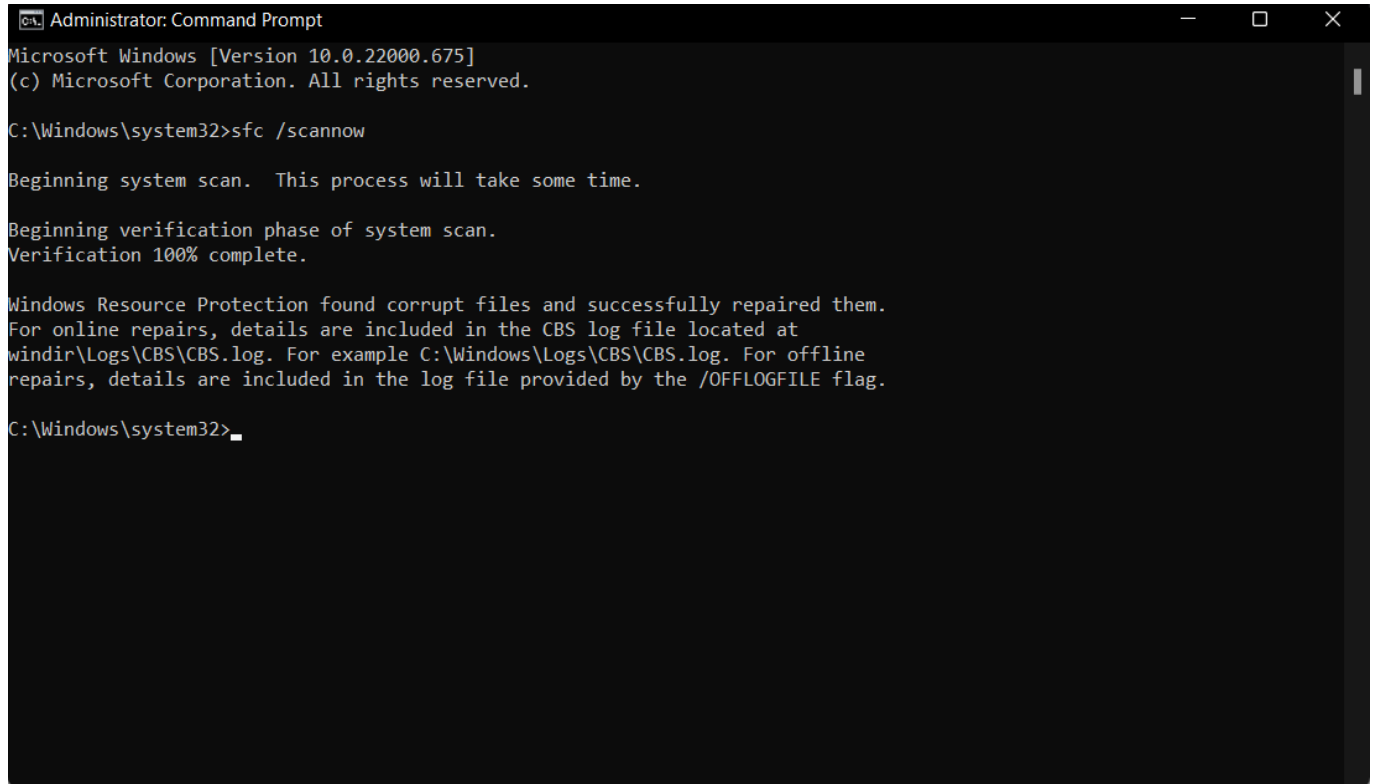
4. Remove viruses using cmd

Without using anti-virus software, with just one single command, we can remove viruses from our system.

Step1: Open cmd. From this command specifically, you have to run as an administrator.

Step2: Type SFC/scannow and press enter.

You can run this command once in a while to check for the damaged files. This will scan all the files system and replace the corrupt or missing system files with a cached copy present on your computer.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.675]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow

Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.

Beginning verification phase of system scan.
Verification 100% complete.

Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files and successfully repaired them.
For online repairs, details are included in the CBS log file located at
windir\Logs\CBS\CBS.log. For example C:\Windows\Logs\CBS\CBS.log. For offline
repairs, details are included in the log file provided by the /OFFLOGFILE flag.

C:\Windows\system32>
```

5.Change the color of your command prompt window

The black and white color of the command prompt is not very tempting and does not inspire us to stay on the screen for a longer period of time. But we have the feature to customize the default screen with any colors we wish.

Step1: Open cmd and type help color. This gives us the list of numbers and alphabets we can use to change the color in the cmd window.


```
Command Prompt

C:\Users\lenov>help color
```

```
Command Prompt

C:\Users\lenov>help color
Sets the default console foreground and background colors.

COLOR [attr]

    attr          Specifies color attribute of console output

Color attributes are specified by TWO hex digits -- the first
corresponds to the background; the second the foreground.  Each digit
can be any of the following values:

    0 = Black      8 = Gray
    1 = Blue       9 = Light Blue
    2 = Green      A = Light Green
    3 = Aqua       B = Light Aqua
    4 = Red        C = Light Red
    5 = Purple     D = Light Purple
    6 = Yellow     E = Light Yellow
    7 = White      F = Bright White

If no argument is given, this command restores the color to what it was
when CMD.EXE started.  This value either comes from the current console
window, the /T command line switch or from the DefaultColor registry
value.

The COLOR command sets ERRORLEVEL to 1 if an attempt is made to execute
the COLOR command with a foreground and background color that are the
same.

Example: "COLOR fc" produces light red on bright white

C:\Users\lenov>
```

Step2: Now, you can type colors and values corresponding to colors from the list to customize the color of your screen.

```
C:\Users\lenov>help color
Sets the default console foreground and background colors.

COLOR [attr]

    attr          Specifies color attribute of console output

Color attributes are specified by TWO hex digits -- the first
corresponds to the background; the second the foreground.  Each digit
can be any of the following values:

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If no argument is given, this command restores the color to what it was
when CMD.EXE started.  This value either comes from the current console
window, the /T command line switch or from the DefaultColor registry
value.

The COLOR command sets ERRORLEVEL to 1 if an attempt is made to execute
the COLOR command with a foreground and background color that are the
same.

Example: "COLOR fc" produces light red on bright white

C:\Users\lenov>color 02_
```

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\lenov>help color
Sets the default console foreground and background colors.

COLOR [attr]

    attr          Specifies color attribute of console output

Color attributes are specified by TWO hex digits -- the first
corresponds to the background; the second the foreground.  Each digit
can be any of the following values:

    0 = Black      8 = Gray
    1 = Blue       9 = Light Blue
    2 = Green      A = Light Green
    3 = Aqua       B = Light Aqua
    4 = Red        C = Light Red
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    6 = Yellow     E = Light Yellow
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If no argument is given, this command restores the color to what it was
when CMD.EXE started.  This value either comes from the current console
window, the /T command line switch or from the DefaultColor registry
value.

The COLOR command sets ERRORLEVEL to 1 if an attempt is made to execute
the COLOR command with a foreground and background color that are the
same.

Example: "COLOR fc" produces light red on bright white

C:\Users\lenov>color 02

C:\Users\lenov>
```

If I want to have a green text with a black on the background, I'll type color 02

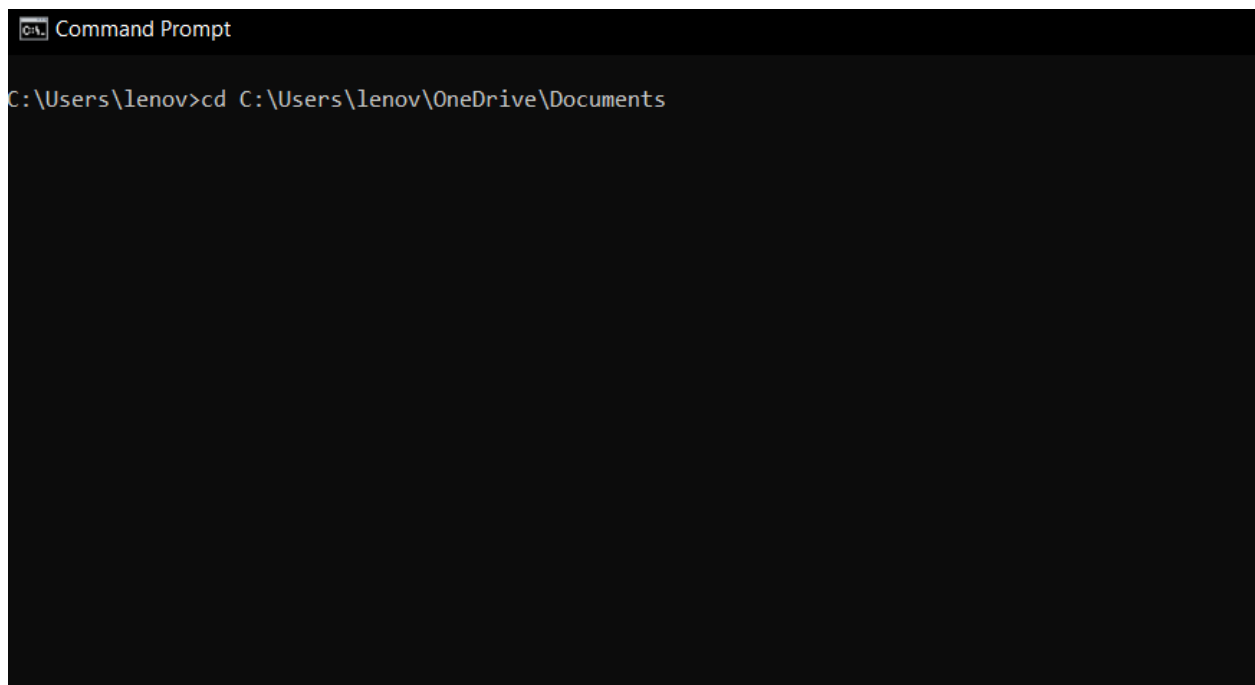
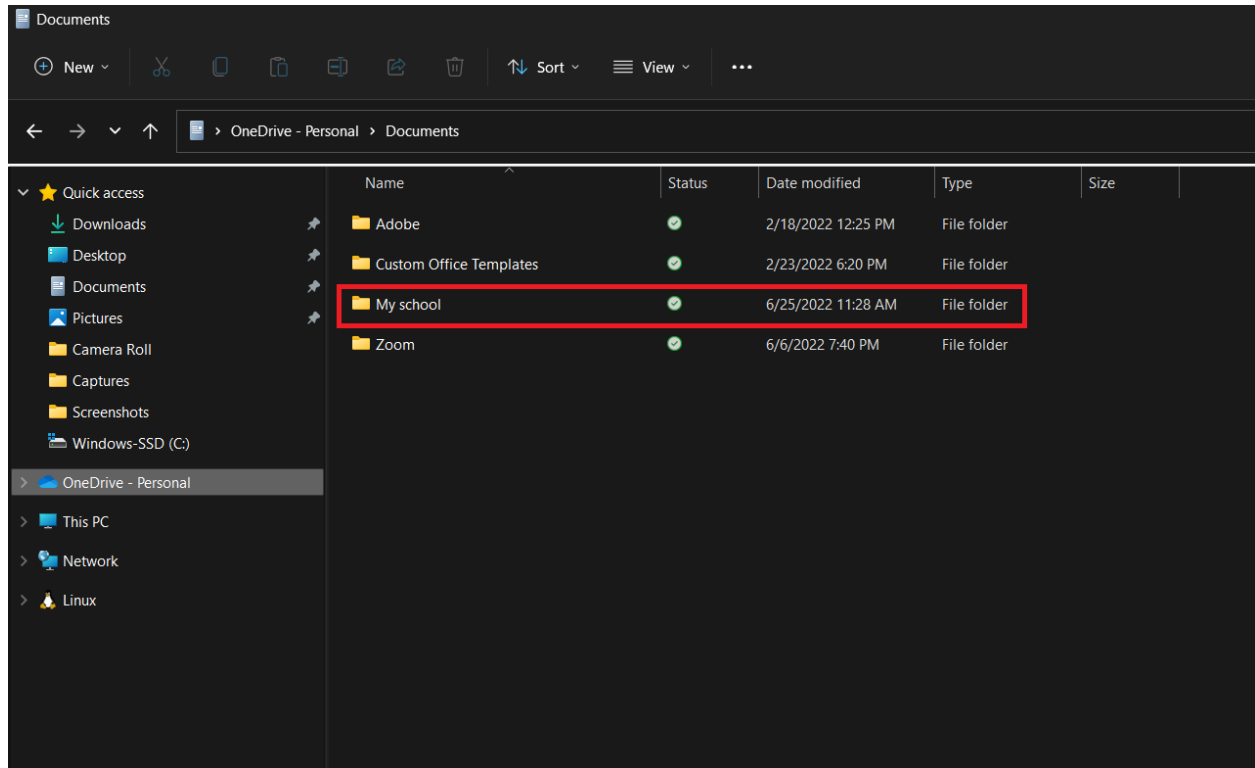
6.Hide files

Although windows gives us the feature to hide files by clicking the right and checking the hidden property, one can easily access those files by simply clicking the show hidden files, making the hiding useless. Cmd gives us the feature to hide the files in such a way that they are completely hidden.

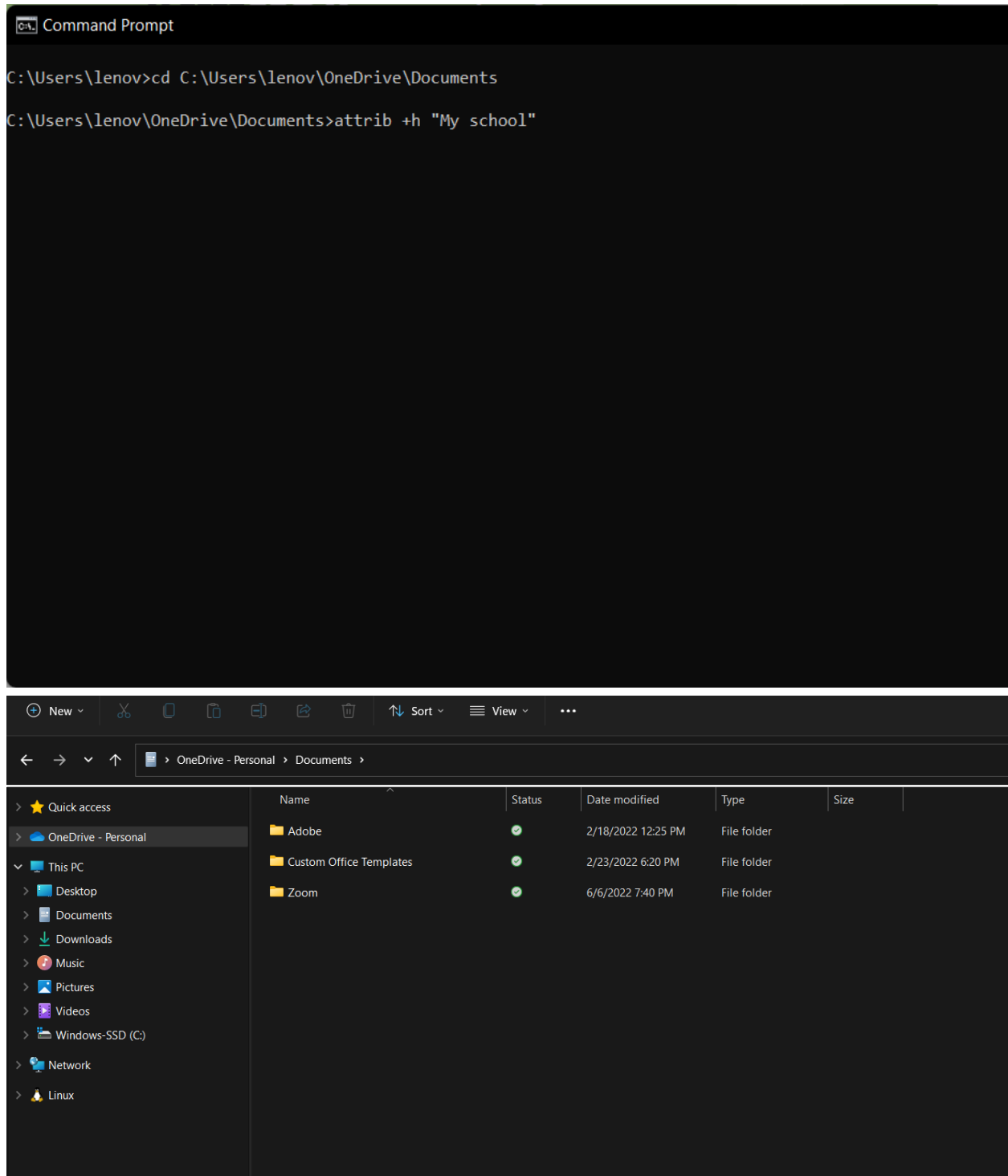
Step1: Open cmd.

Step2: Navigate the files you want to hide. You can find the location of the files in the file explorer, right click>Properties>Location. Type the command cd and then file

location. For example, we'll be hiding the files "My school" present in our OneDrive>Document. And the command for that would be `cd C:\Users\lenov\OneDrive\Documents`.



Step3: Now, type **attrib +h** “name of the file”. Here, we’ll command **attrib +h** “My school”



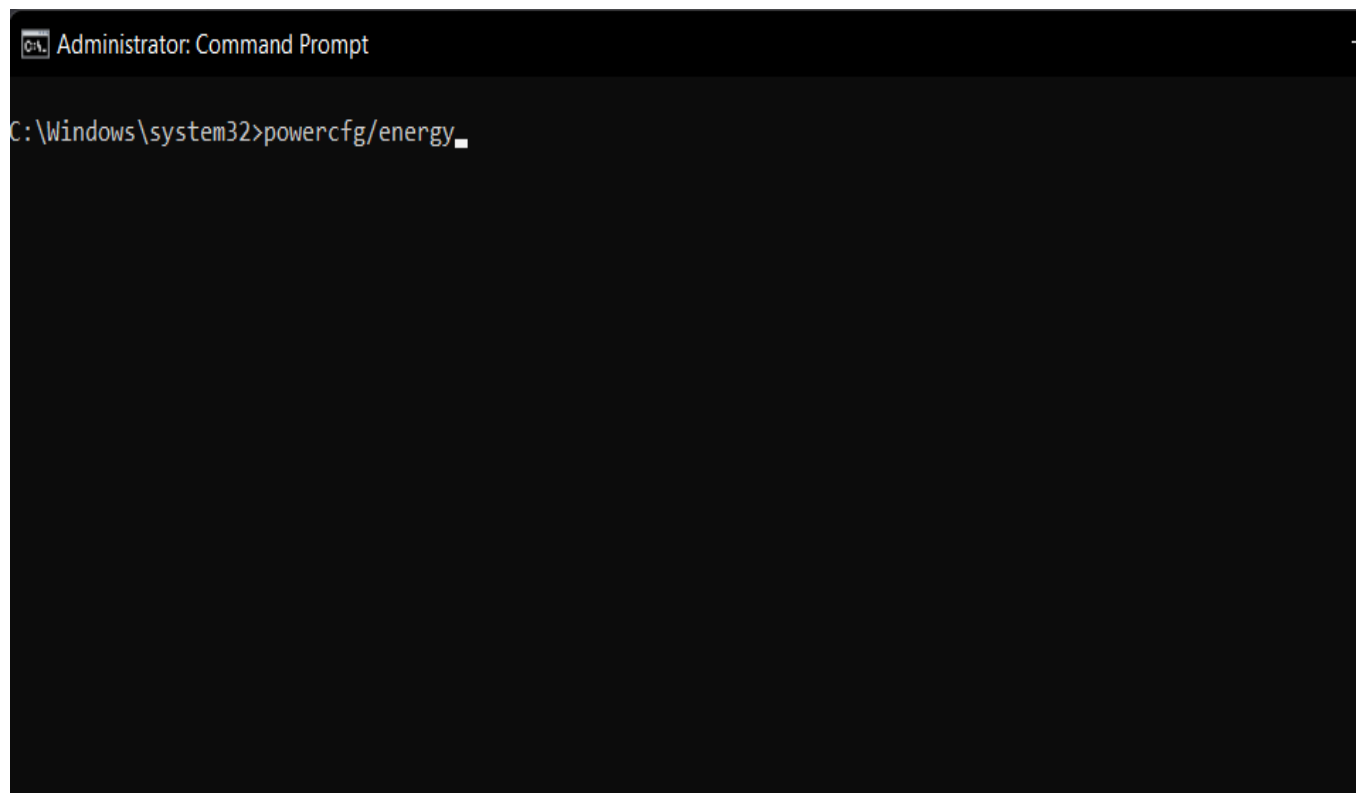
Using this command, you can prevent others from viewing your secret files and avert yourself from deleting the important files. To bring the hidden files back simply type `attrib -h name "Name of the file"`.

7. Generate Battery Health Report

Command prompt gives you the feature to generate the data related to the battery, including stats like factory specifications, full battery capacity, and the current capacity.

Step1: Launch cmd as an administrator.

Step2: Enter the command `powercfg/energy`. It will take about 60 seconds to observe and analyze the system data and the report will be generated in the form of an HTML document.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Windows\system32>powercfg/energy
```

```
Administrator: Command Prompt

C:\Windows\system32>powercfg/energy
Enabling tracing for 60 seconds...
Observing system behavior...
Analyzing trace data...
Analysis complete.

Energy efficiency problems were found.

2 Errors
10 Warnings
75 Informational

See C:\Windows\system32\energy-report.html for more details.

C:\Windows\system32>
```

To access the report, type the command displayed on the screen
C:\Windows\system32\energy-report.html. Then, you'll be taken to your browser where
you can see the power efficiency diagnostics report.

Administrator: Command Prompt

```
C:\Windows\system32>powercfg/energy
```

```
Enabling tracing for 60 seconds...
```

```
Observing system behavior...
```

```
Analyzing trace data...
```

```
Analysis complete.
```

```
Energy efficiency problems were found.
```

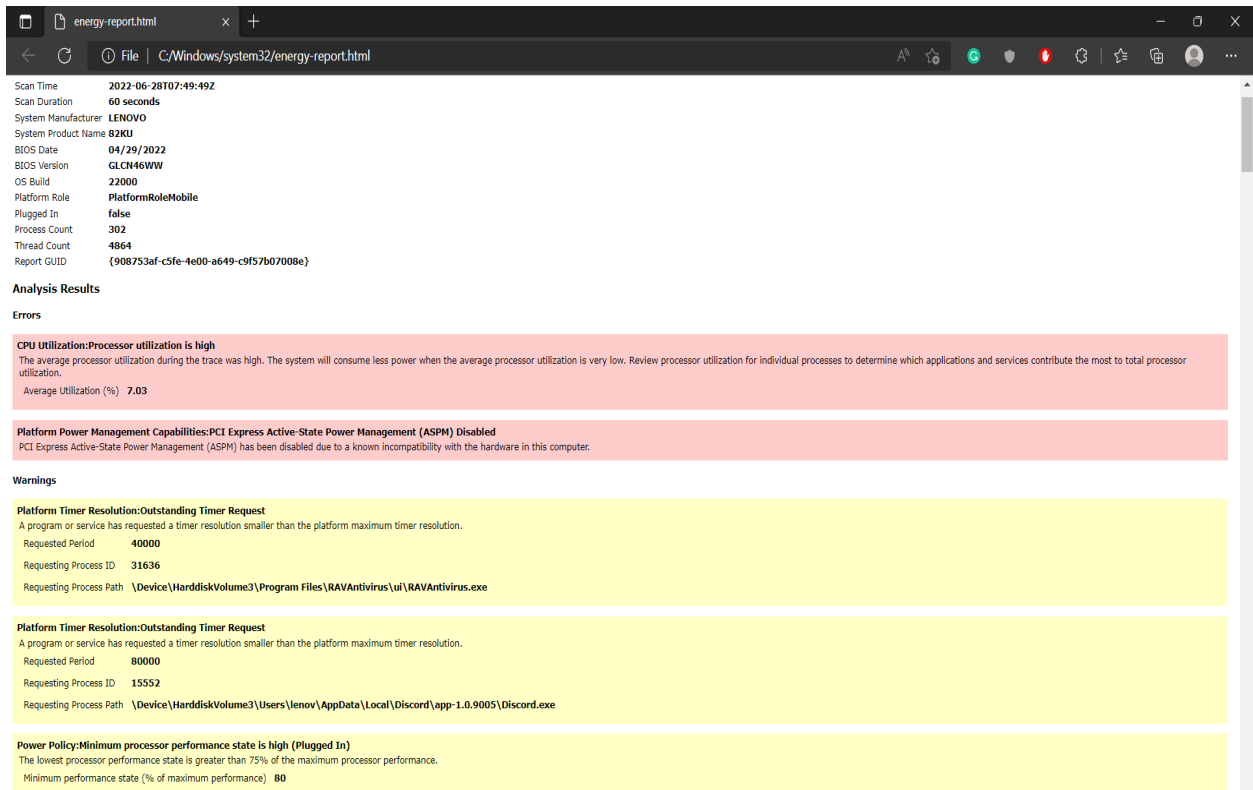
```
2 Errors
```

```
8 Warnings
```

```
75 Informational
```

```
See C:\Windows\system32\energy-report.html for more details.
```

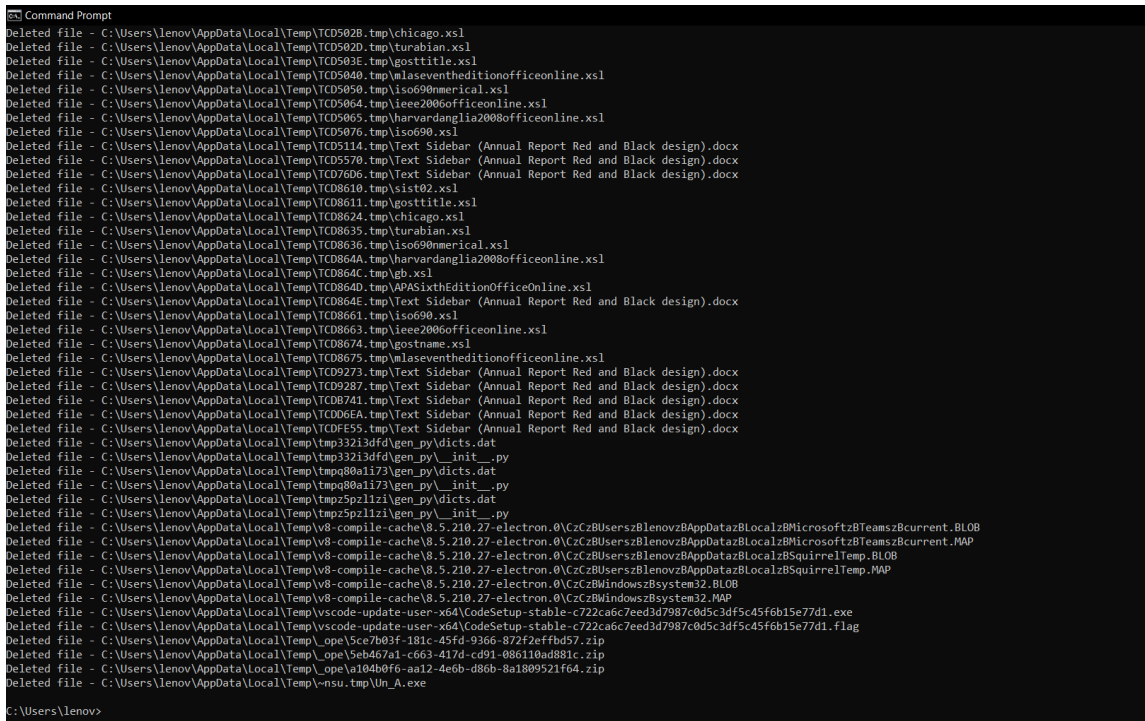
```
C:\Windows\system32>C:\Windows\system32\energy-report.html
```

8.Delete temporary files to clear space

If you are having storage issues or your system is not performing well by continuously lagging, one way to get rid of the problem is by getting rid of all the temporary files. The process is simple.

Step1: Open cmd. Use the command `del /q /f /s %temp%*`.



Conclusion

Command prompts, although basic and easy to implement, are very helpful to operate in Windows. In an effective way, users can solve designated problems or get access to cool features without installing software in just a couple of steps.

Reference

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cmd.exe>

<https://beebom.com/command-prompt-tricks-to-know/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph3E5TUAvHk&t=322s&ab_channel=CodeWithHarry

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdWPEN_57ml&ab_channel=Beebom