

# Windows Command Prompt Cheat Sheet

## 1. Navigation & Directory Management

Command	Example	Explanation
cd	cd C:\Users\John\Documents	Change directory
dir	dir	List contents of current directory
cd ..	cd ..	Move up one directory
md or mkdir	mkdir myfolder	Make a new directory
rd or rmdir	rmdir myfolder	Remove a directory (must be empty)
tree	tree	Display directory structure in tree format

## 2. File Operations

Command	Example	Explanation
copy	copy file1.txt D:\Backup\file1.txt	Copy files
xcopy	xcopy folder1 folder2 /s /e	Copy directories including subfolders
robocopy	robocopy src dest /mir	Robust copy (advanced, recommended for large copies)
move	move file.txt D:\Archive	Move files
del	del unwanted.txt	Delete file
type	type file.txt	Show file contents
ren or rename	ren file.txt data.txt	Rename file or directory
attrib	attrib +r file.txt	Set file attributes (e.g., +r for read-only)

## 3. Searching & Filtering

Command	Example	Explanation
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find	find "error" logfile.txt	Search for string in a file
findstr	findstr /i "warning" *.log	More powerful search (supports regex)
sort	sort scores.txt	Sort lines in a file
more	type file.txt   more	Paginate output

## 4. System & Process Management

Command	Example	Explanation
tasklist	tasklist	List running processes
taskkill	taskkill /IM notepad.exe	Terminate a process by name
chkdsk	chkdsk C:	Check disk for errors
sfc /scannow	sfc /scannow	Scan and repair system files
cls	cls	Clear the command prompt window
shutdown	shutdown /r /t 0	Restart the computer immediately

## 5. Permissions & Users

Command	Example	Explanation
icacls	icacls file.txt	Show or change file permissions
net user	net user	List all users
net user <user> /add	net user John /add	Add a new user

## 6. Networking

Command	Example	Explanation
ipconfig	ipconfig /all	Show IP configuration
ping	ping google.com	Test network connectivity
tracert	tracert google.com	Trace network route to a host
netstat	netstat -ano	Show network connections and listening ports

nslookup	nslookup example.com	Query DNS information
arp	arp -a	Show address resolution protocol cache

## 7. System Information

Command	Example	Explanation
systeminfo	systeminfo	Display detailed system information
hostname	hostname	Show computer name
ver	ver	Show Windows version
set	set	List all environment variables

## 8. Disk & File Management

Command	Example	Explanation
diskpart	diskpart	Start disk partition tool
format	format D:	Format a drive
compact	compact /c file.txt	Compress file (NTFS only)
cipher	cipher /e folder	Encrypt files/folders (NTFS only)

## 9. Other Helpful Commands

Command	Example	Explanation
assoc	assoc .txt	Display/change file type associations
clip	clip < file.txt	Copy file contents to clipboard
fc	fc file1.txt file2.txt	Compare two files

## How to Get Command Help

- For any command, get detailed help with:

```
<command> /?  
# Example:  
dir /?
```

## Useful Batch Scripting Basics

- To write a batch file, create a .bat file and add commands, for example:

```
@echo off  
echo "Starting backup..."  
xcopy C:\Data D:\Backup /s /y  
echo "Backup completed."
```

This covers the most practical and frequently used Windows Command Prompt commands for day-to-day work, scripting, systems administration, and troubleshooting<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>.

If you need even more, you can find downloadable PDF cheat sheets (for example, from Columbia University<sup>[4]</sup>, PhoenixNAP<sup>[3]</sup>, or StationX<sup>[1]</sup>)—just let me know if you'd like a direct PDF copy or more advanced/PowerShell commands!

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1. <https://www.stationx.net/windows-command-line-cheat-sheet/>
2. <https://johndcyber.com/windows-cmd-cheat-sheet-aa218b279b25>
3. <https://phoenixnap.com/kb/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/windows-cmd-commands-cheat-sheet-pdf.pdf>
4. <https://www.cs.columbia.edu/~sedwards/classes/2015/1102-fall/Command Prompt Cheatsheet.pdf>