

Join the Stack Overflow Community

Stack Overflow is a community of 7.5 million programmers, just like you, helping each other.
Join them; it only takes a minute:

Sign up

How to display text file content in cmd?

I want to display the content of text file in cmd window. In addition, I want to see the new lines that added to file, like `tail -f` command in unix.

cmd

asked Jun 20 '13 at 15:16



Refael

879 4 16 33

3 stackoverflow.com/questions/187587/... – bryanph Jun 20 '13 at 15:19

If one of these answers has solved your problem, please mark the answer. – Michael Yaeger Sep 10 '16 at 2:29

Possible duplicate of [Looking for a windows equivalent of the unix tail command](#) – Archmede Jun 5 at 19:15

11 Answers

You can use the `more` command. For example: `more filename.txt`

Take a look at: <http://unxutils.sourceforge.net/> or download: <http://unxutils.sourceforge.net/UnxUpdates.zip>

edited Jan 31 at 13:34



Lii

4,686 3 28 44

answered Jun 20 '13 at 15:21



limcy_at_mip

911 5 2

We can use 'type' command to see file contents in cmd

Example -

`type abc.txt`

More information can be found [HERE](#)

answered Dec 25 '15 at 1:22



Anmol Saraf

6,748 4 31 50

I don't think there is a built-in function for that

`xxxx.txt > con`

This opens the files in the default text editor in windows...

`type xxxx.txt`

This displays the file in the current window. Maybe this has params you can use...

There is a similar question here: [CMD.EXE batch script to display last 10 lines from a txt file](#) So there is a "more" command to display a file from the given line, or you can use the GNU Utilities for Win32 what bryanph suggested in his link.

edited May 23 at 11:47



Community ♦

1 1

answered Jun 20 '13 at 15:24



inf3mo

12.1k 6 58 104

Type worked great for me – [Cordell](#) Mar 1 at 18:46

using a single powershell command to retrieve the file ending:

```
powershell -nologo "& "Get-Content -Path c:\logfile.log -Tail 10"
```

applies to powershell 3.0 and newer

another option is to create a file called TAIL.CMD with this code:

```
powershell -nologo "& "Get-Content -Path %1 -Tail %2"
```

answered Feb 17 '16 at 12:59



Eyal

61 8

To do this, you can use Microsoft's more advanced command-line shell called "[Windows PowerShell](#)." It should come standard on the latest versions of Windows, but you can [download it from Microsoft](#) if you don't already have it installed.

To get the last five lines in the text file simply read the file using `Get-Content`, then have `Select-object` pick out the last five items/lines for you:

```
Get-Content c:\scripts\test.txt | Select-Object -last 5
```

Source: [Using the Get-Content Cmdlet](#)

answered May 18 '16 at 18:50



Michael Yaeger

320 3 24

Was this answer able to help you? – [Michael Yaeger](#) Sep 10 '16 at 2:29

There is no built in option available with windows. To constantly monitor logs you can use this free application [BareTailPro](#)

answered Jun 20 '13 at 15:21



xtechkid

627 1 6 23

You can get the TAIL utility from the 'Windows Server 2003 Resource Kit Tools' found here -- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/confirmation.aspx?id=17657>

Here are additional details -- [Tail command for Windows \(CMD\)](#)

answered Feb 8 '16 at 13:22



noni

16 4

Link only answers should be posted as comments – [NSNoob](#) Feb 8 '16 at 13:44

if you want it to display the content of the file live, and update when the file is altered, just use this script:

```
@echo off
:start
```

```
cls
type myfile.txt
goto start
```

that will repeat forever until you close the cmd window

answered Mar 11 at 3:08



Johnny G Gaming
11 4

Using type of Command Read File in Windows

type of your_file_name_here

D:\Java>type of EvenOddExample.java

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class EvenOddExample
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        System.out.println("\nEnter any Number To check Even or Odd");
        Scanner sc=new Scanner(System.in);
        int no=sc.nextInt();
        int no1=no;

        while (no>1)
        {
            no=no-2;
        }
        if(no==0)
        {
            System.out.println(no1 +" is evenNumber");
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println(no1 +" is odd Number");
        }
    }
}
```

answered Jun 30 at 9:49



Keshav Gera
302 1 14

type of your_file_name_here – Keshav Gera Jun 30 at 9:49

```
tail -3 d:\text_file.txt
```

```
tail -1 d:\text_file.txt
```

I assume this was added to Windows cmd.exe at some point.

edited Jan 29 '16 at 14:19



lan
23.4k 13 34 66

answered Jan 29 '16 at 14:14



noni
7 1

1 no, `tail` is still not a standard windows command. Usually it's part of an addon like cygwin, GNU or others. – Stephan Jan 29 '16 at 14:20

You can use 'more' command to see the content of the file: `more filename.txt`

answered Jun 5 at 19:12



H.Marroquin
1

1 Welcome to StackOverflow and thanks for trying to help. Please explain how the windows version of more can be used to automatically see newly arriving lines in a text file. That would make your answer more directly relate to OPs question, i.e. demonstrate the "tail -f"-compatibility OP wants. – Yunnosch Jun 5 at 19:59

