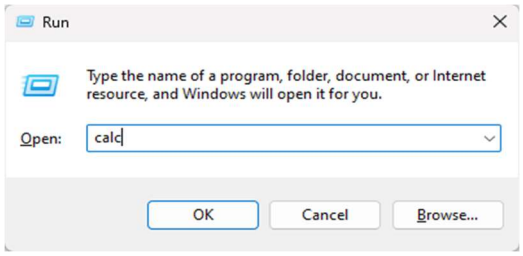
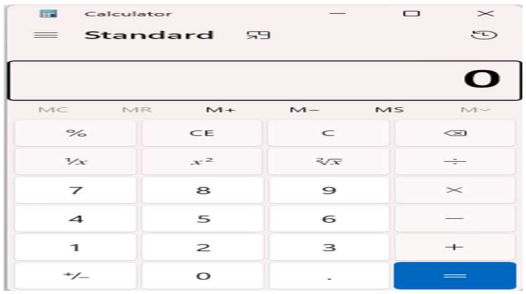
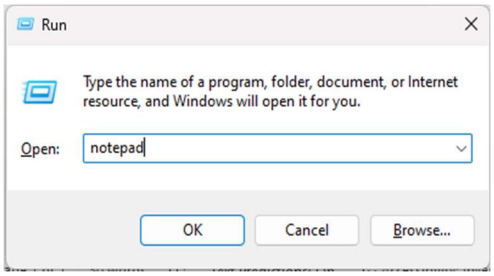
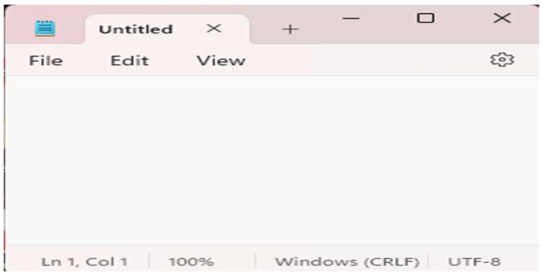
Title:	Windows Path Variables – What they are and how to configure them.
Author:	Amar Chhabra

Have you ever entered a program/executable, such as calc or notepad, into the Windows run box to open it?

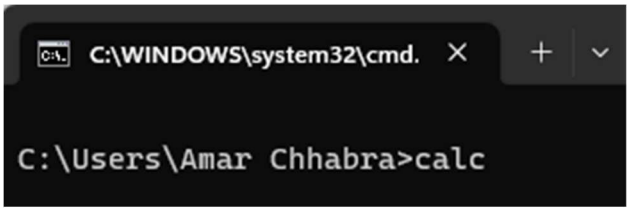


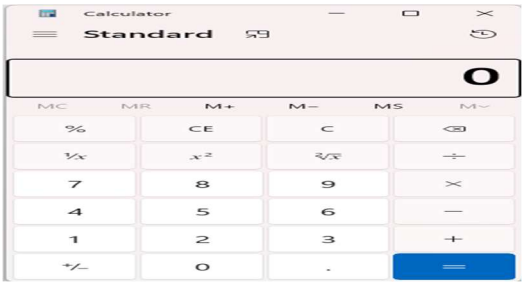


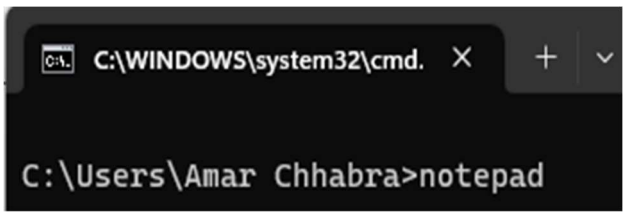


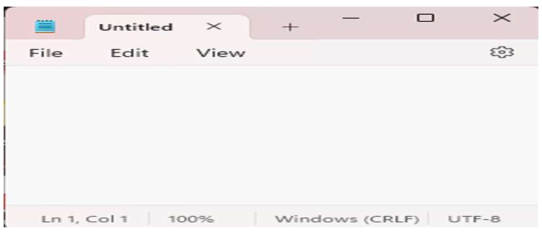


Or called an executable, via command line, while not being in the directory containing the executable?







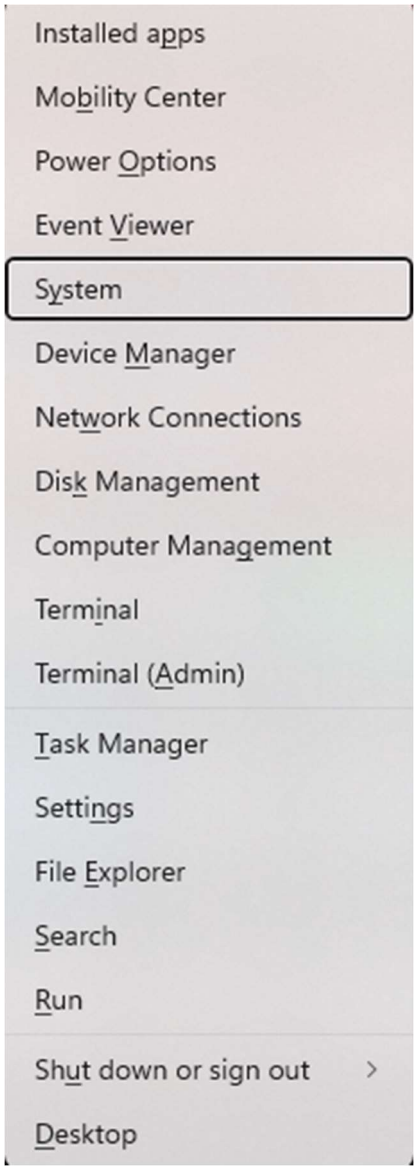


The above are facilitated with the path variable.

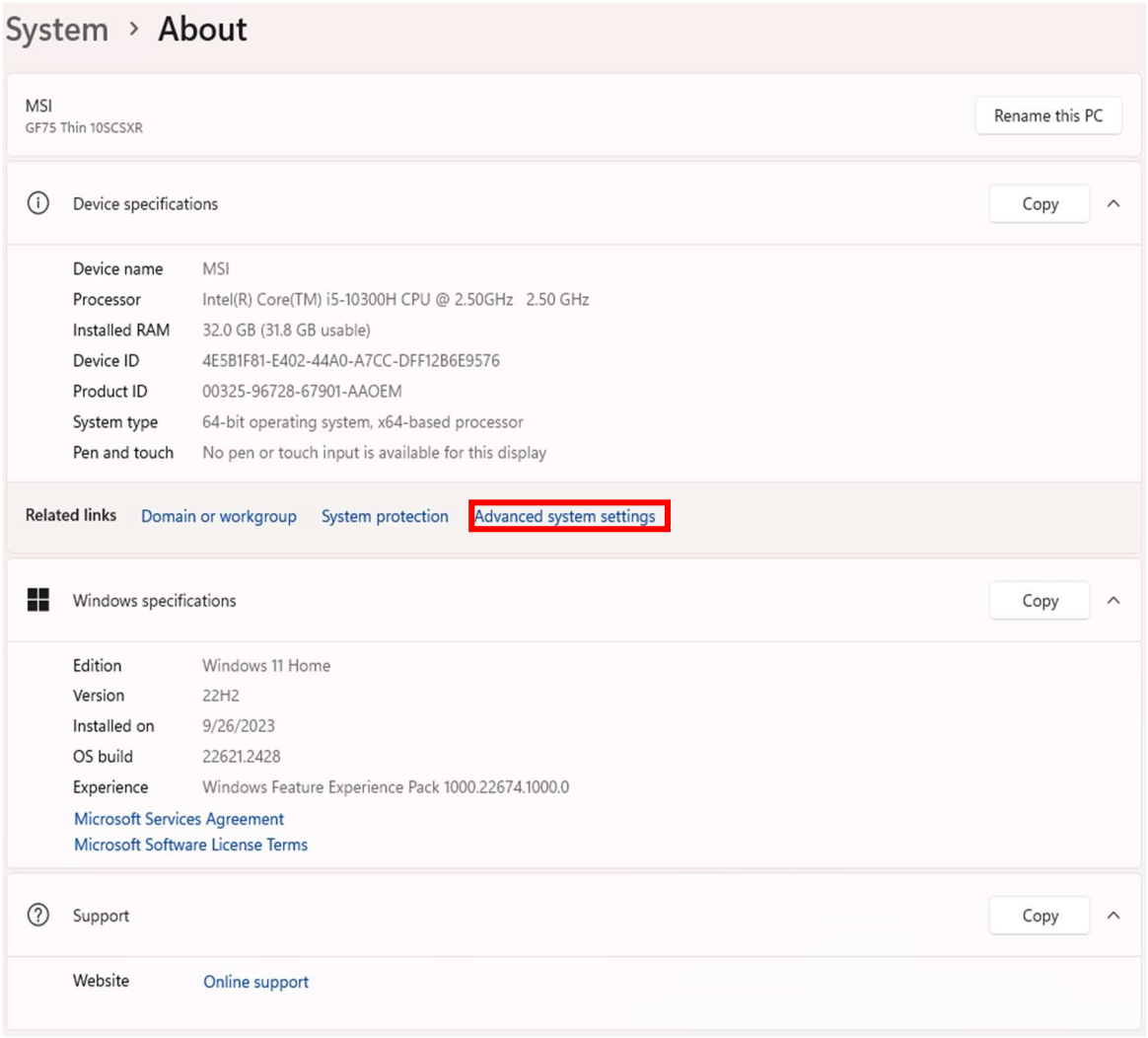
The PATH environment variable specifies the set of directories used to search for executable (.exe) files when entered via command line or run box.

Access to, and tools to edit the PATH environment variable, is facilitated via the following screen sequence.

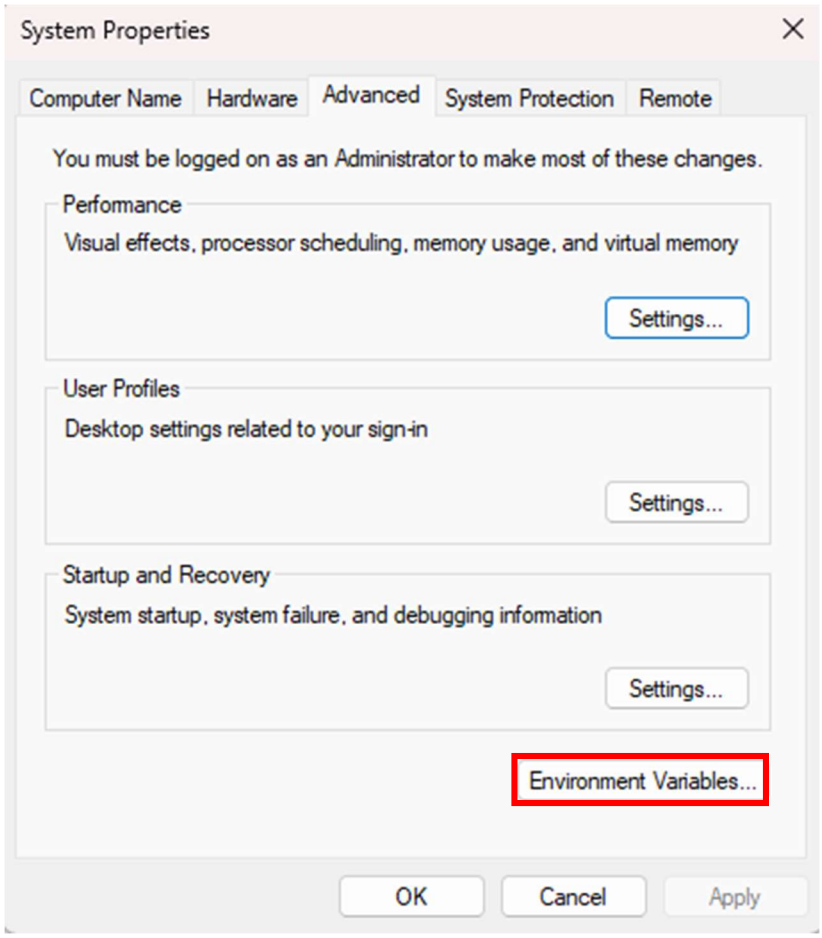
A. At the desktop invoke the Windows + x key sequence to access the quick links menu. Select the system menu/link.



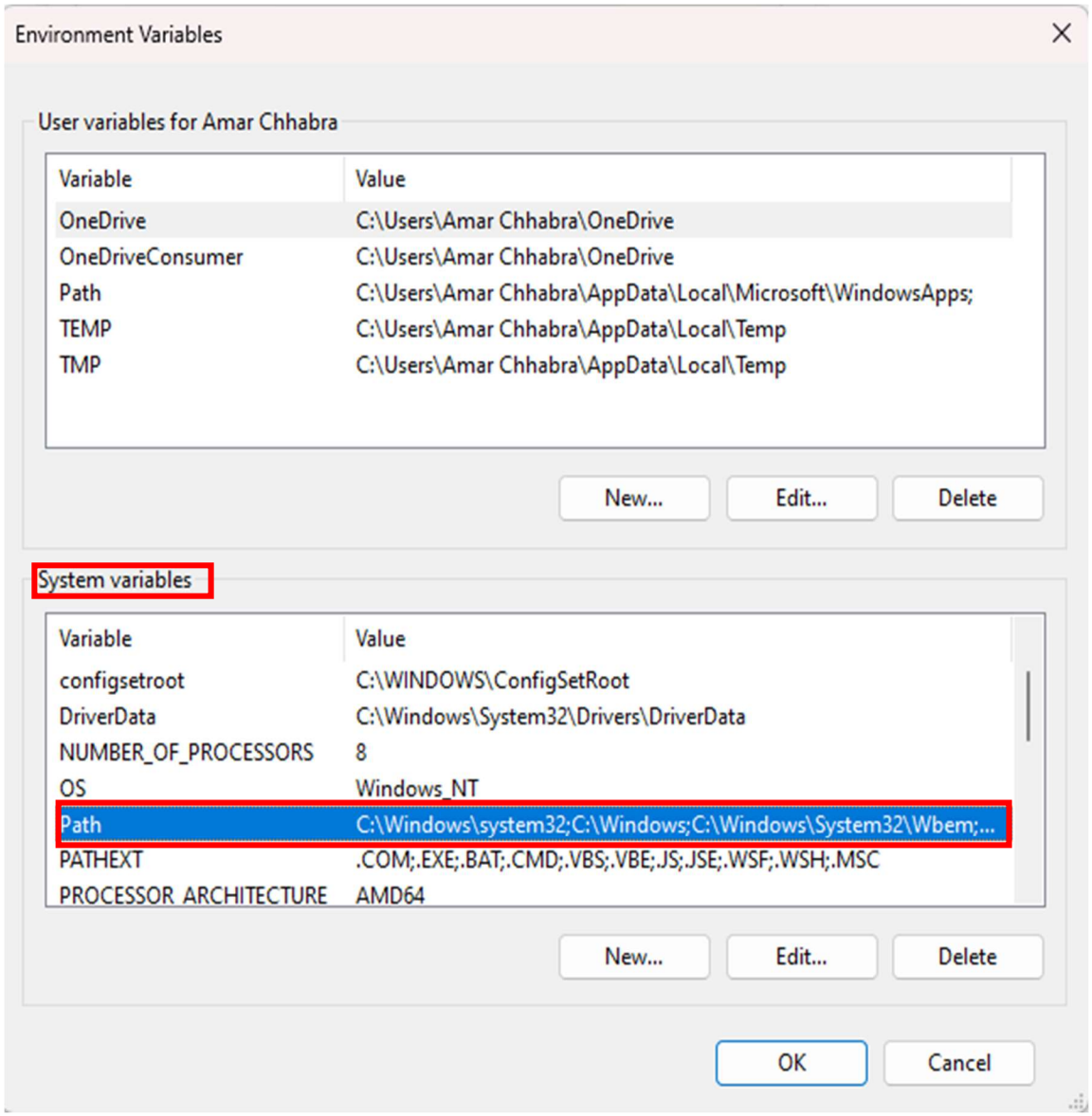
B. Click on the Advanced Systems Setting Link



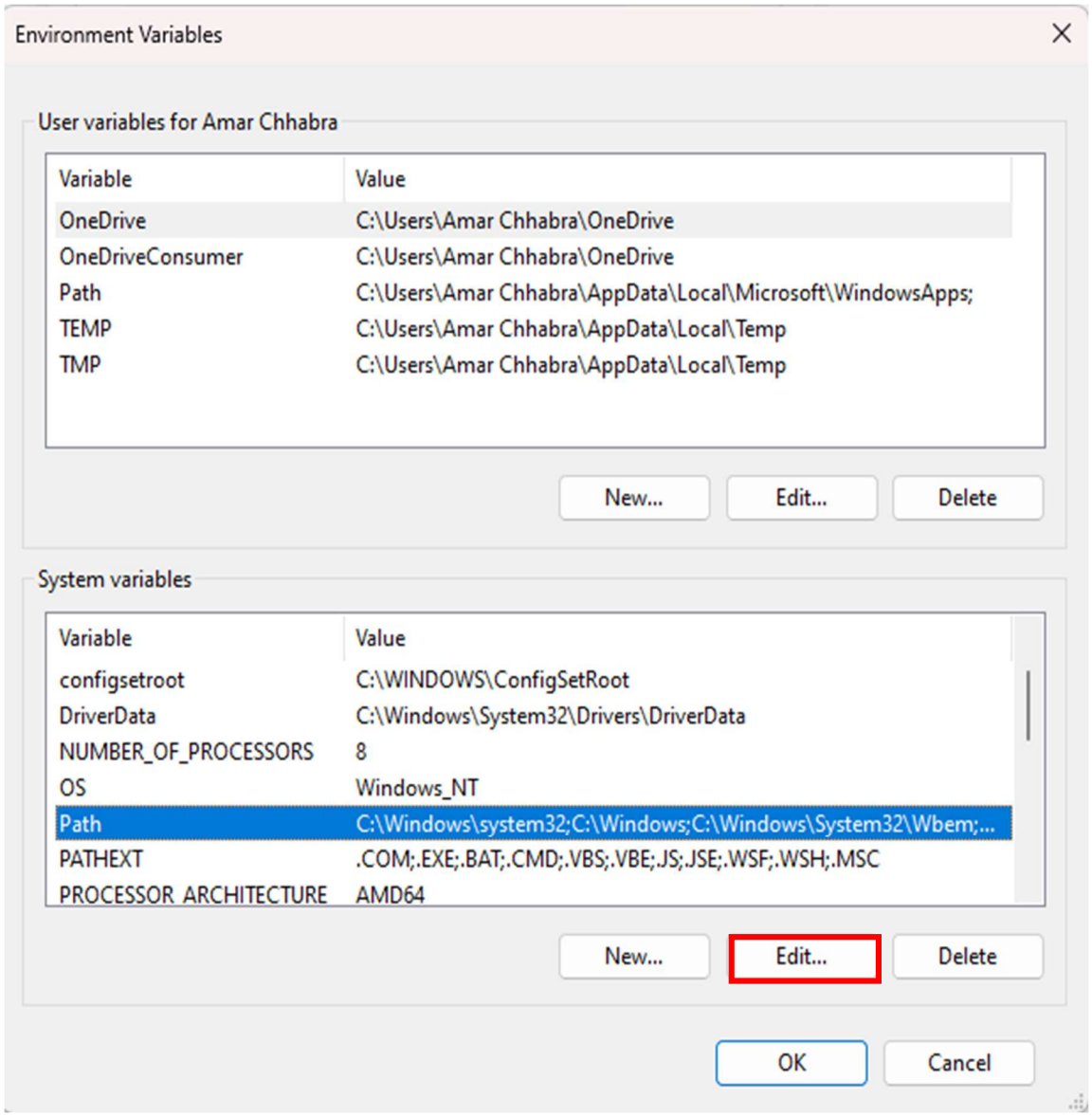
C. Click on the Environment Variables button.



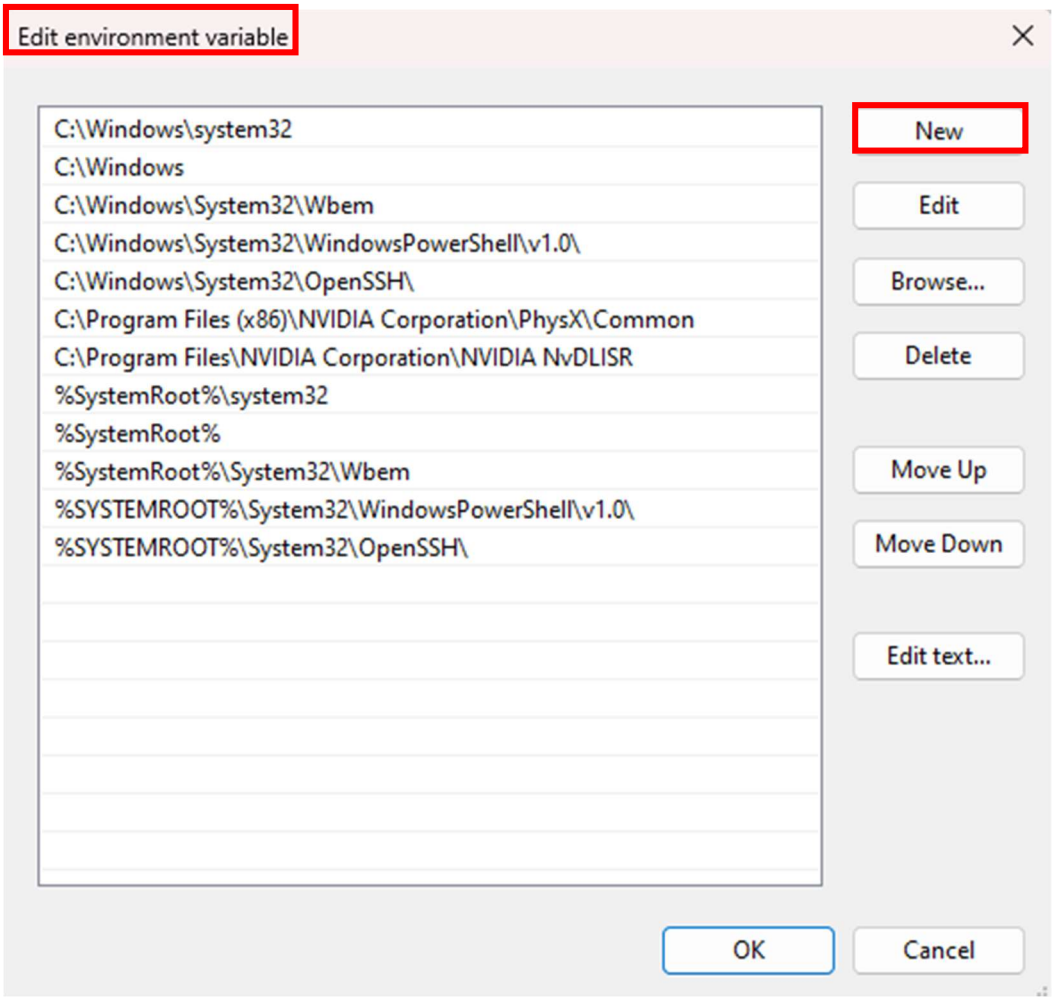
D. In the Systems Variables sub-window click on / highlight Path.



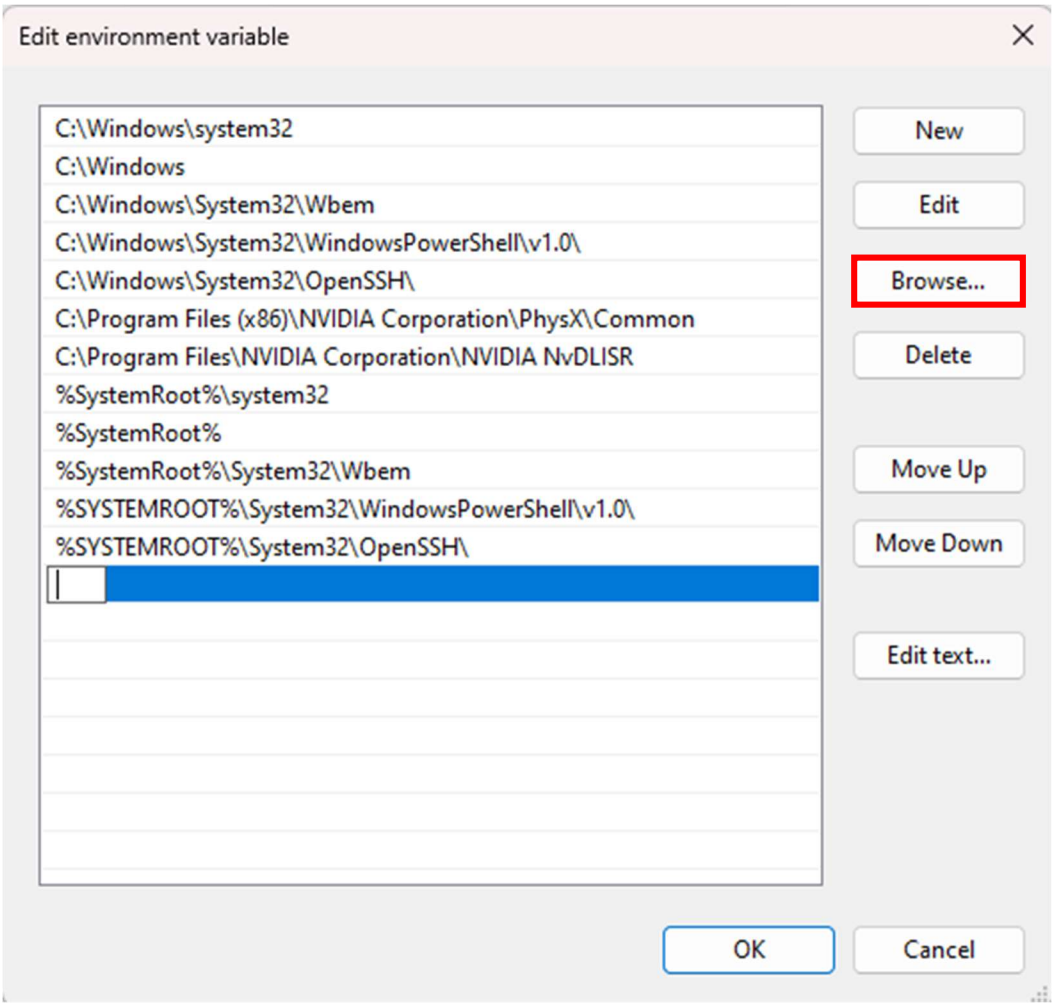
E. Click on the Edit button to append a folder [or executable file] to the Path variable.

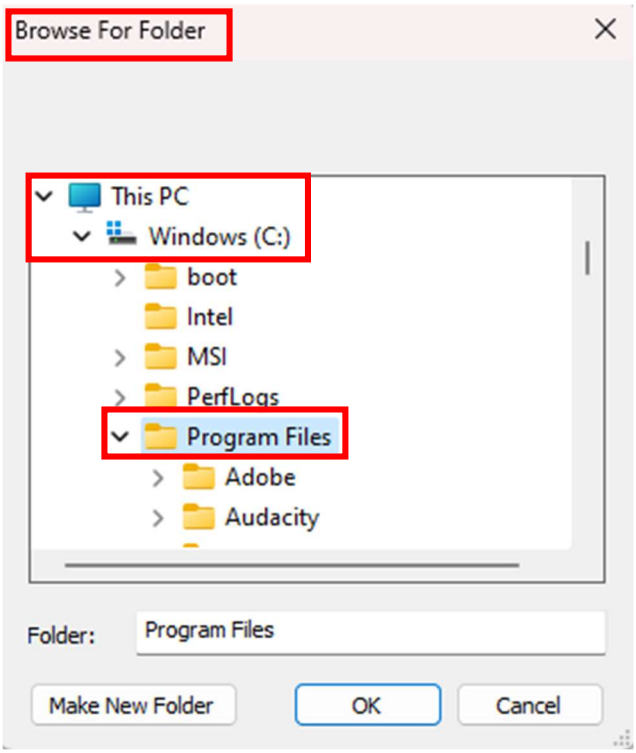


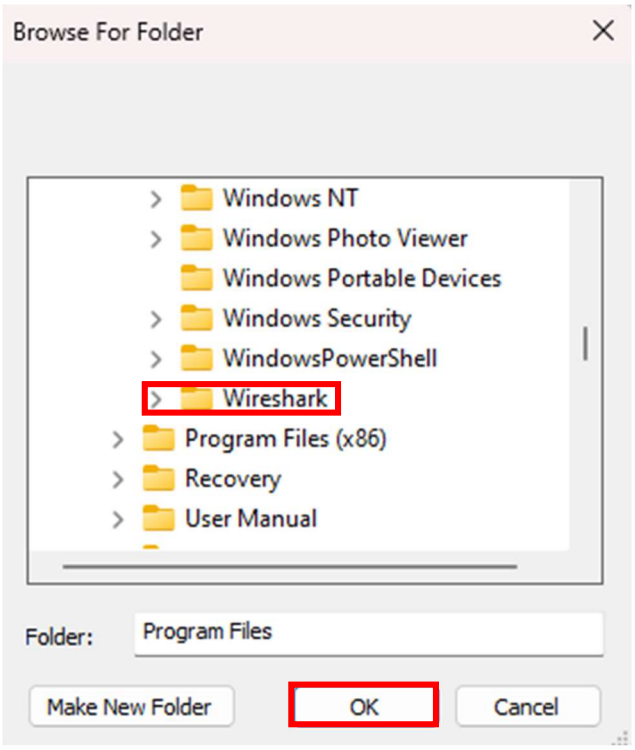
F. Click the New button to append the directory path, containing the executable file(s), to be added to the path variable.



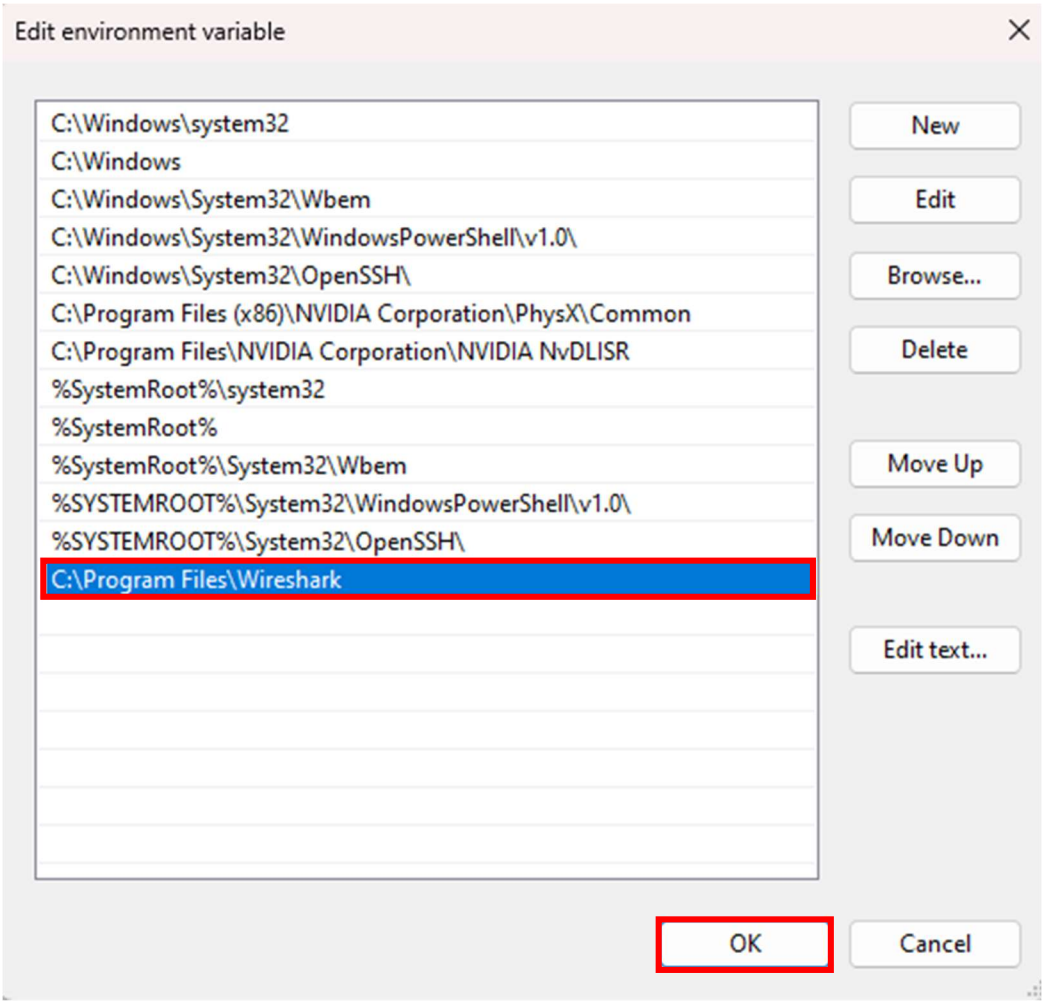
G. Navigate to the directory path to append to the path variable.



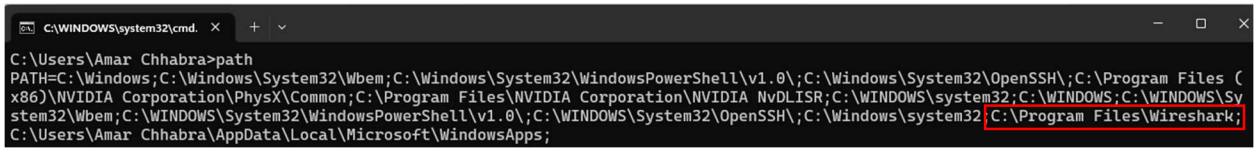

Browse For Folder
This PC
Windows (C:)
boot
Intel
MSI
PerfLogs
Program Files
Adobe
Audacity
Folder:
Program Files
Make New Folder
OK
Cancel


Browse For Folder
Windows NT
Windows Photo Viewer
Windows Portable Devices
Windows Security
WindowsPowerShell
Wireshark
Program Files (x86)
Recovery
User Manual
Folder:
Program Files
Make New Folder
OK
Cancel

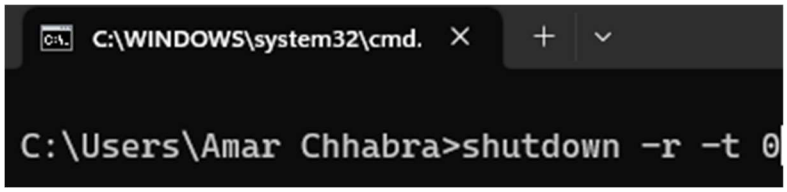
H. The folder, containing the Wireshark program executables, is now appended to the path variable.



I. To (re)confirm the Wireshark executables folder has been added to the path variable open command prompt and type path to display the path variable.

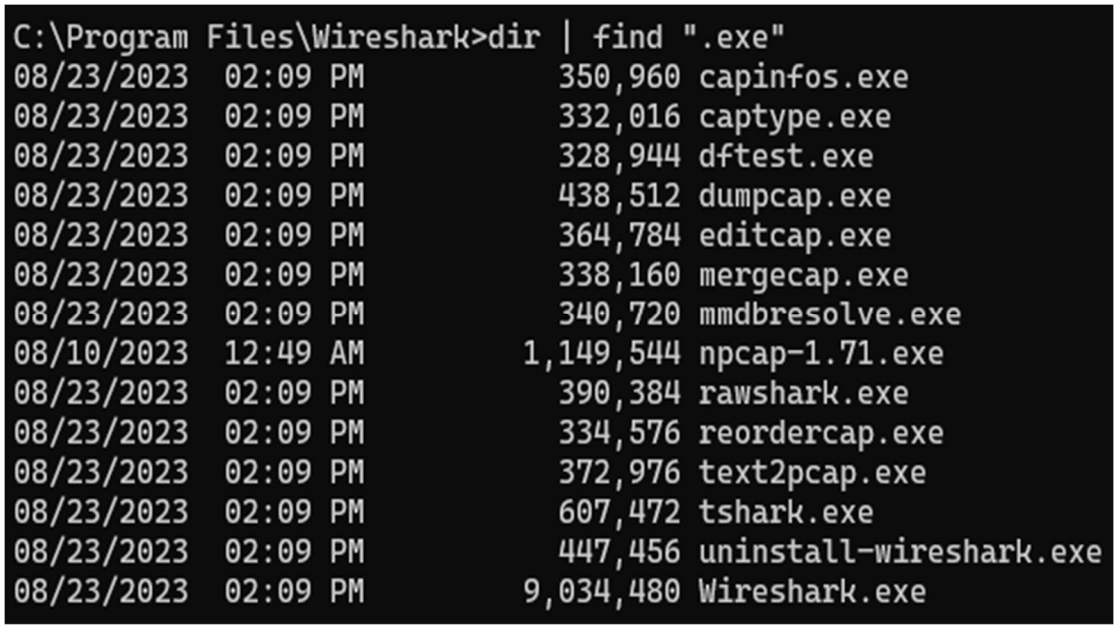


Note: In the event the directory appended to the file patch is absent reboot the computer. This can be accomplished via the command, “shutdown -r -t 0”.

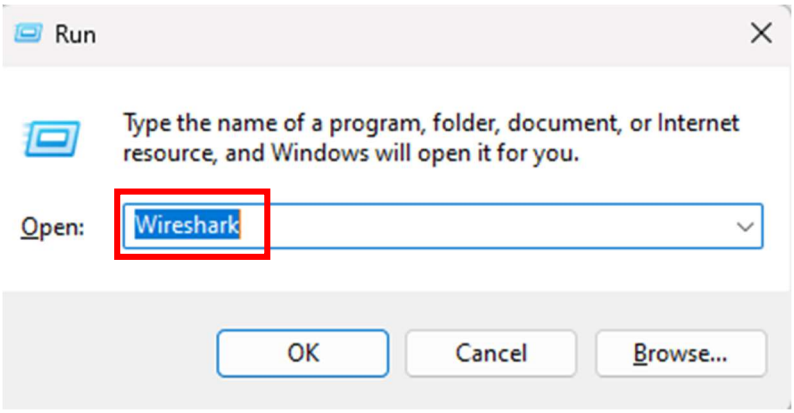


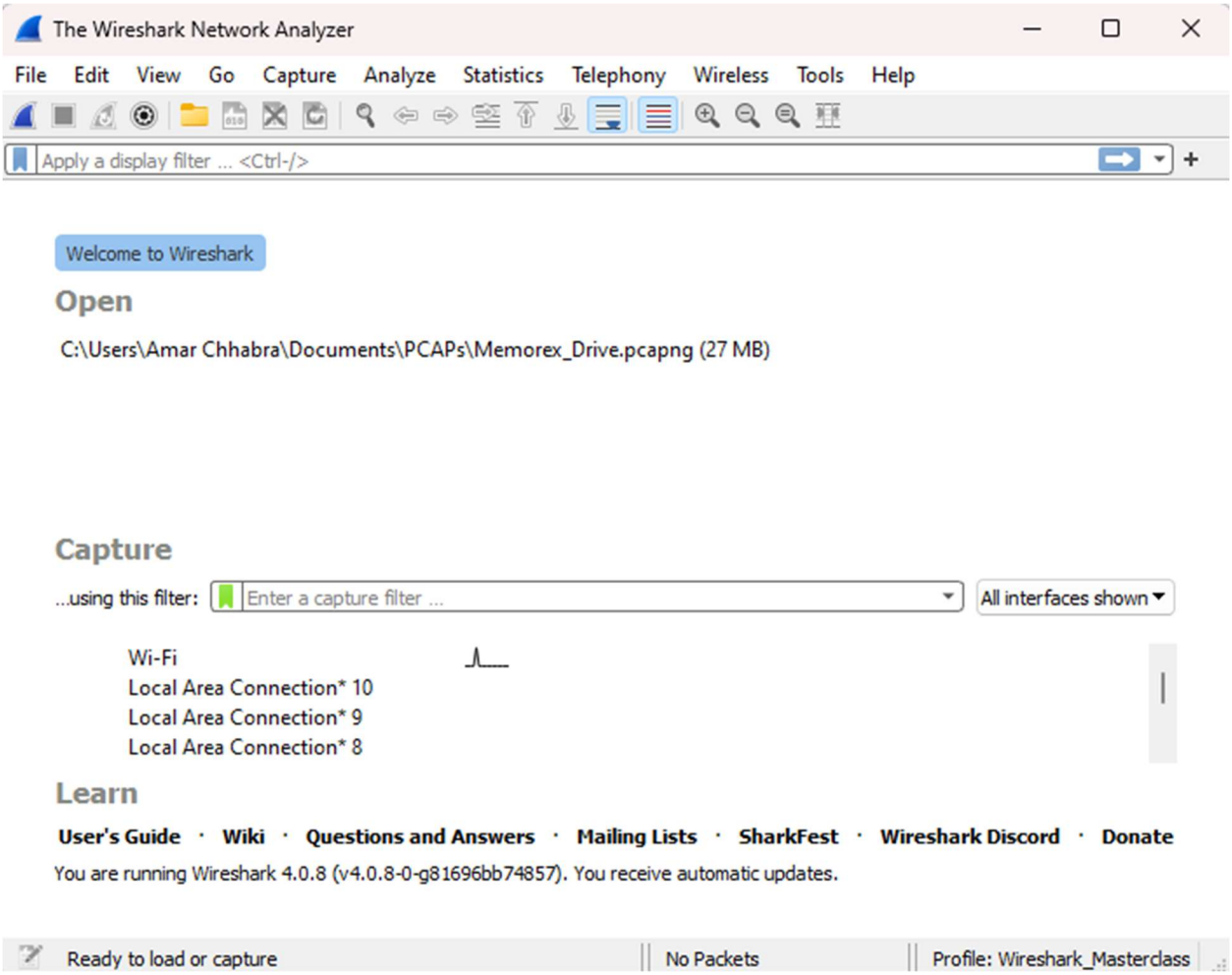
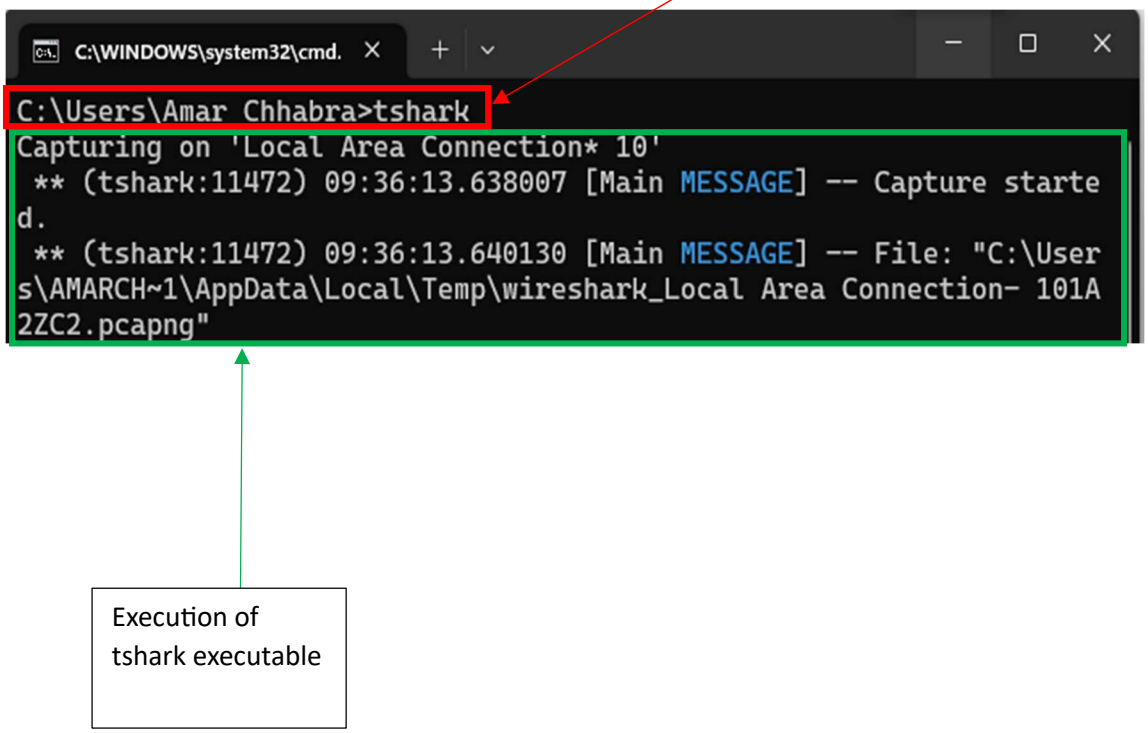
J. Adding C:\Program files\Wireshark to the Windows path variable enables execution of any executable, within this directory, form the run box [invoked with the Windows + r key sequence], and from any directory in the command line.

Listing of executables in the C:\Program files\Wireshark directory



Execution of the Wireshark executable via run box (invoked with the Windows and r key sequence)


Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open:
Wireshark
OK
Cancel
Browse...


The Wireshark Network Analyzer
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
Apply a display filter ... <Ctrl-/>
Welcome to Wireshark
Open
C:\Users\Amar Chhabra\Documents\PCAPs\Memorex_Drive.pcapng (27 MB)
Capture
...using this filter:
Enter a capture filter ...
All interfaces shown
Wi-Fi
Local Area Connection* 10
Local Area Connection* 9
Local Area Connection* 8
Learn
User's Guide · Wiki · Questions and Answers · Mailing Lists · SharkFest · Wireshark Discord · Donate
You are running Wireshark 4.0.8 (v4.0.8-0-g81696bb74857). You receive automatic updates.
Ready to load or capture
No Packets
Profile: Wireshark_Masterclass

Execution of tshark from user home directory