

Cannot invoke npm in PowerShell, even though it is in the system's path

Asked 1 year, 10 months ago Active 1 year, 10 months ago Viewed 2k times

This is my path:

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```
PS> $Env:Path
C:\Python27\Scripts;C:\Python27\Scripts;C:\Program Files (x86)\Common
Files\Oracle\Java\javapath;C:\Program Files (x86)\Intel\iCLS Client\;C:\Program
Files\Intel\iCLS Client\;C:\Program Files (x86)\NVIDIA
Corporation\PhysX\Common;C:\Windows\system32;C:\Windows;C:\Windows\System32\Wbem;C:\Windo
Files (x86)\Intel\Intel(R) Management Engine Components\DAL;C:\Program
Files\Intel\Intel(R) Management Engine Components\DAL;D:\Program Files
(x86)\Intel\Intel(R) Management Engine Components\IPT;C:\Program Files\Intel\Intel(R)
Management Engine Components\IPT;C:\Program Files\NVIDIA Corporation\NVIDIA
NvDLISR;C:\Program Files\dotnet\;C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL
Server\130\Tools\Binn\;D:\cmdex;C:\ProgramData\chocolatey\bin;C:\Program
Files\Git\cmd;C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Packages\CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows
Files\nodejs\;C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps;%NVM_HOME%;%NVM_SYMLINK%
Files\Java\jdk1.8.0_221\bin;C:\gradle;C:\android-
sdk\tools\bin;C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS
Code\bin;C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Roaming\np
```

Note the following NodJS-related entries, in sequence:

```
C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Packages\CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows_79rhkp1fndgsc
C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Packages\CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows_79rhkp1fndgsc
D:\Program Files\nodejs\
```

But when I type `npm -v`, Powershell throws this error:

```
Program 'npm' failed to run: No application is associated with the specified file
for this operation.
At line:1 char:1
+ npm
+ ~~~.
At line:1 char:1
+ npm
+ ~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : ResourceUnavailable: (:) [], ApplicationFailedException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : NativeCommandFailed
```

[node.js](#) [windows](#) [powershell](#) [npm](#) [path-variables](#)

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edited Oct 22 '19 at 19:09

asked Oct 22 '19 at 14:04



mklement0

261k

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436

518



Caio Domingos

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As basic question is npm installed in any of the mentioned paths? From my short search default folder should be C:\Program Files\nodejs\node_modules\npm, but you only have D:\Program Files\nodejs in your path variable. – Olaf Reitz Oct 22 '19 at 14:34

@OlafReitz: No, C:\Program Files\nodejs (or equivalent) is the correct PATH entry; npm.cmd is located in that folder. – mklement0 Oct 22 '19 at 15:17

1 Answer

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**tl;dr:**

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- *Either:* Remove the following entries from your `$env:PATH` variable.



CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows_79rhkp1fndgsc\LocalState\rootfs\home\caiodomingos\.nvm\version



CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows_79rhkp1fndgsc\LocalState\rootfs\home\caiodomingos\.nvm\version



- Or: Invoke `npm` as `npm.cmd` and `node` as `node.exe`

Your symptom implies the following:

- There is a directory in your `$env:PATH` variable that contains a file named *just* `npm` - *without a filename extension...*
- *and* that directory doesn't *also* contain files with the same but an *executable filename extension*, such as `.cmd` or `.exe` ...
- *and* that directory is listed *first* in `$env:PATH`, before any other directories that `npm` files with executable extensions, such as `npm.cmd`, ...

In a normal NodeJS installation on Windows (installed in `$env:ProgramFiles\nodejs` by default), the installation folder contains a `npm.cmd` batch file for invoking npm, alongside a Unix shell script in the same folder named *just* `npm` - *without a filename extension*.

`npm.cmd` takes precedence over the extension-less `npm`, so invoking *just* `npm` works as expected.

`C:\Users\caio1\AppData\Local\Packages\CanonicalGroupLimited.UbuntuonWindows_79rhkp1fndgsc\LocalState\rootfs\home\caiodomingos\.nvm\versions\node\v10.16.3\bin` is a directory containing a *Linux* installation of NodeJS.

In a Linux installation, there is obviously no need for a *batch file*, so only an extension-less `npm` Unix shell script is present.

Since this directory comes *before* your regular NodeJS installation directory (`D:\Program Files\nodejs`) in your `$env:PATH` value, PowerShell attempts to invoke the extension-less Unix shell script when you submit `npm` , which - predictably - fails.

Specifically, because the `npm` file has no *executable* file name extension, PowerShell invokes it as a *document* rather than as an executable, and fails to do so because no application is registered with the Windows (graphical) shell (File Explorer) for opening documents that have no filename extension.

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edited Oct 22 '19 at 19:03

answered Oct 22 '19 at 15:15



mklement0

261k

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436

518

I am glad to hear it, @CaioDomingos. Thanks for following the advice re accepting. – **mklement0** Oct 23 '19 at 15:09
