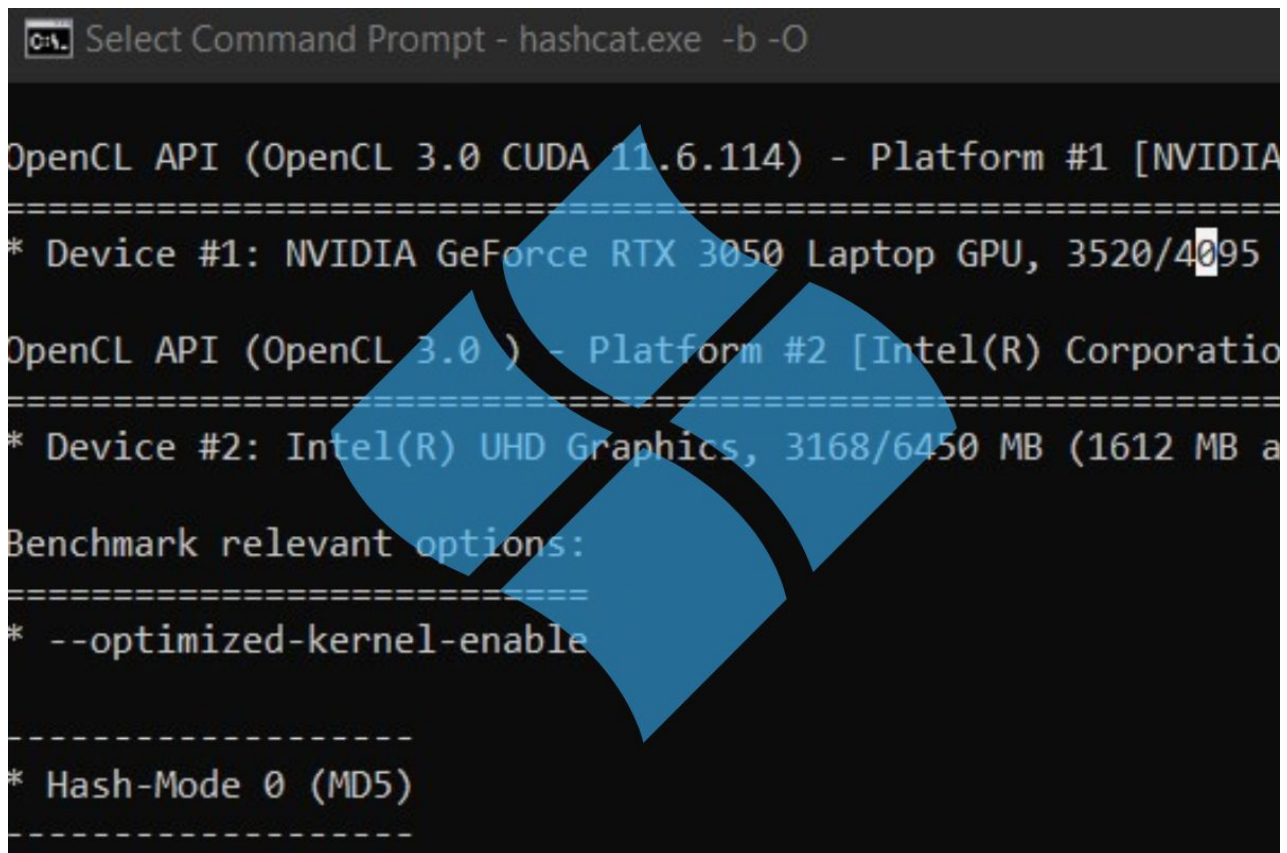


How To Install Hashcat on Windows In 2024

 infosecscout.com/install-hashcat-on-windows

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Hashcat is my favorite password cracker. You can use it on any operating system or distribution, but it's often easier to use Windows to avoid drivers issues (especially with a recent GPU). Anyway, I will explain how to install it on Windows in this tutorial.

Hashcat is officially supported on Windows, binaries files can be downloaded on the official website directly. Once the files extracted, Hashcat can be used directly in the command prompt, there is no installation required.

If you are new to this, it might not be obvious to you, but don't worry, I'll explain everything in this step-by-step tutorial.

How to run Hashcat on Windows

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Here are the required steps to install Hashcat on Windows:

- Download the latest Hashcat version from the official website.
- Extract the files on your computer.
- Open a command prompt and run hashcat in command line.

I will now explain each step in details.

Download Hashcat

The first step is to download the latest Hashcat version. It's available on their official website:

- Go to the [Hashcat website homepage](#).
- Find the binaries and click on "Download" to get the archive on your computer.

Download

Name	Version	Date	Download	Signature
hashcat binaries	v6.2.5	2021.11.21	Download	PGP
hashcat sources	v6.2.5	2021.11.21	Download	PGP

Signing key on PGP keyservers: RSA, 2048-bit. Key ID: 2048R/8A16544F. Fingerprint: A708 3322 9D04 0B41 99CC 0052 3C17 DA8B 8A16 544F

The file is an archive, so the next step will be to extract the files before using them.

Extract the files

The files are compressed with 7zip. If you can't open the archive, you might need to install it first:

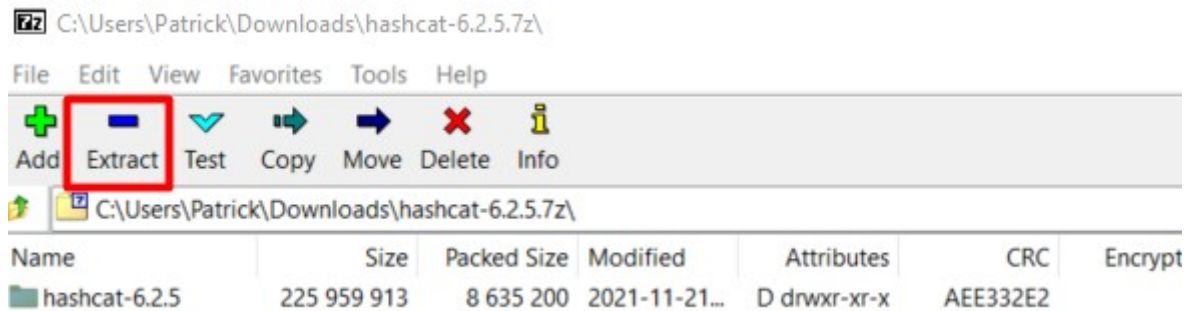
- Go to the [7zip website](#).
- Download the file corresponding to your operating system (the first link should be fine if your computer is recent, or use the 32-bit version if you have any doubt).

Download 7-Zip 22.01 (2022-07-15) for Windows:

Link	Type	Windows	Size
Download	.exe	64-bit x64	1.5 MB
Download	.exe	32-bit x86	1.2 MB
Download	.exe	64-bit ARM64	1.5 MB

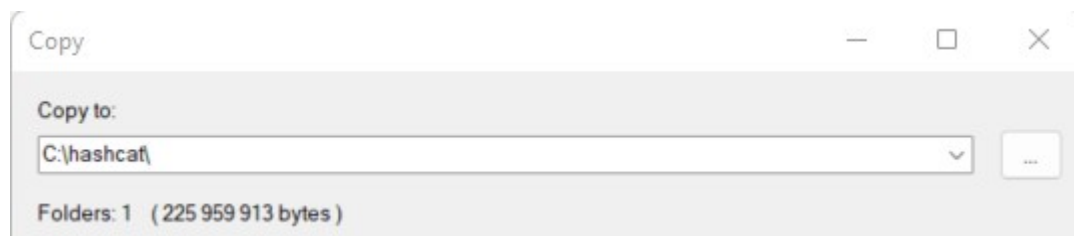
- Once downloaded, double-click on the file to install 7zip on your computer. Follow the installation wizard, keep the default options.

Once done, you should be able to open the Hashcat archive and extract the files. Click on the "Extract" button in the top bar:



I recommend choosing a different path for the extract location. I don't know you, but in my case, I tend to delete everything in the "Downloads" folder from time to time, and if I keep hashcat there, I will need to reinstall it eventually.

So, for the example, I'm extracting the files to C:\hashcat, but you can put them wherever you want:



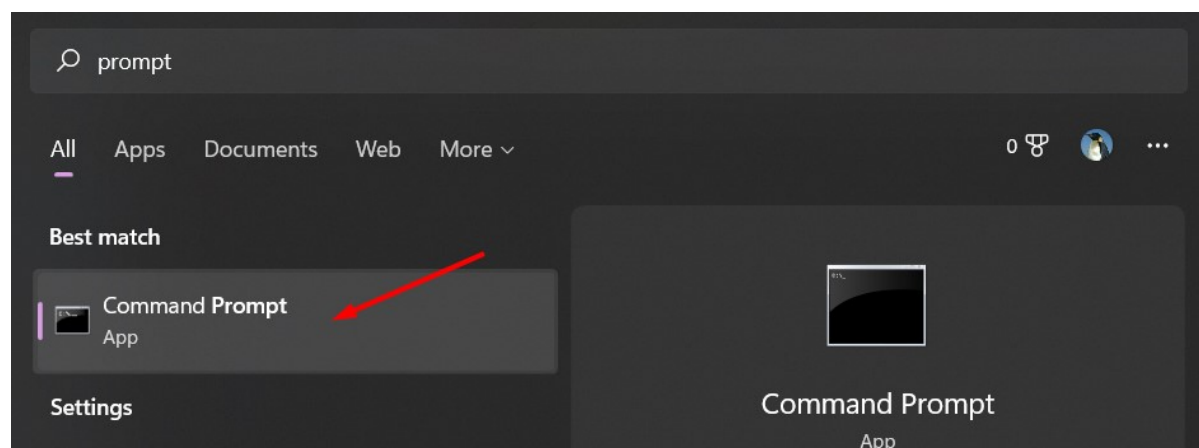
Remember the files location, as you'll have to go to this path on the next step.

Run Hashcat for the first time

We are almost done, we'll just make sure everything is working as expected:

- **Open a command prompt.**

You can type "command" or "prompt" in the start menu to find the app if you don't have a shortcut already:



- Move to the Hashcat files location, for example:

```
cd C:\hashcat\hashcat-6.2.5
```

Yes, I noticed that it kept a subfolder with the version as I extracted the archive directly, not a big deal

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.795]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Patrick>cd C:\hashcat\hashcat-6.2.5

C:\hashcat\hashcat-6.2.5>
```

- You can now run any hashcat command with:

```
hashcat.exe <option>
```

For example:

```
hashcat.exe -b
```

This command will run a benchmark of your system, telling you the decryption rate you can expect on this computer, but also showing errors if there is something misconfigured on your system (like missing GPU drivers).

```
Select Command Prompt - hashcat.exe -b -O

OpenCL API (OpenCL 3.0 CUDA 11.6.114) - Platform #1 [NVIDIA Corporation]
=====
* Device #1: NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3050 Laptop GPU, 3520/4095 MB (1023 MB allocatable), 16MCU

OpenCL API (OpenCL 3.0 ) - Platform #2 [Intel(R) Corporation]
=====
* Device #2: Intel(R) UHD Graphics, 3168/6450 MB (1612 MB allocatable), 32MCU

Benchmark relevant options:
=====
* --optimized-kernel-enable

-----
* Hash-Mode 0 (MD5)
-----
```

How to use Hashcat on Windows

If the benchmark command is working correctly, you can now use Hashcat on your Windows computer with the same commands as on Linux. It's the same thing.

I already have several tutorials on this topic on the website, so I won't repeat myself here, but if you need further assistance, feel free to read these tutorials:

- [Is MD5 Easy to Crack? \(and how long does it really takes\)](#)
- [How to Brute Force a Password? \(MD5 Hash\)](#)
- [How to Install and Use Hashcat to Decrypt MD5? \(Tutorial\)](#)

Hashcat FAQ

Is there a GUI for Hashcat?

Hashcat doesn't include a graphic interface by default, but a few projects exist with the goal to add an interface to it, like the [hashcat GUI toolkit](#) (Windows interface) or [Crackerjack](#) (web interface).

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Is Hashcat cross-platform?

Hashcat can run on most operating systems (Linux, Windows and macOS). The installation is slightly different on each system, but the command usage is the same on all platforms.

You can find my guide on [how to install Hashcat on Ubuntu](#) there.

How to install OpenCL on Windows?

Running hashcat on Windows require the latest drivers for your OpenCL device (your GPU). AMD and Nvidia official drivers include OpenCL by default, and for Intel GPU you have to install an additional package ([link here](#)).

If you experience any issue, make sure you installed the latest version of your graphic card driver, downloading it from the official website.

Installing this on Linux could be a nightmare with some distributions and hardware, but on Windows it's pretty straightforward (in theory).

Whenever you're ready for more security, here are things you should think about:

- **Break free from Gmail**: You should be able to choose what happens to your data. With Proton, only you can read your emails. [Get private email](#).
- **Protect yourself online**: Use a high-speed Swiss VPN that safeguards your privacy. Open-source, no activity logs. [Get Proton VPN risk-free](#).
- **Master Linux commands**: A sure method to learn (and remember) Linux commands. Useful ones only, one at a time, with clear explanations. [Download the e-book](#).