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Shell: folder shortcuts

Shell folder shortcuts can be used directly in the Windows File Explorer Address bar: shell:Desktop
or from the Start Menu: Start → Run → shell:Desktop

Description	Shell: folder shortcut	Equivalent	System	User
Display installed Windows Updates	shell:AppUpdatesFolder	Control Panel → Programs and Features → Installed updates	System folder	
Open the user's Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder (if any)	shell:Administrative Tools	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools		User folder
Open All Users Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder	shell:Common Administrative Tools	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools	System Folder	
Open the Public Application Data folder	shell:Common AppData	%ProgramData% = C:\ProgramData	System folder	
Open the user's Application Data folder	shell:AppData	%AppData% = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\		User folder
Open the user's Application Data folder	shell:Local AppData	%LocalAppData% = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\		User folder
Apps folder	shell:appsFolder			
Open the Temporary Internet Files folder	shell:Cache	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCache\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCache	Internet Explorer	User folder
Open the user's certificates folder	shell:SystemCertificates	%AppData%\Microsoft\System Certificates\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\System Certificates		User folder
Open the Client Side Cache Offline Files folder, if supported	shell:CSCFolder	Client Side Cache, if enabled		User folder
Open the folder where files are stored before being burned to disc	shell:CD Burning	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Burn\Burn\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Burn\Burn		User folder
Open the user's Windows Contacts folder	shell:Contacts	%UserProfile%\Contacts\ = C:\Users\<username>\Contacts		User folder
Open the Internet Explorer Cookies folder	shell:Cookies	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCookies\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCookies	Internet Explorer	User folder
Open the user's Credentials folder	shell:CredentialManager	%AppData%\Microsoft\Credentials\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Credentials	User folder	User folder
Open the list of Network Connections	shell:ConnectionsFolder	Control Panel → Network Connections	Control Panel	
Display the Control Panel	shell:ControlPanelFolder	Control Panel	Control Panel	
Open the user's encryption keys folder	shell:Cryptokeys	%AppData%\Microsoft\Crypto\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Crypto		User folder

Open the user's desktop folder	shell:Desktop	Desktop merged from %UserProfile%\Desktop + %Public%\Desktop\	Public folder	User folder
Open the Public Desktop	shell:Common Desktop	%Public%\Desktop\ = C:\Users\Public\Desktop	System folder	
Opens the user's AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Protect folder	shell:DpAPIKeys	%AppData%\Microsoft\Protect\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Protect		User folder
Open the Public Documents folder	shell:Common Documents	%Public%\Documents\ = C:\Users\Public\Documents	System folder	
Open the user's downloads folder	shell:Downloads	%UserProfile%\Downloads\ = C:\Users\<username>\Downloads		User folder
Open the Public Downloads folder	shell:CommonDownloads	%Public%\Downloads\ = C:\Users\Public\Downloads	System folder	
Open the Internet Explorer Favorites folder	shell:Favorites	%UserProfile%\Favorites\ = C:\Users\<username>\Favorites		User folder
Open the Fonts folder	shell:Fonts	%SystemRoot%\Fonts = C:\Windows\Fonts	System folder	
Open the user folder of downloaded Sidebar Gadgets	shell:Gadgets		Internet Explorer	
Open the default Sidebar Gadgets folder	shell:Default Gadgets		System folder	
Open the Games folder	shell:Games		System folder	
Open the user's Game Explorer folder	shell:GameTasks	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer		User folder
Open the user's History folder	shell:History	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\History\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\History		User folder
Open the HomeGroup folder	shell:HomeGroupFolder		System folder	
Open the HomeGroup folder for the currently logged-on user (if any)	shell:HomeGroupCurrentUserFolder		System folder	
Launches Internet Explorer Applets and applications	shell:InternetFolder		Internet Explorer	
Open the hidden ImplicitAppShortcuts folder	shell:ImplicitAppShortcuts	%AppData%\Microsoft\InternetExplorer\ImplicitAppShortcuts\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\ImplicitAppShortcuts	Internet Explorer	User folder
Open the Libraries folder	shell:Libraries	Libraries	Library	
Open the Documents library	shell:DocumentsLibrary	Libraries\Documents	Library	
Display public libraries, if any	shell:PublicLibraries	%Public%\Libraries\ = C:\Users\Public\Libraries	Library	
Display your Music library	shell:MusicLibrary	Libraries\Music	Library	
Open the Public Music folder	shell:CommonMusic	%Public%\Music\ = C:\Users\Public\Music	Multimedia	
Open the user's Music folder	shell:My Music	%UserProfile%\Music\ = C:\Users\<username>\Music		User folder
Open the Sample Music folder	shell:SampleMusic	%Public%\Music\Sample Music\ = C:\Users\Public\Music\SampleMusic	Multimedia	
Open the user's Pictures\Slide Shows folder (if present)	shell:PhotoAlbums			
Account Pictures	Shell:AccountPictures	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Account Pictures\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Account Pictures		
Display your Pictures library	shell:PicturesLibrary	Libraries\Pictures (previously My Pictures) = C:\Users\<username>\Pictures	Library	User folder

Open the Public Pictures folder	shell:CommonPictures	%Public%\Pictures\ = C:\Users\Public\Pictures	Multimedia	
Open the Sample Pictures folder	shell:SamplePictures	%Public%\Pictures\Sample Pictures\ = C:\Users\Public\Pictures\Sample Pictures	Multimedia	
Open the Windows Photo Gallery Original Images folder, if installed	shell:Original Images		Multimedia	
Display your Videos library	shell:VideosLibrary	Libraries\Videos	Library	
Open the user's Links folder	shell:Links	%UserProfile%\Links\ = C:\Users\<username>\Links		User folder
Open the Computer folder	shell:MyComputerFolder	"This PC"	System folder	
Open the user's Network Places folder	shell:NetHood	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Network Shortcuts\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Network Shortcuts		User folder
Open the Network Places folder	shell:NetworkPlacesFolder	"Network"	System folder	
Display links provided by your PC manufacturer (if any)	shell:OEM Links		System folder	
Open the user's Documents folder	shell:Personal	%UserProfile%\Documents\ = C:\Users\<username>\Documents		User folder
Open the user's printer shortcuts folder	shell:PrintHood	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Printer Shortcuts\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Printer Shortcuts		User folder
Open the user's profile folder	shell:Profile	%UserProfile% = C:\Users\<username>		User folder
Access shortcuts pinned to the Start menu or Taskbar	shell:User Pinned	%AppData%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\User Pinned\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\User Pinned		User folder
Open the user's \Music\Playlists folder	shell:Playlists			
Open the folder holding all user profiles	shell:UserProfiles	C:\Users	System folder	
Open the Printers folder	shell:PrintersFolder	Control Panel → Printers	System folder	
Open the user's Start Menu Programs folder	shell:Programs	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs		User folder
Open the Public Start Menu Programs folder	shell:Common Programs	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs	System folder	
Open the Control Panel "Install a program from the network" applet	shell:AddNewProgramsFolder	Control Panel → Get Programs from the network	Control Panel	
Open the Control Panel "Uninstall or change a program" applet	shell:ChangeRemoveProgramsFolder	Control Panel → Uninstall or change a program	Control Panel	
Open the Program Files folder	shell:ProgramFiles	%ProgramFiles% = C:\Program Files	System folder	
Open the Program Files\Common Files folder	shell:ProgramFilesCommon	%ProgramFiles%\Common Files\ = C:\Program Files\Common Files	System folder	
Display 32-bit programs stored on 64-bit Windows, or the \Program Files folder on 32-bit Windows	shell:ProgramFilesX86	%ProgramFiles(x86)% = C:\ProgramFiles (x86)	System folder	
Open the Common Files for 32-bit programs stored on 64-bit Windows,	shell:ProgramFilesCommonX86	%ProgramFiles(x86)%\Common Files\ = C:\ProgramFiles (x86)\Common Files	Internet Explorer	

Or the Program Files\Common Files
folder on 32-bit Windows

Open the Public Game Explorer folder	shell:PublicGameTasks	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer	System folder
Open the Users\Public folder (Shared files)	shell:Public	%Public% = C:\Users\Public	Public folder
Open the Quick Launch folder (disabled by default)	shell:Quick Launch	%AppData%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch	User folder
Open the user's Recent Documents folder	shell:Recent	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Recent\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Recent	User folder
Open the Recycle Bin	shell:RecycleBinFolder	"Recycle Bin"	System folder
Open the Windows Resources folder (themes are stored here)	shell:ResourceDir	%SystemRoot%\Resources\ = C:\Windows\Resources	System folder
Display the user's Ringtones folder	shell:Ringtones	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones	User folder
Open the Public ringtones folder.	shell:CommonRingtones	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones	System folder
Open the Saved Games folder	shell:SavedGames	%UserProfile%\Saved Games\ = C:\Users\<username>\Saved Games	User folder
Open the saved searches folder	shell:Searches	%UserProfile%\Searches\ = C:\Users\<username>\Searches	User folder
Open the Windows Search tool	shell:SearchHomeFolder	Windows Explorer Search box	System folder
Open the user's Send To folder	shell:SendTo	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\SendTo\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\SendTo	User folder
Open the user's Start Menu folder	shell: Start Menu	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu	User folder
Open the Public Start Menu folder	shell:Common Start Menu	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu	System folder
Open the user's Startup folder	shell:Startup	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup	User folder
Open the Public Startup folder	shell:Common Startup	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup	System folder
Display Sync Centre	shell:SyncCenterFolder	Control Panel → Sync Centre	Windows Sync Centre
Display Sync Centre Conflicts	shell:ConflictFolder	Control Panel → Sync Conflicts	Windows Sync Centre
Display Sync Centre Results	shell:SyncResultsFolder	Control Panel → Sync Results	Windows Sync Centre
Open the Sync Centre Setup options	shell:SyncSetupFolder	Control Panel → Setup new Sync Partnerships	Windows Sync Centre
Open the Windows System folder	shell:System	%SystemRoot%\System32\ = C:\Windows\System32	System folder

Open the Windows System folder for 32-bit files on 64-bit Windows, Or \Windows\System32 on 32-bit Windows	shell:Systemx86	%SystemRoot%\SysWOW64\ = C:\Windows\SysWOW64	System folder
Open the user's Templates folder	shell:Templates	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Templates	User folder
Open the Public Templates folder	shell:Common Templates	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Templates	System folder
Display further user tiles	shell:Roaming Tiles	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Roaming Tiles\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\RoamingTiles	User folder
Display your user tiles (the images you can use for your account)	shell:UserTiles	%UserProfile%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\AccountPictures\ = C:\Users\ <username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\AccountPictures	User folder
Open the Public user tiles folder	shell:PublicUserTiles	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\	System folder
Open the user's Videos folder	shell:My Video	%UserProfile%\Videos\ = C:\Users<username>\Videos	User folder
Open the Public Video folder	shell:CommonVideo	%Public%\Videos\ = C:\Users\Public\Videos	Multimedia
Open the Sample Videos folder	shell:SampleVideos	%Public%\Videos\Sample Videos\ = C:\Users\Public\Videos\Sample videos	Multimedia
Open the Windows installation folder (usually \Windows)	shell:Windows	%SystemRoot% = C:\Windows	System folder

Unless indicated otherwise, all the shortcuts above work in all versions of Windows from Vista upwards.

Command Line

From the command line shell: shortcuts can be passed to [Explorer.exe](#):

```
C:\> explorer.exe shell:desktop
```

You can also pass a [variable](#) or string:

```
C:\> explorer.exe %ProgramFiles%
```

The [START](#) command also accepts shell: shortcuts with spaces but they have to be quoted like so:

```
C:\> start "" "shell:my music"
```

```
C:\> start "" %UserProfile%\Music\
```

In PowerShell:

```
[Environment]::GetFolderPath('MyVideos')
```

Where 'MyVideos' may be any of the constants defined under: [Enum]::GetNames([System.Environment+SpecialFolder])

Shortcuts

To create a shortcut to any of the shell folders above: Right click the Desktop > New Shortcut and set the location/target to explorer.exe followed by the shell:*option*

For example:

```
explorer.exe shell:PrintersFolder
```

Alternatively you can use a variable/string:

```
explorer.exe "%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\"
```

Non admin users will find it difficult to create a Shell: shortcut directly on the Task bar, it can be done but requires creating the shortcut in:
%USERPROFILE%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\User Pinned\TaskBar
It can then be dragged into the taskbar.

Create a 'God mode' shortcut (a full set of Control Panel options) by setting the shortcut target to:

```
%WinDir%\explorer.exe shell::{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}
```

“You go away for a long time and return a different person - you never come all the way back” ~ Paul Theroux

Related commands

How-to: [ms-settings](#) - Shortcuts to settings.

How-to: [RUN commands](#) Start → Run commands.

[EXPLORER](#) - Open Windows Explorer.

How-to: [List of ClassIDs](#) (clsid).

How-to: [User Shell Folders - Profile, Start Menu](#) - Location of user profile folders.

How-to: [Env. Variables](#) - List of environment variables.

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