


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	<code>shell:AppUpdatesFolder</code>	Control Panel → Programs and Features → Installed updates	System folder	
Open the user's Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder (if any)	<code>shell:Administrative Tools</code>	<code>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools</code>		User folder
Open All Users Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder	<code>shell:Common Administrative Tools</code>	<code>%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\</code> = <code>C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools</code>	System Folder	
Open the Public Application Data folder	<code>shell:Common AppData</code>	<code>%ProgramData%</code> = <code>C:\ProgramData</code>	System folder	
Open the user's Application Data folder	<code>shell:AppData</code>	<code>%AppData%</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Roaming\</code>		User folder
Open the user's Application Data folder	<code>shell:Local AppData</code>	<code>%LocalAppData%</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\</code>		User folder
Apps folder	<code>shell:appsFolder</code>			
Open the Temporary Internet Files folder	<code>shell:Cache</code>	<code>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCache\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCache</code>	Internet Explorer	User folder
Open the user's certificates folder	<code>shell:SystemCertificates</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\Certificates\My\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\Certificates\My\</code>		User folder
Open the Client Side Cache Offline Files folder, if supported	<code>shell:CSCache</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\OfflineFiles\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\OfflineFiles\</code>		User folder
Open the folder where files are stored before being burned to disc	<code>shell:CD Burn</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Burn\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Burn\Burn</code>		User folder
Open the user's Windows Contacts folder	<code>shell:Contacts</code>	<code>%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Contacts</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Contacts</code>		User folder
Open the Internet Explorer Cookies folder	<code>shell:Cookies</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Internet\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Internet</code>	Internet Explorer	User folder
Open the user's Credentials folder	<code>shell:Credentials</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\Credentials\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\Credentials</code>	User folder	User folder
Open the list of Network Connections	<code>shell:Connections</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\Connections\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\Connections</code>	Control Panel	
Display the Control Panel	<code>shell:ControlPanel</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\ControlPanel\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\ControlPanel</code>	Control Panel	
Open the user's encryption keys folder	<code>shell:Crypto</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\System32\Crypto\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\Crypto</code>		User folder
Open the user's desktop folder	<code>shell:Desktop</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Desktop + %Public%\Desktop\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Desktop + C:\Users\Public\Desktop</code>	Public folder	User folder
Open the Public Desktop	<code>shell:Common Desktop</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Common-Desktop\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\System32\Common-Desktop</code>	System folder	
Opens the user's AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Protect folder	<code>shell:DpAPIKeys</code>	<code>%AppData%\Microsoft\Protect\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Protect</code>		User folder
Open the Public Documents folder	<code>shell:Common Documents</code>	<code>%Public%\Documents\</code> = <code>C:\Users\Public\Documents</code>	System folder	
Open the user's downloads folder	<code>shell:Downloads</code>	<code>%UserProfile%\Downloads\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\Downloads</code>		User folder
Open the Public Downloads folder	<code>shell:CommonDownloads</code>	<code>%Public%\Downloads\</code> = <code>C:\Users\Public\Downloads</code>	System folder	
Open the Internet Explorer Favorites folder	<code>shell:Favorites</code>	<code>%UserProfile%\Favorites\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\Favorites</code>		User folder
Open the Fonts folder	<code>shell:Fonts</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Fonts</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Fonts</code>	System folder	
Open the user folder of downloaded Sidebar Gadgets	<code>shell:Gadgets</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Gadgets\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Gadgets</code>	Internet Explorer	
Open the default Sidebar Gadgets folder	<code>shell:Default Gadgets</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Gadgets\Default\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Gadgets\Default</code>	System folder	
Open the Games folder	<code>shell:Games</code>	<code>%SystemRoot%\Games\</code> = <code>C:\Windows\Games</code>	System folder	
Open the user's Game Explorer folder	<code>shell:GameTasks</code>	<code>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer</code>		User folder
Open the user's History folder	<code>shell:History</code>	<code>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\History\</code> = <code>C:\Users\&lt;username&gt;\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\History</code>		User folder
Open the HomeGroup folder	<code>shell:HomeGroupFolder</code>		System folder	

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Do not consent


Consent

Manage options


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		Library	
Open the user's Links folder	shell:Links	%UserProfile%\Links		User folder
Open the Computer folder	shell:MyComputer		System folder	
Open the user's Network Places folder	shell:NetHood			
Open the Network Places folder	shell:NetworkPlacesFolder			
Display links provided by your PC manufacturer (if any)	shell:OEM_Link		System folder	
Open the user's Documents folder	shell:Personal	%UserProfile%\Documents		User folder
Open the user's printer shortcuts folder	shell:PrintH	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Printer Shortcuts\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Printer Shortcuts		User folder
Open the user's profile folder	shell:Profile			User folder
Access shortcuts pinned to the Start menu or Taskbar	shell:User_P	%AppData%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\Quick Launch\User Pinned\ = C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\User Pinned\		User folder
Open the user's \Music\Playlists folder	shell:Playli			
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, Or the Program Files\Common Files folder on 32-bit Windows	shell:ProgramFilesCommonX86	%ProgramFiles(x86)%\Common Files\ = C:\ProgramFiles (x86)\Common Files	Internet Explorer	

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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:CommonStartMenu	%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:CommonStartup	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup	System folder	
Display Sync Centre	shell:SyncCentre		Windows Sync Centre	
Display Sync Centre Conflicts	shell:ConflictHandler		Windows Sync Centre	
Display Sync Centre Results	shell:SyncResults		Windows Sync Centre	
Open the Sync Centre Setup options	shell:SyncSetup		Windows Sync Centre	
Open the Windows System folder	shell:System32		System folder	
Open the Windows System folder for 32-bit files on 64-bit Windows, Or \Windows\System32 on 32-bit Windows	shell:System32Folder		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\Roaming Tiles		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”*

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

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