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superuser

Is there a shortcut command in Windows command prompt to get to the current user's home directory like there is in Linux?

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I am used to using

```
cd ~
```

to get right into my home directory. In Windows command prompt I have to do

```
cd Users\username
```

to get there. Is there a shortcut like the Linux one? It would be nice if I could get there by doing

Is something like this possible in Windows Vista?

windows   windows-vista   command-line

edited Mar 4 '16 at 14:44	asked Jul 28 '10 at 9:47
TRiG	classer
847 12 27	**1,195** 6 18 25

5   In Unix, there's no need for the tilde. `cd` with no arguments will change to your home directory. – coneslayer Jul 28 '10 at 12:08

there was a question like this here on su, can't find it. – akira Jul 28 '10 at 12:59

1   @coneslayer i know but to move a file from one directory to another you use the tilde. – classer Aug 1 '10 at 8:21

As simple as `cd %userprofile%` – subtleseeker Jun 8 at 17:16

11 Answers

19

You can always put a .bat-File somewhere in your %PATH% which does the path changing for you.

answered Jul 28 '10 at 10:47
dertoni
1,061 1 8 19

✓

146

Yes, you can use `%HOMEPATH%` , which is the full path of the user's home directory.

There are quite a few other useful variables available, such as `%OS%` (Operating System), or `%WINDIR%` (Windows system directory). See Wikipedia: Environment Variables for a list.

Notes:

Actually, things are a bit complicated (as usual). `%HOMEPATH%` only contains the path, without the drive letter, so will not work for `cd` ing from a different drive. You can also use `%USERPROFILE%`, which *does* contain the drive letter, and is usually the same directory as `%HOMEPATH%`.

The values of these variables, and which one is right for you, will depend on the Windows version and any changes by an administrator, as their values may be different (see e.g. the question Difference between profile and home path).

edited Nov 17 '18 at 22:50	answered Jul 28 '10 at 10:12
wjandrea	sleske
437 3 14	**18.3k** 8 53 83

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5   This is the most correct answer, in my opinion, because it does not rely on hard-coded paths and any wacky filesystem links that may be between them. — Ed Orsi Mar 11 '14 at 16:57

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3   This is the correct answer. — Frederik Krautwald Jun 3 '14 at 22:30

This saved my life! After looking at a lot of other answers from different questions. Again! This worked for me and should be the marked as the answer for this question. — Patricia Jan 25 '16 at 6:43

@MissLucy: I'm happy it helped you. As to accepting an answer: That's up to the OP to decide. You could add a comment to the question to alert them. — sleske Jan 25 '16 at 9:39

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use %USERPROFILE% instead. — JJS Apr 8 '16 at 19:43

Two other options both of which can be added to a script and auto-executed in a similar manner to BillP3rd's answer.

It's two more characters but...

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```
SET ~=%HOMEPATH%
CD %~%
```

or...

```
CD %~%\Desktop
```

Or...

```
doskey ~=cd %homepath%
~
```

Of course you can't use this ~ in paths but as a quick "jump to my home dir" typing ~ Enter is pretty quick.

<div align="right">

edited Jan 18 '13 at 19:23   answered Jan 18 '13 at 18:26

slm   **Carl**

6,680 7 39 48   **201** 2 2

</div>

Are you kidding me with the doskey thing??? I now have a single char shortcut to any folder I feel like cd into. This should be #1 answer. – Andrew May 16 at 12:42

8

I created a .cmd file on a directory in my path, and named it "cd~.cmd". Its contents are:

```
@cd %HOMEPATH%
```

So I can type "cd~" from anywhere to get to my home directory. Not the same as "cd ~" (note the missing space) but close enough for me.

<div align="right">

answered May 7 '13 at 18:33

Jaime de los Hoyos M.

180 1 6

</div>

2   Most clever answer. Combining yours with this answer by Kenny Evitt gives the best solution. – Sнадошƒaҳ Mar 4 '16 at 15:09

6

sleske's answer is almost exactly right, but it doesn't always work.

If your home directory is on a network share setup as a mapped drive, run the following regardless of the drive of the current directory:

The `/D` switch is necessary to allow `cd` to change drives.

edited Mar 20 '17 at 10:17   answered Jul 31 '14 at 18:39

Community ♦
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Kenny Evitt
258   3   12

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1   How about cd /d %homedrive%%homepath% as a one-liner? — james Jul 31 '14 at 19:51

Is there a shortcut for `C:\Users\<current user>\` ?

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There is no direct shortcut.

There are a couple of different solutions (see below).

1. Use an environment variable together with `cd` or `cd /d`
2. Use `subst` or `net use` to creating a mapping to another drive letter.
3. Install `cygwin` and use `bash`
4. Use `powershell` - powershell supports `~`

The last solution is probably the simplest if you are prepared to use `powershell` instead of `cmd` .

Solution 1: Use an environment variable together with `cd` or `cd /d`

If you want to change to this directory on a regular basis then run the following command:

```
setx DOCS %USERPROFILE%
```

This will permanently set the environment variable `DOCS` , but in order to use use it you need to first start a new `cmd` shell, then the variable is defined and ready to use:

```
F:\test>echo %DOCS%
C:\Users\DavidPostill\
```

```
cd /d %DOCS%
```

If you are already on drive `c:` you can just use:

```
cd %DOCS%
```

Create a batch file (`docs.cmd`) and put it somewhere in your `PATH` .

docs.cmd:

```
@echo off
cd /d %DOCS%
```

You can then just type `docs` regardless of your current location and it will take you to `C:\Users\<current user>`

Solution 2: Use `subst` or `net use` to creating a mapping to another drive letter.

You can use `subst` :

```
subst x: %USERPROFILE%
```

And then

```
x:
```

Unfortunately drive mappings do not persist across reboots.

`net use` will persist across reboots, for example:

```
net use x: "\\computerName\c$\pathName" /persistent:yes
```

See the answers in [How to make SUBST mapping persistent across reboots?](#) for detailed instructions.

You could consider installing cygwin:

> Cygwin is:
>
> - a large collection of GNU and Open Source tools which provide functionality similar to a Linux distribution on Windows.

Once you have installed cygwin you can run `bash` in a cygwin terminal and set the bash environment variable `HOME` as appropriate.

Alternatives to cygwin include msys (MingW):

> MSYS is a collection of GNU utilities such as bash, make, gawk and grep to allow building of applications and programs which depend on traditionally UNIX tools to be present. It is intended to supplement MinGW and the deficiencies of the cmd shell.

And Git for Windows:

> Git for Windows provides a BASH emulation used to run Git from the command line. *NIX users should feel right at home, as the BASH emulation behaves just like the "git" command in LINUX and UNIX environments.

Solution 4: Use `powershell`

As pointed out in a comment on another question by SBI powershell supports `~` and you can just type:

```
cd ~
```

Further Reading

- An A-Z Index of the Windows CMD command line - An excellent reference for all things Windows cmd line related.
- cd - Change Directory - Select a Folder (and drive)
- setx - Set environment variables permanently, SETX can be used to set Environment Variables for the machine (HKLM) or currently logged on user (HKCU).
- subst - Substitute a drive letter for a network or local path.

1   **111k** 27 243 278

If on Powershell there are two additional ways: `cd $HOME` and `cd $env:HOMEPATH` — Dirk Thannhäuser May 31 '18 at 21:04 ✎

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Dunno if its a feature of our work login script or a windows default, but I can use cd %HOMEPATH% to achieve that, where HOMEPATH is an environment variable.

answered Jul 28 '10 at 10:01

Rob Cowell
1,068 2 14 30

I see. It still takes a lot to write %HOMEPATH%. Also you can't auto-complete it. Is there a way I can make my username be equal to %HOMEPATH% by making a new command in cmd.exe? — classer Jul 28 '10 at 12:03

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If you want all user's commmand prompts to start in their "home" directory, create the following registry key as an Expandable String Value (sans quotes, of course):

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Command Processor\AutoRun : "cd /d %USERPROFILE%"
```

If you want only *your* command prompts to do it:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Command Processor\AutoRun : "cd /d %USERPROFILE%"
```

I make it a practice to keep a c:\Scripts folder in which I keep an "autoexec"-type batch file which I invoke via this key.

answered Aug 17 '10 at 0:42

BillP3rd
5,035 1 24 37

Watch out, this will break bower and npm (and Visual Studio)... — Quandary Oct 10 '17 at 9:50

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I realize this is a long since done question, but just for the record. Install `clink` , this extends your command prompt in so many ways. Yes it it heavier then the above solutions but it makes the cmd window behave so much better.

answered Feb 20 '15 at 14:22

THBBFT
107   2

clink == powerful Bash-style command line editing for cmd.exe – suspectus Feb 20 '15 at 14:29

Right, and the whole point is that ~ resolves to the User\{user} directory. – THBBFT Feb 20 '15 at 14:55

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Windows has really become 'All about the gui' so in your case I'd just get the tools you want instead of trying to 'bend' the system to your will ... The MinGW tools are an excellent little collection of some of the most widely used gnu tools ... I highly recommend it if your a nix fan on Win ...

http://www.mingw.org/wiki/MSYS

answered Oct 18 '12 at 8:43

Eddie B
829   8   14

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I used a better terminal (cmder) for this purpose. It has built in aliases and its very easy to use. Just read the documentation about Aliases here.

answered Apr 4 '18 at 20:49

Don Camillo
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