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[}superuser

Why is my "cd" command ignored in the windows XP command prompt? [duplicate]

1

This question already has an answer here:
Using cd command in Windows command line, can't navigate to D:\ *9 answers*

I'm trying to set a default path in the windows command prompt but my `CD` command seems to be ignored. I'm not getting any error/warning either. What am I doing wrong? The contents of the prompt -after 2 attempts- are:

```
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.
```

```
C:\Documents and Settings\Work>cd D:\Downloads\xlrd-0.9.0.tar\dist\xlrd-0.9.0\xl
rd-0.9.0

C:\Documents and Settings\Work>
```

Here's a screenshot of what has been going on:

https://dl.dropbox.com/u/116120595/command_prompt_trouble.jpg

windows-xp   command-line

edited Jun 11 '14 at 15:44   asked Feb 16 '13 at 15:40

gparyani   RubenGeert
1,321   7   22   41   **252**   4   8   18

marked as duplicate by Karan, Arjan, Canadian Luke, Dennis, Dave M Feb 16 '13 at 17:42

This question has been asked before and already has an answer. If those answers do not fully address your question, please ask a new question.

@Karan: you're right, that's the same misunderstanding. – RubenGeert Feb 16 '13 at 15:56

2 Answers

Your `cd` command worked just fine, but you're still looking at the wrong drive.

4

Type: `d:` to switch to that drive.

Or, include `/D` to change the drive in addition to changing the folder:

```
cd /D D:\Downloads\xlrd-0.9.0.tar\dist\xlrd-0.9.0\xlrd-0.9.0
```

great, it's working now! But I don't really understand why. A path is just a path, right? Why am I looking at the wrong drive if I explicitly pointed to the D:\ drive? Or am I looking for logic where there isn't any? – RubenGeert Feb 16 '13 at 15:48 ✎

True, but on Windows (and in the old MS-Dos) drives are really separated using that odd `c:` prefix. On Linux, for example, one would "mount" physical drives into the same file system path, where the path `/abc/123` could be a different harddisk than `/xyz/456`, which in Windows would then be `c:\123` and `d:\456` – Arjan Feb 16 '13 at 15:51 ✎

1   On Windows every drive has its own path scope. – gronostaj Feb 16 '13 at 17:41

2

This is intended behaviour for windows.

On just about any operating system 'cd' (change dir) changes to the new directory.

On windows it only does that for a volume, but it does not change to that volume.

If you are on the C: volume (as in your screenshot) and then do a `cd d:\foo` then you stay in your current folder. You will need to follow it up with `d:` to actually change to the newly set place.

edited Feb 16 '13 at 17:35   answered Feb 16 '13 at 15:45

Hennes
59.7k   7   94   144