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# CMD /c , CMD /k, START, CALL - Batch files - How to use?

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## Question

What's the difference in using CMD /c, CMD /k and START and CALL?

When i'm on a batch file and i need to start parallel operations, i can use cmd, start and call

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how to use these options?

when it is appropriate to use each one?

what's the difference in /c and /k?

there is an advantage in using start or call to call external routines?

these thoughts began when i was installing an app and i was trying to make sure that the installer is really running during the batch and i would like to check the process in memory to make sure the silent install is running, but the prompt only returns after the setup executable finishes, so i need to call the install in an external window and in the batch use the TASKLIST only to make sure that the installer is in memory doing the job

should I call the install routine or the tasklist as external task?

should I use cmd, start or call?

Edited by [KayZerSoze](#) Thursday, August 6, 2015 12:00 PM typo error

Thursday, August 6, 2015 11:59 AM

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[KayZerSoze](#) 220 Points

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## Answers

Hi KayZerSoze,

4

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CMD /C **Run Command and then** terminate

CMD /K **Run Command and then return** to the CMD prompt.  
**This is** useful **for** testing, to examine variables

A good example use of CALL, can be found here: <http://ss64.com/nt/call.html>.

For START examples: <http://ss64.com/nt/start.html>.



| Branko Vucinec | MCSE, MCSA, MCPS

Blog:  [blog.brankovucinec.com](http://blog.brankovucinec.com)

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Proposed as answer by [Elaine Jing](#) Moderator Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:37 AM

Marked as answer by [Elaine Jing](#) Moderator Tuesday, August 18, 2015 2:30 AM

Thursday, August 6, 2015 12:10 PM

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**Branko Vučinec** Bravis Hospital

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## All replies

Hi KayZerSoze,

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Thursday, August 6, 2015 12:10 PM

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Does anyone have a example of cmd /c running a .bat file? John

Thursday, March 29, 2018 4:44 PM

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**RBCC45**

0 Points



Does anyone have a example of cmd /c running a .bat file? John

CMD /c \\folder\Software\files.bat

0

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Proposed as answer by [GJH71](#) Thursday, February 28, 2019 2:26 PM

Unproposed as answer by [GJH71](#) Thursday, February 28, 2019 2:26 PM

Thursday, September 27, 2018 4:52 PM

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 **zbroinx** 25 Points