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# How To Restart/Shutdown Using CMD



CYBW1Z

Last Updated:

Dec 08, 2017 2 Minute Read

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-task bar disappeared?

-Screen resolution is off and can't see your task bar ?

-RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol) and no restart/shutdown options ?

- just bored of doing the routine restart (start menu-->shutdown ->restart)?

-or maybe you just want to look cool around people ;-)?

or just for fun and want to prank others?

so how to restart using the Dos command or CMD?

## 3 Steps total

### Step 1: Open CMD

to open CMD :

1. on your keyboard: hold windows logo key down and press "R"

this will open Run

2. type: CMD and hit enter

this will open the Dos Command

you can open CMD in many ways but I prefer this way in case your screen resolution is off and you what you're doing.

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## Step 2: Command Line to restart

to restart type the following (noting the spaces):

```
shutdown /r /t 0
```

NOTE: there's a 1 space before each forward slash "/" and 1 space before x seconds (between t & # of seconds you specify).

Explanation:

/r to request restart

/t 0 sets the time to 0 seconds until it restarts.

you can choose from /t 0 for zero seconds up to /t 1,440,000 (400 hours) [corrected]

Examples:

shutdown /r /t 60 =1 minute until the system restarts

shutdown /r /t 180 = 3 minutes until the system restarts

## Step 3: Good to know: Command Line to shutdown

to Shutdown, type the following (noting the spaces):

```
shutdown /s /t 0
```

NOTE: there's a 1 space before each forward slash "/" and 1 space before x seconds (between t & # of seconds you specify).

Explanation:

/s to request shutdown

/t 0 sets the time to 0 seconds until it restarts.

you can choose from /t 0 for zero seconds up to /t 1,440,000 (400 hours) [corrected]

Examples:

shutdown /s /t 60 =1 minute until the system shuts down


shutdown /s /t 180 = 3 minutes until the system shuts down

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Contributions

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## 31 Comments



**Cerberus**



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Dec 7, 2017 at 3:57am

Good write-up, but you left out my most common scenario for using this on the command line:

RDP'd into a machine, and the restart (and shut down) option(s) aren't available through the sta

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**CYBW1Z** Dec 7, 2017 at 4:01am

@Cebere very true. I actually bumped into that issue few weeks ago.... I'll add it thanks!



**Frostyck**

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Dec 7, 2017 at 4:22am

Plus if you want to be even faster, just press the start button and type CMD.

No need to go through the run command.

Shaves off the super massive time of one single keystroke lol.



**randallader**

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Dec 7, 2017 at 4:59am

I created a Restart.bat file for the users of some VM's that RDP into for the express purpose of restarting/shutdown/cancel of said VM's without waiting for me. Been doing this for years.

Useful and easy for them.

Here's my code:

=====

REM Restart/Shutdown/Cancel batch file for times where you may not have access to those opt

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```
start menu
REM Remove the rem statements on the :Restart, :Shutdown and :Cancel subroutines for this to work

cls
@ echo off

choice /s RSC /n /t 30 /d c /m "[R]estart in 30 sec, [S]hutdown in 30 sec or [C]ancel?"

if errorlevel 1 if not errorlevel 2 goto Restart
if errorlevel 2 if not errorlevel 3 goto Shutdown
if errorlevel 3 goto Cancel

:Restart
rem shutdown /r /t 30
echo Restarting in 30 seconds...
echo Rerun batch file to abort restart.
goto End

:Shutdown
rem shutdown /s /t 30
echo Shutdown commencing in 30 seconds...
echo Rerun batch file to abort shutdown.
goto End

:Cancel
rem shutdown /a
echo Aborting restart/shutdown.


:End
=====
```

**Gorfmaster1** 

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Dec 7, 2017 at 5:57am

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On my friend's computer, Here is how I got to wean him off of using Internet Explorer. I created a batch file that had that shutdown command and changed the icon to IE. So every time he clicked on the Internet Explorer Icon, it turned off his computer. Made it more secure too.



**VeriLan** Dec 7, 2017 at 8:07pm

Shutdown -i to restart someone elses computer if you're domain admin or have the rights that is and know the PC name or IP of who to shut down/reboot



**jayson1775** Dec 8, 2017 at 2:15am

Powershell much much gooder.

powershell in run

rest tab , that will display restart-computer, hit enter.



**Greg2078** Dec 8, 2017 at 2:28am

There's an "Uh Oh" article somewhere by me...please don't use -t 0

Give yourself a little time, so when you realize you accidentally ran that on the wrong console, you have some time to shutdown -a

(-a is for abort)

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**LanceHarmstrong**

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Dec 8, 2017 at 2:31am

This is quite basic, but I'll bite.

Why are you running command prompt from win+r or start menu? Both of those things will accept shutdown commands directly. In fact, you can run a shutdown command from any explorer window, as well.

Win key - type shutdown <options>. Done.

**davecork**

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Dec 8, 2017 at 2:57am


Another little tidbit... I have this set up in task scheduler. If I want to schedule a reboot, I just change the trigger (time). This allows me to reboot in the middle of the night, while I'm soundly sleeping.

**RedW1dow** Dec 8, 2017 at 3:34am

you can also add a comment to a popup with -c "<Comment>". I used to create a shortcut with command in HS and make it look like IE.

shutdown -s -t 120 -c "All files will be deleted upon shutdown!"

It was all for fun and games.

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ALSO, use shutdown -a to abort the scheduled shutdown!



**Lendys** Dec 8, 2017 at 3:38am

Also, to log out of the local machine:

shutdown /l

(that's a lowercase L)

Also also, the /i parameter VeriLan mentioned does shutdown/restart a remote machine, but it pulls up a GUI. If you wanna stay strictly command line, add:

/m \\%hostname%

Unfortunately, that doesn't work with the logoff parameter...



**dwren** 


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Dec 8, 2017 at 4:13am

Good, but in step 3 you copied and pasted the restart commands. Your /r should be /s in those last two lines.




**Sean4178** 

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Dec 8, 2017 at 4:20am

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/f at the end will force it if there are applications or OS hangs



**MR.Burnz** 

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Dec 8, 2017 at 4:25am

Very cool. I don't really run into the scenario to use this but I will try this. Thank you.

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