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Keep cmd.exe command history between sessions?



Is there a way to keep the cmd command history between sessions?

73

windows

command-line



19

asked Mar 15 '11 at 13:34



[firefusion](#)

888 3 14 24

4 Answers

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<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/powershell/archive/2006/07/01/perserving-command-history-across-sessions.aspx>

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Alternatively, in cmd.exe, you can use "doskey /history" at the end of your session to show what you typed in that session, but theres no way to really load it into the next session.



answered Mar 15 '11 at 13:50



Hyppy

3,616 15 17

- 6 I hesitated to +1 this because "Switch to using PowerShell" is not necessarily as easy as it sounds depending on what sort of stuff you're using the console for, but the info is accurate soooooooooo ;) – [Shinrai](#) Mar 15 '11 at 14:23 ✎
- 2 Agreed. I hesitated to put it down but it's the only real answer I can find. I tried to get something similar going on a workstation I had before, but there just isn't a persistent history mechanism available for cmd.exe :-(– [Hyppy](#) Mar 15 '11 at 14:27

Note that this will keep a list of commands you typed, but it doe *NOT* alter the list of commands that will come up when you hit the up key on the keyboard. It doesn't affect the "doskey" functionality, in other words. – [Mark](#) Apr 13 '11 at 19:06

Should be noted that some commands that work in cmd don't work the same in PowerShell e.g. mvn install -Dmaven.test.skip=true would requires a backtick as shown before the dash – [Drenai](#) Jul 13 '17 at 9:39 ✎

I've found 2 ways, neither of which require switching to PowerShell.

59

1. Install [Clink](#), which enhances `cmd.exe` with persistent history and much more. Just install it and then open `cmd` as normal.
2. Install [TCC/LE](#) free version, which is a separate program, again providing an enhanced version of `cmd.exe`.

edited Nov 3 '14 at 22:12



Uwe Keim

1,308 6 22 45

answered Sep 8 '12 at 20:13



sparrowt

1,813 1 17 23

- 5 I am a bit apprehensive against system-wide replacing of `cmd.exe` but its a good answer, and clink supports an injection mode as well. – [Lorenz Lo Sauer](#) Sep 9 '12 at 18:10
- 3 Wow, Clink is fantastic. – [Chris Weber](#) Jan 21 '13 at 16:06
- 3 Clink is brilliant. Replaced `cmd` with it, been no problems, very happy with it. – [Colonel Panic](#) Jul 24 '13 at 14:38 ✎

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Samitha Chathuranga Nov 15 '15 at 9:02



Saving history is a small workflow - here's a less "heavy" way to do this (no external libs).

12

Create a bat/cmd file to set up your history, in this case I called it MyEnvironment.cmd:



```
doskey save=doskey /history $g$g C:\CmdHistory.log
doskey quit=doskey /history $g$g C:\CmdHistory.log $T exit
doskey history=find /I "$*" C:\CmdHistory.log
cls
```

Then run this from "Start->Run" (you can also setup an alias for this too):

```
cmd.exe /K C:\MyEnvironment.cmd
```

Every time I'm closing a session I hit "quit" - or if I'm afraid of losing history mid-session I hit "save". If I want to grep for something in history, I just hit "history KEYWORD".

Per @dave_thompson_085 's comment, the `AutoRun` feature works well if you don't want to use the `/K` switch. If you set up the Registry key correctly, the `.cmd` or `.bat` does not need to be in `%AppData%`, it can be in the same location it already is.

If you do use the `%AppData%` location, be aware that `cmd` will probably look for your batch file in the "Roaming" folder (instead of the AppData root).

More info on the `AutoRun` CMD feature: <https://superuser.com/a/302553/333316>

edited Aug 22 '18 at 15:52

answered Aug 11 '16 at 20:15



Coruscate5

779 5 13

What `$g` and `$t` are for? – user373230 Jul 3 '17 at 17:29

@Chinggis6 `$g` inserts a `>`, and `$t` is a command separator. – Superole Aug 25 '17 at 8:19

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@Chinggis6 because that would break the command creating the alias. Then the command-interpreter would assume that you meant: first execute `doskey quit=doskey /history` and save the output of the macro creation in a logfile (either nothing or an error message); next close the window (discarding everything). -You could escape those characters with a `^` instead though, I think. Like `^>^>` and `^&` (...and yes, you only need one ampersand) – [Superole](#) Sep 4 '17 at 12:55

1 Instead of explicit `/k` can use `AutoRun` [superuser.com/a/302553/333316](#) – [dave_thompson_085](#) Jun 3 '18 at 20:45



I use [cygwin](#). It also provides some others functionalities that Linux has but Windows not.

2



answered Jun 19 '14 at 4:12



[Harun](#)

129 3

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