

How to prevent auto-closing of console after the execution of batch file

▲ What command can I put at the end of a batch file to prevent auto-closing of the console after the execution of the file?

455

windows

command-line

batch-file



76

edited Nov 18 '18 at 14:10



wjandrea

2,133 13 33

asked Jun 12 '09 at 18:57



joe

6,688 33 83 127

- 4 It would be good if there is a way to detect if a .cmd file was started by doubleclick in the explorer (then you want it to pause at the end) or if it was started by a already open command line. In the later case (and especially if executed by another program) you dont want the pause. I havent found a good solution for this case (and typically use a if %NOPAUSE% variable, but this only works for parent programs not for parent shells). – eckes Nov 6 '12 at 17:34

There is a way: stackoverflow.com/questions/3551888/... – EM0 May 17 '17 at 9:57

16 Answers

▲ In Windows/DOS batch files:

583

pause



This prints a nice "Press any key to continue . . . " message



Or, if you don't want the "Press any key to continue . . ." message, do this instead:

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- 10 None of the suggestions here work for me when double-clicking the bat file. It's a server environment (and I have to run the script in it), so they could have modified the behavior. That doesn't change my goal. To keep the command window open so I can see the error message it types. – [Henrik Erlandsson](#) Oct 28 '16 at 7:28
- 1 Yeah this doesn't always work depending on the environment. For a more robust solution see my answer below. Essentially just do set /p exitkey="Press any key to continue..." – [Steven Mark Ford](#) Sep 29 '17 at 4:08

Depends on the exact question!

129

Normally `pause` does the job within a **.bat** file.

If you want **cmd.exe** not to close to be able to remain typing, use `cmd /k` command at the end of the file.

edited Oct 23 '17 at 8:01



[lakshman](#)

1,686 6 26 54

answered Jun 12 '09 at 19:00



[Rutger Nijluning](#)

4,216 1 16 24

- 7 This works when pause doesn't. – [Phillip](#) Mar 14 '13 at 17:55
- 2 If you're running Windows commands through the Run dialog, put `cmd /k` before your command instead. `& cmd /k` won't work. – [Noumenon](#) May 6 '18 at 13:10



If you want `cmd.exe` to not close, and able to continue to type, use `cmd /k`

57

Just felt the need to clarify what `/k` does (from windows website):



`/k` : Carries out the command specified by string and continues.

So `cmd /k` without follow up command at the end of bat file will just keep `cmd.exe` window open for further use.

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1,728 1 14 25



690 5 5



The below way of having commands in a batch file will open new command prompt windows and the new windows will not exit automatically.

21



```
start "title" call abcd.exe param1 param2
start "title" call xyz.exe param1 param2
```

answered Oct 5 '16 at 19:42



user6928445

211 2 2

1 In my case, I had some error during run the terminal command, and so, the 'pause 'and the 'cmd /k' commands didn't helped me to stop the program 'cause of the error. This example helped me to show, I have error and also stopped to quite from terminal. Thanks! – [HowDoYouTellForAChild](#) Oct 8 '18 at 12:03



Add `cmd.exe` as a new line below the code you want to execute:

11



```
c:\Python27\python D:\code\simple_http_server.py
```

```
cmd.exe
```

edited Mar 13 '15 at 12:10



ROMANIA_engineer

36k 20 161 150

answered Nov 16 '14 at 14:12



lyfing

985 11 16



my way is to write an actual batch (saying "foo.bat") to finish the job; then create another "start.bat":

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answered Jan 4 '17 at 10:02



1 You can just put `cmd /k` (without any command) at the end of `foo.bat` file and run that. You don't need a separate `start.bat` file. – [ADTC](#) Oct 16 '17 at 0:13 

Call `cmd` at the end of the batch file.

8

edited Mar 13 '15 at 12:09

**ROMANIA_engineer**
36k 20 161 150

answered Oct 17 '14 at 21:50

**user4155296**
99 1 1

If you are using **Maven** and you want to skip the typing and prevent the console from close to see the result you need to use the `CALL` command in the script, besides just the 'mvn clean install'.

7

Like this will close the console

```
ECHO This is the wrong exemple
mvn clean install
pause
```

Like this the console **will stay open**

```
ECHO This is the right exemple
CALL mvn clean install
pause
```

If you dont use the `CALL` command neither of the pasts exemples will work.

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1 CALL did the work for me. – [GabrielBB](#) Oct 1 '18 at 19:21

besides `pause .`

5

`set /p=`

can be used .It will expect user input and will release the flow when enter is pressed.

or

`runas /user:# "" >nul 2>&1`

which will do the same except nothing from the user input will be displayed nor will remain in the command history.

edited Feb 15 '15 at 9:44

answered Feb 15 '15 at 1:53



[npocmaka](#)

42.8k

11

93

135

Possibility 1: Just make 2 .bat files and write into the first:

3

```
start <filename> // name of 2nd batch file
exit
```

Batch file 2 is the file that wont close in the end. So now when you open batch nr.1 It will start the 2nd and cloe itself. When the 2nd finishes it will not close entirely (as long as you wont put exit at the end)

Possibility 2: Batch file 1:

```
call <filename>
```

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When the 2nd file ends then it will proceed to file 1 again and output the rest of it. With that you can even make error handlers. If nr.1 crashes it goes into nr.2 and displays it

answered Nov 17 '16 at 19:44

[BlazeLP](#)

95 1 7

▲ This little hack asks the user to enter a key and stores it into the variable %exitkey% (this variable could be called anything you like though).

2

▼ `set /p exitkey= "Press any key to continue..."`

NB: the space after the '=' is very important

answered Sep 29 '17 at 4:07

[Steven Mark Ford](#)

2,618 14 30

▲ `pause`

2

or

▼ `echo text to display`
`pause>nul`

answered Jun 2 '18 at 18:30

[Zenedus](#)

81 9

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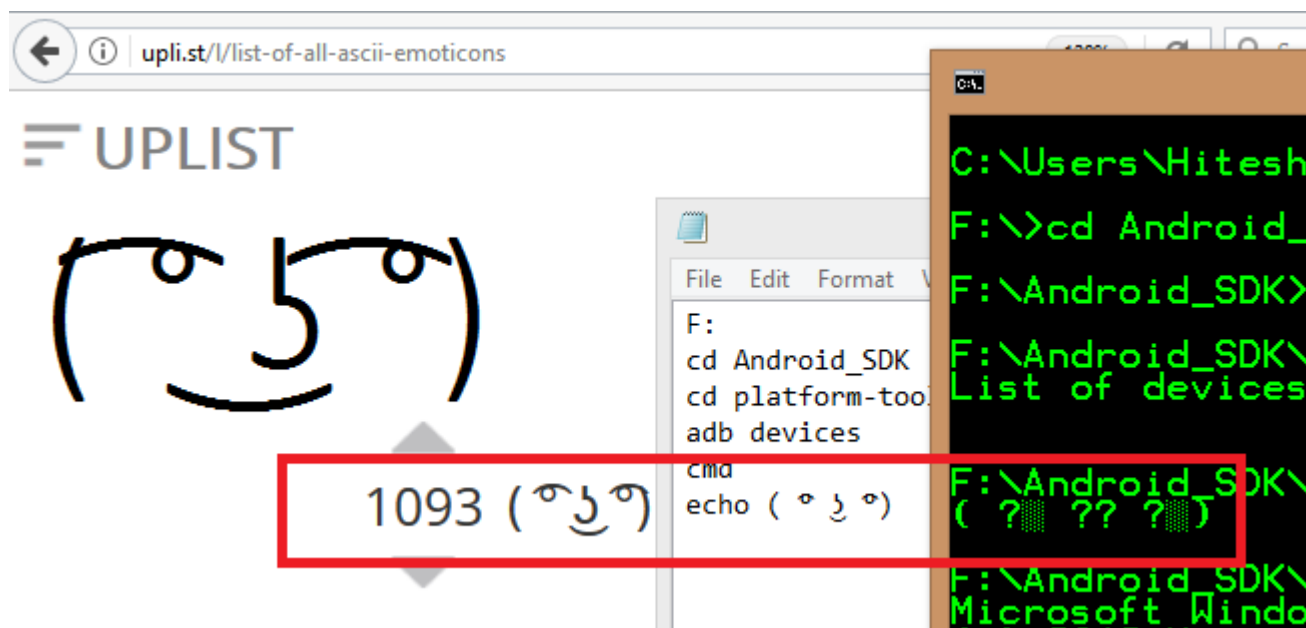
[Google](#)[Facebook](#)

1

pause

2) if you want Windows cmd prompt to stay open and allow you to execute some command afterwards; use

cmd



answered Sep 2 '17 at 10:14



Hitesh Sahu

16.8k 9 90 78

I know I'm late but my preferred way is:

1

:programend

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I think yes, as it is an enhanced way to prevent the console from closing. Even if the user press a key, the console remains open. The user will be forced to exit only by closing the console window. – [decadenza](#) Nov 11 '18 at 19:22

Had problems with the answers here, so I came up with this, which works for me (TM):

1

```
cmd /c node_modules\.bin\tsc
cmd /c node rollup_build.js
pause
```

answered Nov 21 '18 at 6:15



lama12345

2,491 1 21 24

Easy, add cmd to your last line of bat, BUT! if you reset or clear your system path, you must start your cmd with the full path, like:

0

```
%windir%\system32\cmd.exe
```

For example, I have a bat file to reset jdk to old version like this:

```
PATH=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_45\bin;C:\apache-ant-1.7.1\bin
SET JAVA_HOME=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_45
%windir%\system32\cmd.exe
```

since I reset the system path, I have to run cmd with the full path, or the system can't find cmd.exe, it will fail to run cmd, and just close the window, and you can't see the error msg.

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