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How can I always run the command prompt as administrator?

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99

As a developer, I often have the need to open a command prompt for various purposes. For example, I use `iisreset` to restart my local web server.



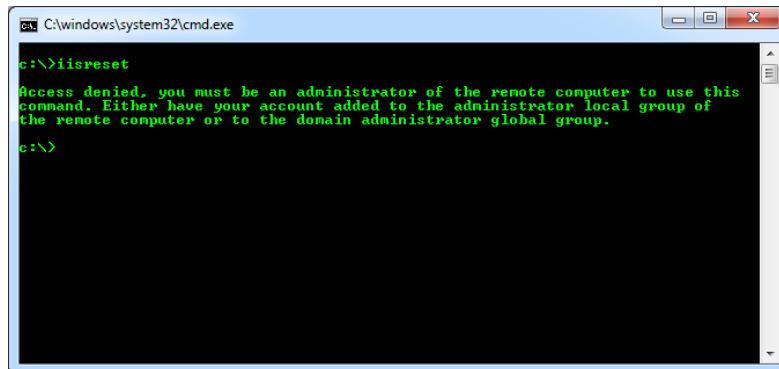
I typically open the command window in one of two ways:



1. Press `Win`, type "cmd" and press `Enter`

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However, when I open the command window in either of these ways, I do not have the full administrator privileges that I feel I am entitled to.



In order to run administrator-only applications, I have to open the command line in this relatively laborious way:

1. Press , type "cmd"
2. Wait for the menu to populate
3. Lift hand off the keyboard and put it on the mouse
4. Right click the "cmd.exe" menu item
5. Choose "Run as administrator"

This is unacceptable for several reasons:

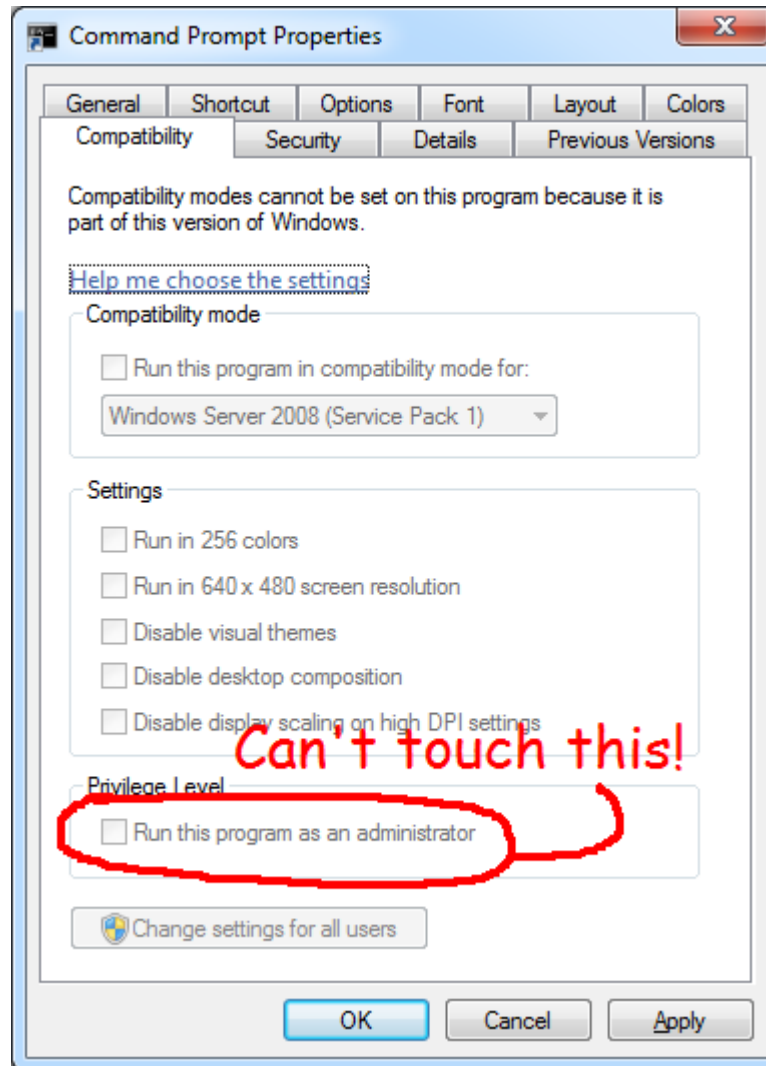
- The window always opens in C:\windows\system32, rather than my `users` directory (as in approved technique 1) or the folder I want to be in (as in approved technique 2). So I often have to change directories to get where I want to go.
- This process is several milliseconds slower than either of my preferred methods. Performed several times a day, every day for the remainder of my career, it adds up to about ten days of lost time spent clicking and

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- As a programmer, performing a pointless robotic task causes me great emotional pain.
- As a programmer, lifting my hand is a strenuous task that causes me great physical pain.

That is why I am looking for a one-and-done solution that will let approved techniques 1 & 2 open administrator command prompts.

Many programs let you permanently change their default privilege level from the Properties menu. Command Prompt is not one of those programs.

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How do I make the command window run as administrator by default (even when using the "Open command window here" context menu option)?

[windows-7](#)[command-line](#)[permissions](#)

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asked Jul 25 '12 at 13:57



Kevin

776 2 8 10

Why not just change UAC to elevate only? – [surfasb](#) Jul 26 '12 at 2:46

I don't see an "elevate only" option on my UAC slider. Are you referring to something besides the User Account Control Settings window? – [Kevin](#) Jul 26 '12 at 11:37

6 I think its Hammer Time... – [ThunderToes](#) Sep 23 '14 at 8:42

13 Answers



86

To answer the first part of your question, when you hit the Windows key and type "CMD" you can hit + + to open as administrator.



To answer the second part of your question, paste the following into notepad and save it with a ".reg" extension:



Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\runas]
@="Open Command Window Here as Administrator"
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\runas\command]
@="cmd.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\""
```

Then run the file. It will merge the changes into the registry and add the option to your context menus. (No shift key needed.)

edited Jul 25 '12 at 14:19

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answered Jul 25 '12 at 14:12



Jesse

1,046 8 6

7 Note; you will still have to accept the UAC prompt in both cases. – [Synetech](#) Jul 25 '12 at 17:17

1 Registry edit doesnt work in windows 8. – [Biker John](#) Aug 1 '14 at 11:50

Registry patch works for Server 2012 R2 – [fiat](#) Aug 21 '14 at 0:51

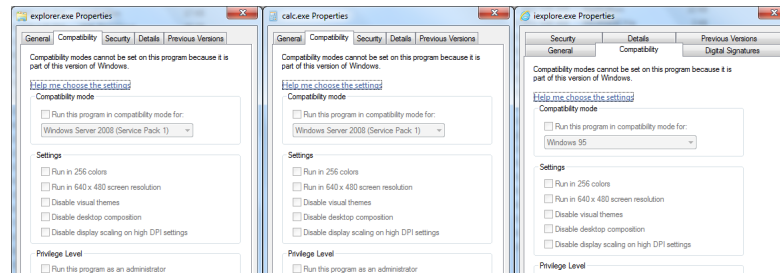
It did not work for me on Windows 7 – [Hello Universe](#) Mar 10 '15 at 23:25

1 If you don't see the command after running the reg file, log out of Windows and log back in. – [trebormf](#) Jan 23 '16 at 16:58

37

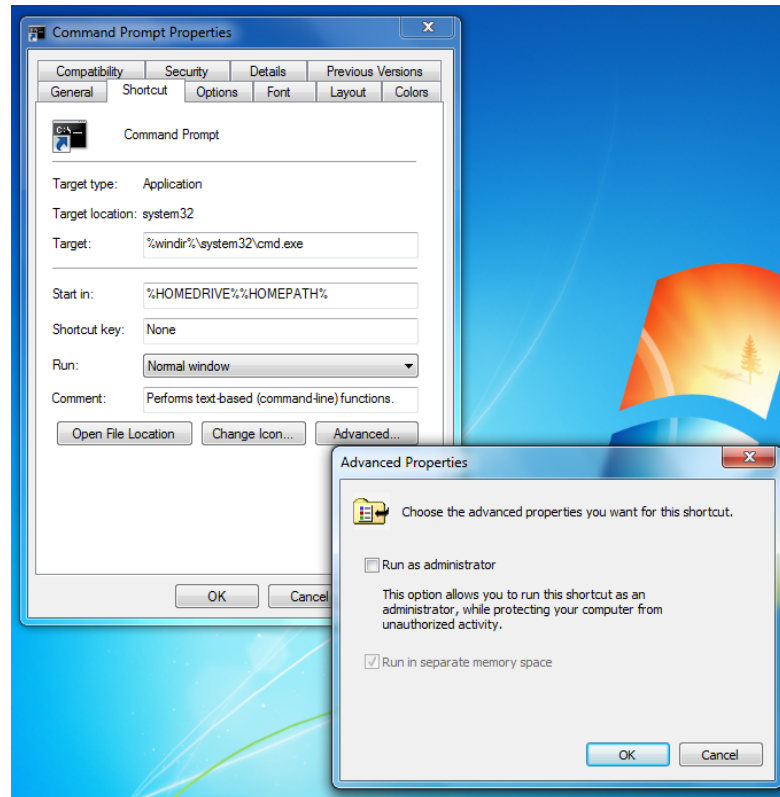
Many programs let you permanently change their default privilege level from the Properties menu. Command Prompt is not one of those programs.

The *Compatibility* tab is completely disabled for *all* of Windows' executables:



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To set admin privileges for Windows executables, you need to create a shortcut and use *Shortcut* tab→ *Advanced* (the command-prompt item in the Start menu is already a shortcut):



The window always opens in C:\windows\system32, rather than my Users directory (as in approved technique 1) or the folder I want to be in (as in approved technique 2). So I often have to change directories to get where I want to go.

That is normal and makes sense since if you are opening an admin command-prompt, you are probably doing some system actions for which you need admin privileges

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You can set the default directory globally by adding/editing the `Autorun` registry entry (it does not even have to be an expandable string to use environment variables):

```
REGEDIT4
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Command Processor]
"Autorun"="cd /d \"%userprofile%\""
```

Now, any time you open a command-prompt *using any method* will automatically default (well, technically *change-directory*) to your user-profile directory.

Even better, you can add other commands to be automatically run whenever you open a command-prompt using the `&` operator (e.g., `cd /d %userprofile% & cls & dir`). In addition, you can set the same value in the same key under the `HKLM` branch to set it for all users.

Note that you will still have to accept the UAC prompt. Unfortunately there is (currently?) no way to create a UAC “whitelist” of trusted programs so that the command-prompt can be run as admin without having to accept the prompt. This leaves you with (a) few options.

- You can turn UAC down or off altogether (`useraccountcontrolsettings.exe`)
- You can use a privilege-elevation program like [Elevator aka Elevate Me](#) or the [Elevation PowerToy](#).
- Create an elevated [scheduled task](#), enter the credentials (once) for it, and then create a shortcut to the task

In the first case, you avoid the UAC altogether while in the latter two, you only enter your credentials once when creating the shortcut.

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answered Jul 25 '12 at 14:56



Synetech

57.6k 29 186 321

There's a problem with setting the current directory via autorun. With that value set, `cd /d "%userprofile%"` autoruns not just when opening a new console window, but also every time a new thread of execution is invoked. This can cause problems, for example, with `for /f` loops. Try this at a cmd prompt: `cd "\Program Files"` then `for /f "delims=" %I in ('cmd /c cd') do @echo %I`. You'll see the `for /f` loop thinks its current working directory is `$home`, not Program Files. It's safer to modify the `cmd` shortcut and set the target as `"%comspec%" /k cd /d "%userprofile%"`. – rojo Aug 29 '15 at 4:41

If you want to preserve the Windows version and copyright info when opening a new console window, set the shortcut's target to `%comspec% /c cd /d "%USERPROFILE%" & %comspec%`. – rojo Aug 29 '15 at 5:37

+1 for non-registry editing answer. The other answer might have been fine in 2012, but I don't want to try it on Windows 10 today. – Alan Oct 24 '17 at 14:35



19



The solution I use is to open command prompt by opening start menu, typing 'cmd' and pressing + + . This will cause the selected program to be launched as administrator.

answered Nov 13 '11 at 7:15



Dracs

2,546 22 26

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from what I know typing stuff in the box actually does searching) – [Pacerier](#) Nov 13 '11 at 12:36

Only other way I know is Luke's answer, disable UAC. The searching for cmd is pretty fast, can't even manage to hit Ctrl+Shift+Enter before it finds it. – [Dracs](#) Nov 13 '11 at 12:45

I do that all the time on customer computers. It finds CMD pretty damn fast – [Canadian Luke](#) Nov 13 '11 at 18:04

Will this load it as Administrator? – [barlop](#) Nov 13 '11 at 20:28

@barlop Yes, that hotkey (Ctrl+Shift+Enter) will launch the highlighted program in the Start menu as administrator. – [Dracs](#) Nov 13 '11 at 22:01



12



To auto-run `CMD` as admin each time it is simply clicked (without having to right-click or create additional shortcuts), there is an easy fix for this:

1. In the [Registry Editor](#), navigate to:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows
NT\CurrentVersion\AppCompatFlags\Layers

- **If there isn't a Layers folder**, you'll have to create one and name it:

Right-click the AppCompatFlags folder select →

2. Right click Layers , select → . Set the Name of your new string value to the full path to (`CMD.EXE`) command prompt (i.e.

`C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe`)

3. Double-click the new string value to modify it, and set the "*Value data*" to `RUNASADMIN` .

I had the same annoyance, and this worked for me.



309 2 14

answered Mar 10 '13 at 22:08



Blue

151 1 2



If you want CMD.exe be always run as administrator, just add bellow reg code to your Registry:

11



Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVe  
"C:\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe"="~ RUNASADMIN"  
"C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\cmd.exe"="~ RUNASADMIN"
```

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\\SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Windows NT\\CurrentV  
"C:\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe"="~ RUNASADMIN"  
"C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\cmd.exe"="~ RUNASADMIN"
```

answered Jan 4 '14 at 17:10



M Sasan MH

136 1 3

- 2 This worked for me on Windows 8.1. Now I just hit Windows-R, cmd, Enter. It also works for opening a command window from File Explorer via Shift-RightClick > Open command window here. – [Troy Gizzi](#) Jun 11 '15 at 13:54
- 1 If this works, this is the correct answer, despite the much longer version currently accepted. – [Xodarap777](#) Nov 10 '15 at 18:41

This works for Windows 10 too. Put the content into notepad, save it with a .reg extension and run it – [Chris Halcrow](#) Oct 31 '17 at 0:15



There have been a couple tools that I've used that were other workarounds (in addition to what Jesse mentioned).

4

Back when Vista first came out, Microsoft came out with an "[elevate](#)" powerToy that was quite useful and did the job and still, I believe (haven't tested) works for Windows 7. Drop it into your path environment and you could run "elevate iisreset" from a normal command prompt (or even "elevate cmd" from the start/run or a create a shortcut)

answered Jul 25 '12 at 14:31



Rex

494 4 10

Here is a [direct link](#) to the download. – [ashleedawg](#) Feb 20 at 7:16



The easiest way to bypass all the grief of UAC etc is to setup a Task Schedule entry to run cmd.exe using the highest privileges. Do not create a Trigger event for it and make sure that the Allow Task To Be Run On Demand check box is selected in the Settings tab. Also in the Settings tab make sure that the "If The Task Is Already Running, Then The Following Rule Applies" drop down is set to Do Not Start A New Instance.

Then create a shortcut to this on your desktop and run it from there, or via a shortcut hotkey or pin the shortcut to the Task bar.

I have done it on my Windows 7 system and it works perfectly.

edited Sep 25 '13 at 5:08



BlueBerry

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answered Sep 25 '13 at 1:03



Peter Wills

41 1

-
- 1 Oops, I forgot to specify one important thing. Here is the target path for the shortcut to the Task.
 C:\Windows\System32\schtasks.exe /run /TN "command prompt without UAC". The text inside the quotes is whatever you name the Task when you create the Task. – [Peter Wills](#)
 Sep 25 '13 at 1:36
-

don't enclose your email id in your answers –
[BlueBerry - Vignesh4303](#) Sep 25 '13 at 4:07

2

Just copy & paste cmd.exe and rename it as "cmda.exe" in \system32\ folder (337 KB isn't even a big deal...). The "run as administrator" option in cmda.exe's properties will no longer be grayed out and you can set it to always run as admin. You'll now have two command prompts: first one is regular, 2nd one has an (a)dmin privilege. It's as easy to type "cmda" in search bar as you do with "cmd"!

For the cmd in context menu with admin privilege, ensure that you already have cmda.exe in place, add this into new .reg file & launch it

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\cmda]
@="Open command window here (Administrator)"
"HasLUAShield"=""
"Extended"=""
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\cmda\Command]
@="cmda.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\""
```

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(Administrator)" added in.

That's it...

edited Sep 23 '13 at 11:59

answered Sep 23 '13 at 10:28



Ikana

21 2



1

Create a shortcut to cmd.exe, right click and select properties, on the Shortcut tab select Advanced, check Run as Administrator.



edited Jul 25 '12 at 17:59



nhinkle ♦

30.1k 32 127 167

answered Jul 25 '12 at 16:59



WinOutreach2

41 1



I think the easiest way to always run cmd as admin is to make the .reg file with the code below:

1

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00



```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentV  
@="C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe"="RUNASADMIN"]
```

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users. To always run as admin only on your user just change HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE to HKEY_CURRENT_USER

answered Dec 15 '13 at 3:45



user281995

11 1

▲ All thanks to Jesse Brohinsky

1

▼ A more improved version. This also includes the background directory that enables you to open cmd from inside the folder as well. Also for the sake of it you can open the command prompt as non admin.

Also you can disable AdminApprovalMode. This way you don't need to run as admin when you are admin.

<http://helpdeskgeek.com/windows-7/turn-off-admin-approval-mode-in-windows-7/>

```
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00
;write minus before to unreg example: [-HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\cmdhere]
@="Open Command Window Here"

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\cmdhere\command]
@="cmd.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\"

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\cmdhere]
@="Open Command Window Here"

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\cmdhere\comm
@="cmd.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\"

[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\runas]
```

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```
@="cmd.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\""
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\runas]
```

```
@="Open Command Window Here as Administrator"
```

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\runas\command]
```

```
@="cmd.exe /s /k pushd \"%V\""
```

edited Jan 15 '15 at 9:55

answered Jan 15 '15 at 9:26



ColacX

641 1 9 16



The only other way, other than what Dracs mentioned, is to disable UAC completely

0



answered Nov 13 '11 at 8:30



Canadian Luke

18.2k 30 93 149



The following works for me

0



```
@echo off
```

```
:: BatchGotAdmin
```

```
:-----
```

```
REM --> Check for permissions
```

```
>nul 2>&1 "%SYSTEMROOT%\system32\cacls.exe" "%SYSTEMROOT%\
```

```
REM --> If error flag set, we do not have admin.
```

```
if '%errorlevel%' NEQ '0' (
```

```
echo Requesting administrative privileges
```

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```
:UACPrompt
echo Set UAC = CreateObject^("Shell.Application") > ".\
echo UAC.ShellExecute "%~s0", "", "", "runas", 1 >> "%
"%temp%\getadmin.vbs"
exit /B

:gotAdmin
if exist "%temp%\getadmin.vbs" ( del "%temp%\getadmin.
pushd "%CD%"
CD /D "%~dp0"
:-----
```

you will get the same uac prompt confirming to runas
admin.. found it some time ago @ stackexchange

edited Jul 6 '15 at 9:46



barlop

15.7k 25 90 150

answered Sep 23 '14 at 8:41



sudhi

1

protected by [Community](#) ♦ Aug 5 '15 at 11:53

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