

How can I open a cmd window in a specific location?

How can I open a cmd window in a specific location without having to navigate all the way to the directory I want?

341

[windows](#)[cmd](#)

edited Jan 6 '17 at 23:05

asked Sep 13 '08 at 21:51



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



Haim Bender

3,330 8 43 53

83

39 Answers

1 2 next

You may want to look at [this "PowerToy" from Microsoft](#):

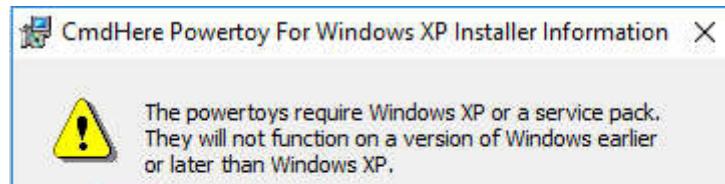
60

Open Command Window Here

This PowerToy adds an "Open Command Window Here" context menu option on file system folders, giving you a quick way to open a command window (cmd.exe) pointing at the selected folder.



EDIT : This software will not function on a version of Windows earlier or later than Windows XP.



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edited Sep 12 '18 at 18:54



Anantha Raju C

1,304 5 20 27

answered Sep 13 '08 at 21:53



dF.

54.4k 25 112 131

24 I think this answer combined with Michael Ratanapintha's answer about using shift-right click in vista and 2008 answers this question fully. – [Joshua Hudson](#) Sep 14 '08 at 2:51

2 The link in the answer is no longer valid, but I believe it points to this download: go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=211471 – [nerdherd](#) Jul 25 '13 at 19:53

4 for WinXP and below. – [vinnief](#) Jan 21 '14 at 16:45

5 it is valid for windows xp only – [vogash](#) Nov 24 '15 at 8:56

1 how to uninstall it ? – [Blue Clouds](#) Jul 13 '17 at 13:13



This might be what you want:

462

```
cmd /K "cd C:\Windows\"
```



Note that in order to change drive letters, you need to use `cd /d`. For example:

```
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe /K "cd /d H:\Python\"
```

[\(documentation\)](#)

edited Oct 5 '12 at 19:27



Supermitch

1,502 4 17 24

answered Sep 13 '08 at 21:53



Allain Lalonde

51.5k 64 166 228

7 Thanks ... Even shorter from GUI : WinLogo + R , type : cmd /c "start /max cmd /K "cd C:\Windows\"" – [Yordan Georgiev](#) May 28 '09 at 6:07

1 On windows 7 you can save yourself a couple of keystrokes and use a lower case k and leave out the double quotes when your pathname has no spaces – [Blue Clouds](#) Jul 13 '17 at 13:13

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- 14 The reason this answer has received so many upvotes is that it works for a shortcut. I keep a collection of shortcuts on my taskbar that each open a command prompt window in various project folders. In Windows 8, if you create a shortcut to start an elevated command prompt window, it ignores the "Start in" folder. The workaround is to place the following in the "Target" field (*not* the "Start in" field) %windir%\system32\cmd.exe /k cd "\My Projects". – rossmcm Jan 29 '15 at 19:12
-



If you have Windows Vista or later, right-click on the folder icon in Explorer while holding the Shift key, and then click on the "Open command window here" or "Open PowerShell window here" context menu option.

290

If you're already in the folder you want, you can do one of the following:

- [only Win8+] Click the Explorer Ribbon's File button, then click on "Open command window here" or "Open PowerShell window here".
- `Shift` - right-click on the background of the Explorer window, then click on "Open command window here" or "Open PowerShell window here". (recommended by Kate in the comments)
- [only Vista or Win7] Hold down Shift when opening the Explorer File menu, then click on "Open command window here". If you can't see the menu bar, open the File menu by pressing `Alt` - `Shift` - `F` - `Alt` - `F` to open the File menu, plus `Shift`.

For Windows XP, [use the PowerToy mentioned by dF](#) to get the same function.

edited Sep 18 '18 at 17:15

answered Sep 13 '08 at 21:58



Michael Ratanapinha

32.6k 4 23 36

- 2 I'm running Server 2008 here and I don't get an "Open Command Window Here" context menu option when I Shift+right-click on a directory... ...doesn't work on Vista x64 either. – raven Oct 18 '08 at 21:20

Works fine in Vista x64 Home Premium, and I assume other versions as well. It's about midway down the list. Note that a file cannot be selected when you right click. – Dan Homerick Jul 31 '09 at 4:45

- 6 These work in Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2 also. Make sure you right click in the background and not on a file. – Kate Gregory Nov 2 '11 at 13:34

- 3 Works awesome in Windows 7, for me this is the best, shortest and most preferred way. Thanks @Michael – Anmol Saraf Dec 17 '12 at 8:04

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241

1. Click on address bar, alternatively press **Alt + D**
2. Now when address bar is highlighted, type **cmd** in the bar.
3. Press Enter key

You will notice that command prompt from that folder

edited May 8 '15 at 13:06



[ROMANIA_engineer](#)

36.4k 20 163 151

answered Apr 27 '14 at 7:40



[san1deep2set3hi](#)

3,331 1 13 23

-
- 1 This is a cool trick. But do you know of a way to do this with an elevated command prompt? – [smead](#) Mar 24 '16 at 1:12
 - 5 @smead Click on the folder, click on the File menu of Explorer, then click on then arrow next to 'Open command prompt' . Then you will see an option to open cmd as Admin – [san1deep2set3hi](#) Mar 25 '16 at 18:11
- @san1deep2set3hi I don't get an arrow next to *Open command prompt*. I'm in Win7 Pro, maybe that was added in a later OS? – [smead](#) Mar 26 '16 at 6:59
- Yes it is with Windows10 – [san1deep2set3hi](#) Mar 26 '16 at 17:31
- 3 this is nice idea and works, with just one exception: if it has sub folder named cmd – [user6169399](#) Jun 3 '16 at 2:59
-

77

From Windows 7 up to some versions of Windows 10, it is very simple to open a command prompt anywhere you wish, without navigation using command "cd". Try the following one. Click the mouse's right button by holding **Shift** key .

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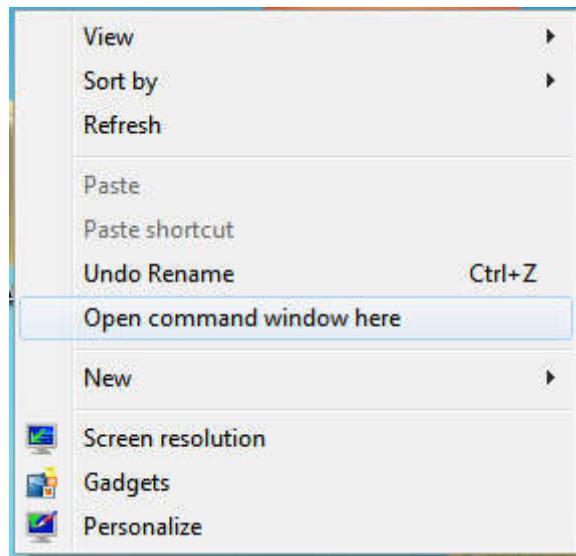
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It will produce an option like this. Then simply select the "Open command window here" option. The latest versions of Windows 10 have replaced this feature with "Open Powershell here".

edited Jun 26 '18 at 2:24



answered Mar 6 '14 at 9:57



Strangely I don't have this item – [Manuel Di Iorio](#) Oct 30 '15 at 19:24

Me too, so I'm going to take a guess this is only available in Enterprise versions of Windows 7+ (Not home) – [MackieE](#) Feb 9 '17 at 9:35

On Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 10 simply hold down the key and right-click on a folder.

41 The context menu will contain an entry titled: "Open command window here"

Update: Type "cmd" in the address bar of Explorer and press

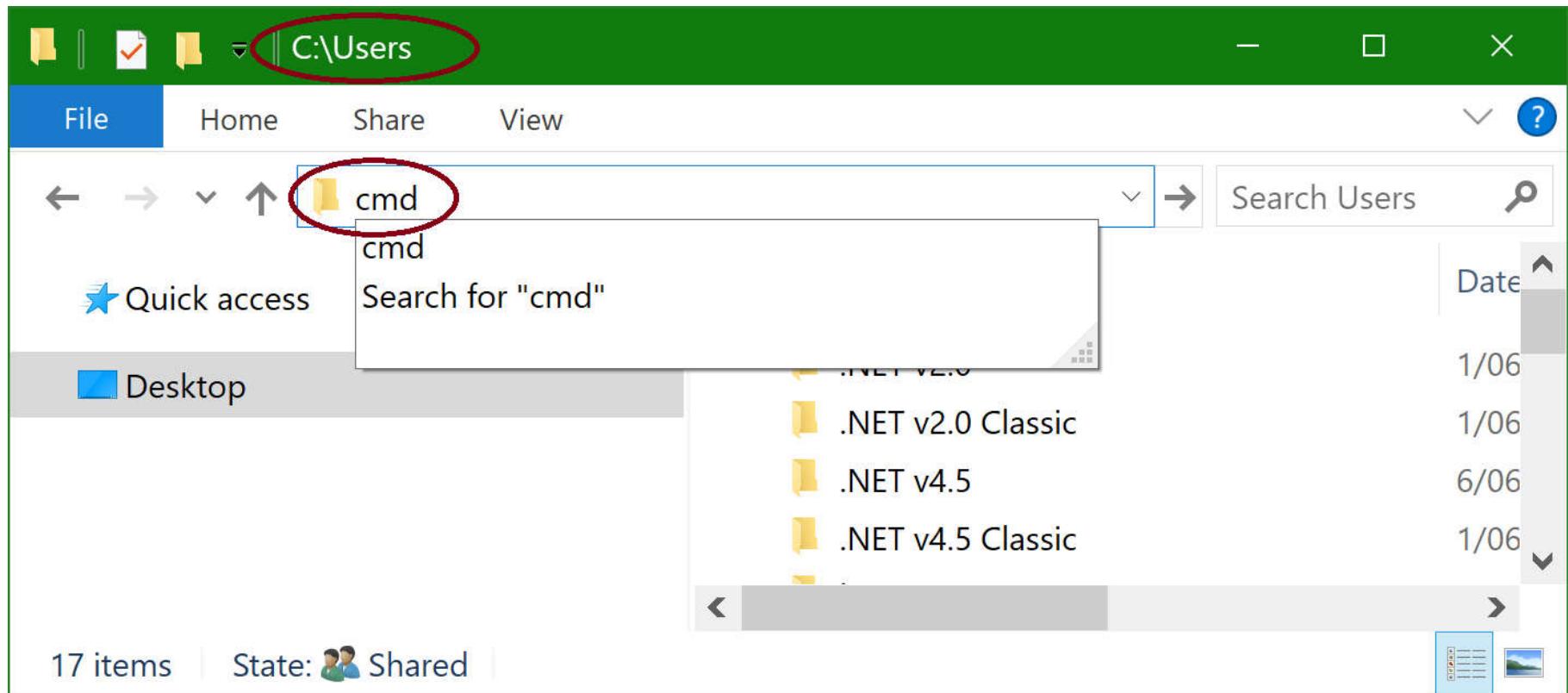
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Update 2: In windows 10, go to file menu and select "Open Windows PowerShell". There is an option for running as **administrator**.

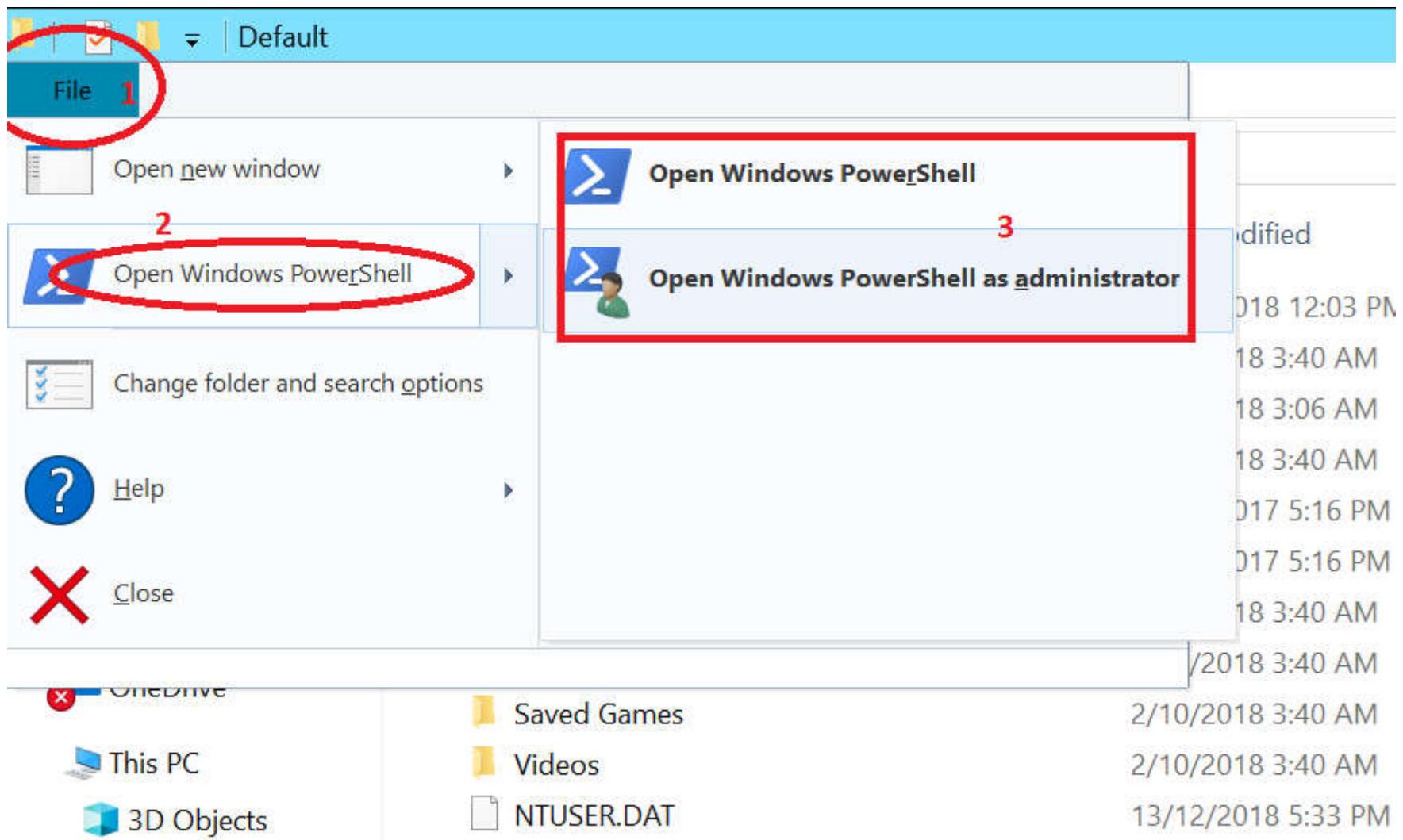
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edited Jan 10 at 7:19

answered Apr 13 '12 at 4:26



desmati

848 1 12 33

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▲ Use the /K switch. For example

33 cmd /K "cd /d c:\WINDOWS\"

▼ Will create a cmd window at the C:\Windows directory

answered Sep 13 '08 at 21:55

 Jason Punyon ♦
32.5k 11 91 115

▲ Just write cmd in the address bar, it will open in the current folder.

27

▼

answered Jan 10 '17 at 21:17

 Guillermo
291 3 4

▲ In windows go to folder location in file explorer remove path and type cmd and press enter. and path will open in cmd.

15

▼

edited May 2 at 7:13

answered Nov 25 '18 at 13:52

 Vinay
635 3 18

▲ Create a shortcut and edit the "Start In" property of the shortcut to the directory you want the cmd.exe to start in.

12

▼

answered Sep 13 '08 at 21:56

 simon
3,311 7 26 32

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In Windows 8, you can click the address bar and type "cmd" (without quotes) and hit enter. This will open the cmd window in the current path.

12



answered Mar 12 '14 at 4:20

Abhishek Shrestha
121 1 3

4 Unless you have a batch/command script called cmd.bat or cmd.cmd, in which case it will execute that file. LOL – [kakridge](#) Jun 23 '14 at 13:26

It works in windows 7 too. – [qqqqq](#) Feb 23 '16 at 23:26



Also, here is a shortcut to open a console in any windows folder:

12



- Open any folder on windows explorer.
- Press Alt + D to focus the address bar
- type cmd and press enter

Very practical shortcut.

edited Mar 17 '15 at 1:12

answered Mar 1 '15 at 15:44

TiagoLr
1,599 13 13

this is nice idea and works, with just one exception: if it has sub folder named cmd – [user6169399](#) Jun 3 '16 at 3:01



I just saw this question and cannot help to post my AutoHotkey script for cmd on Windows XP. You can spot the hot keys in the script. The nice thing is when your current windows is Explorer, the cmd will open in the path showing in the address bar.

11



I keep this script in a folder where I store all green tools (including AutoHotkey). For a new machine, I just copy the folder, double click

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```
        return %path%
    } else if WinActive("FreeCommander") {
        Send, {CTRLDOWN}{ALTDOWN}{INS}{ALTUP}{CTRLUP}
        Sleep, 100
        return clipboard
    } else {
        return "C:\\"
    }
}

#IfWinActive,

#c::
path := GetWorkingFolder()
Run, %ComSpec%, %path%
return

; PowerShell
#+C::
path := GetWorkingFolder()
Run, %SystemRoot%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe, %path%
return

#^C::
Run, %ComSpec%, %temp%
return

#!c::
path := GetWorkingFolder()
Run, %comspec% /k "%VS90COMNTOOLS%vsvars32.bat", %path%
return

; irb
#!b::
path := GetWorkingFolder()
Run, c:\cygwin\bin\ruby /usr/bin/irb, %path%
return

; Bash
#b::
path := GetWorkingFolder()
Run, bash --login, %path%
return
```

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```

;MsgBox x=%x% y=%y% w=%w% h=%h% mx=%mx% my=%my%
if (mx < 10)
    mx = 10
else if (mx > w - 30)
    mx := w - 30

if (my < 40)
    my = 40
else if (my > h)
    my := h - 10

MouseClick, right, mx, my
}
return

```

For anyone who is interested, you can find this script at [twin on github](#)

edited Jan 10 '17 at 22:13

answered Mar 17 '11 at 16:41



Codism

2,767 3 21 25

It's now part of my windows tool set, you can find it here: [code.google.com/p/rwintools](#). The script has also been updated to support windows 7. I am planning to add more document recently. – [Codism](#) Mar 4 '12 at 21:37



Update: This is built into Windows now. See [this answer](#).



10 The XP powertoy is a good option, but I thought I'd post another, in case you'd like to "roll your own". Create a text file, name it anything.reg, paste in the code below, save it, then double-click on it to add it to the registry (or just add the info to the registry manually if you understand what's going on in this .reg file).

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Folder\shell\Command_Prompt_Here...]
@="Command Prompt Here..."
```

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Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\cmd]
@="@shell32.dll,-8506"
"Extended"""
"NoWorkingDirectory"""
>ShowBasedOnVelocityId=dword:00639bc8

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

The entry `ShowBasedOnVelocityId` is mandatory

edited Aug 11 '17 at 7:22



rundekugel

372 2 10

answered Oct 18 '08 at 21:03



raven

13.9k 14 70 106

For windows 7 or later, inside the target folder address bar just type cmd. That is it. It will open up command prompt with path set to your present directory.

9

answered Oct 9 '15 at 9:02



TomCat

371 7 15

this is nice idea and works, with just one exception: if it has sub folder named cmd – user6169399 Jun 3 '16 at 3:01

Easiest way is to goto the address bar of the Windows Explorer and type `cmd` there. It will automatically open the command prompt window for you.

9

edited Jun 3 '16 at 23:12



metasim

answered Jun 3 '16 at 2:33



Syed. A

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@solarissmoke this actually does answer the question: navigate to the directory in Explorer, then type `cmd` in the directory URL at the top of the explorer window. It opens cmd right at the window's directory. No navigation in the terminal what so ever. Just to make sure everyone is on the same page: Windows Explorer is not the same thing as Internet Explorer, the Run Dialog, or the Task Manager. – [TekuConcept](#) Jul 19 '16 at 22:37

 command 'pushd' will set current folder so:

 8 `cmd /k "pushd D:\Music"`

answered Aug 8 '17 at 8:53



Mendi Barel

1,663 1 9 10

Best/easiest answer I've found if you are opening a win10 *administrative* cmd (shortcut) prompt. Normally, admin prompt will force "start in" location to C:\Windows\system32.. no matter the 'start in' location you set. – [bshea](#) Aug 1 '18 at 18:05 

"cd {path}" will also work. – [bshea](#) Aug 12 '18 at 16:26 

Good tip. I use alternative 'C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe cmd /K "cd /d D:\Bla"'. – [gast128](#) Mar 4 at 13:48

 In File Explorer, press and hold the Shift key, then right click or press and hold on a folder or drive that you want to open the command prompt at that location for, and click/tap on Open Command Prompt Here option.

7

answered Feb 9 '16 at 14:01



ofir_aghai

1,319 1 21 27

 For windows : **Select** the folder which you want to open in command prompt - After selection, Keeping the 'Shift key' pressed. Right click there and choose option "open command window here"

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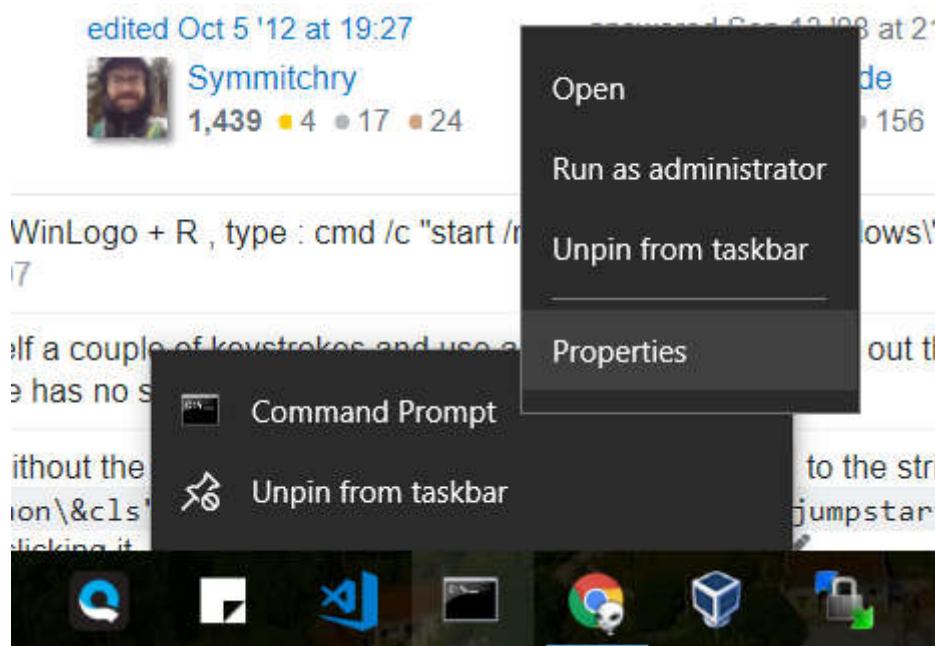


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7

If you are starting cmd from taskbar, this is what you need to do:

right click --> rightclick on Command Prompt --> Properties



Then in the properties window change the value of **Start in**:

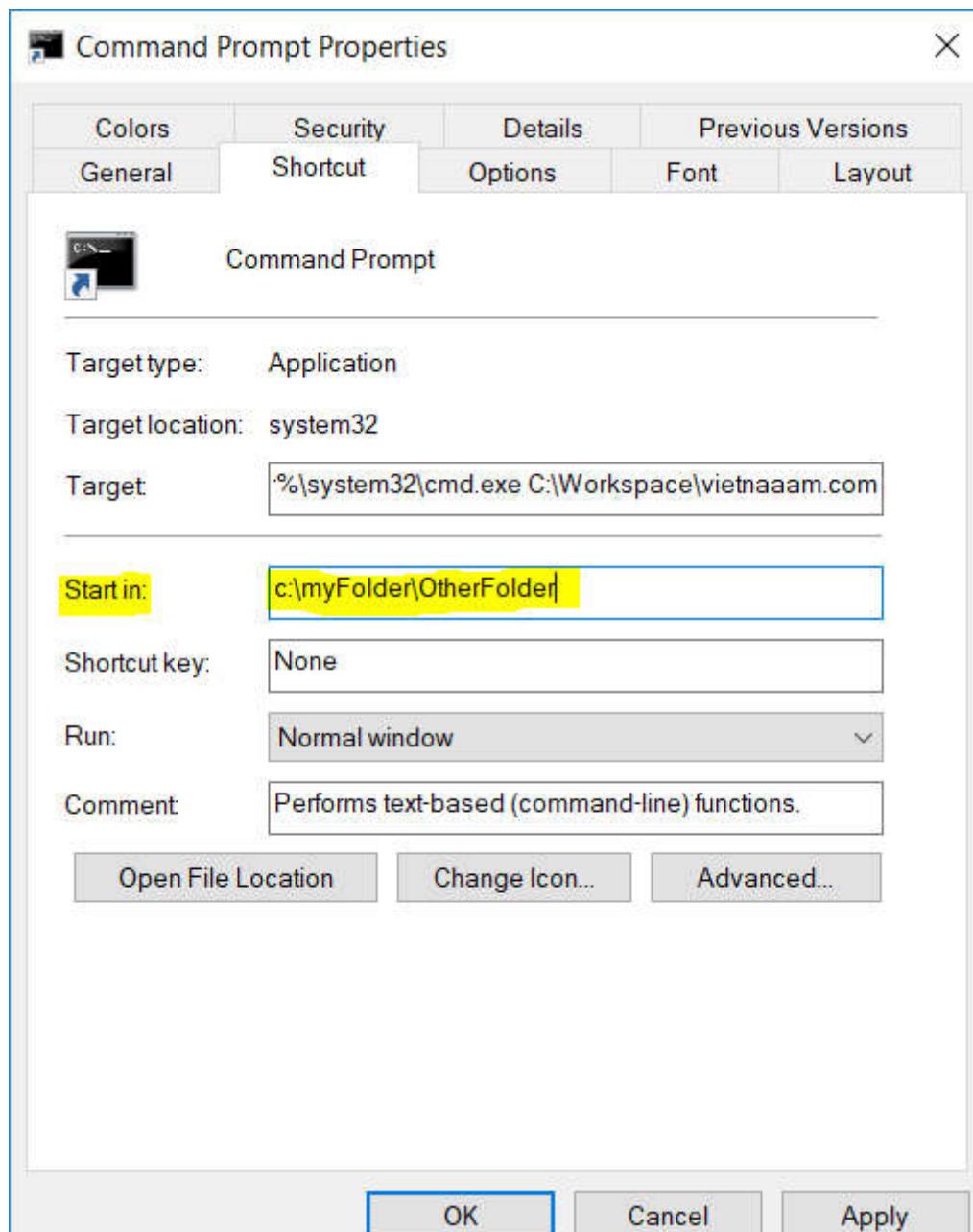
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Arman

774 4 23

"Start in:" location under my Windows 10 does not work if it's an administrative prompt. -> ALWAYS opens in system32 for me. – [bshea](#) Aug 1 '18 at 18:02

1 @bshea You are right, I tried and got the same results. So the solution can only be used for non-admin command prompts. – [Arman](#) Aug 2 '18 at 14:52

Yep.. was driving me nuts. use pushd per stackoverflow.com/a/45563746/503621 - is best/easiest can find for admin prompt location setting.. – [bshea](#) Aug 3 '18 at 0:49



6



In Windows Explorer - shift + right mouse click above folder "Open command window here" option show up in the menu. Or in language of your Windows version.

answered Jan 14 '14 at 23:39



Petr Novotny

179 1 5



6



I see that there are multiple answers, some are quite complex :) , strange to see them. You just have to open any windows folder window, navigate to your desired folder and focus on address bar and enter "cmd" and press enter, you would be presented with new command prompt window directly with the folder path or location that we already navigated in windows folder window. In case you want to see these steps with clear images you can check out

[how to open command prompt in a specific folder directly](#)

answered Jun 15 '16 at 17:49



Srinivas P

76 1 3

Make the shortcut to cmd.exe with params /S /K pushd "C:\VOL1\IP FOR DELL\"

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 4

There is a simpler way I know. Find cmd.exe in start menu and send it to Desktop as shortcut. Then right-click it and choose properties. You will see "Start in" box under the "Target". Change that directory as whatever you'd like to set. Click OK and start cmd.exe which is in your Desktop. In my opinion, it's a very easy and certain solution :)

 edited Nov 2 '11 at 9:13

Martin Brown

17.6k 12 63 98

answered Nov 2 '11 at 9:00



destroyer313

41 1

 4

This program always opens cmd.exe in the current path of your Explorer: https://github.com/jhasse/smart_cmd

You can also pin it to your taskbar and then use WindowsKey+[1-0] as a keyboard shortcut.

 edited Jan 16 '12 at 10:12

answered Jan 16 '12 at 9:43



jhasse

1,117 1 17 30

 4

I noticed that the Shift + Right click super-long context menu with the "Open command window here" option does not always display for whatever reason (I'm using Windows 10) so here's a method that will always work:

1. Hit Start, type "cmd", Right-click "Command Prompt" > Click "Open File Location".
2. Copy the "Command Prompt" shortcut to the directory where you wish you could just open cmd at directly.
3. Right click your new shortcut and click "Properties".
4. Edit the "Start in:" field to be either blank or %CD% and then click "OK".

Now when you click this shortcut it will open the command prompt pointing at the current directory that the shortcut is currently in, e.g. copy this shortcut to the desktop and run it to open cmd to the desktop directory.

 edited Apr 24 '18 at 5:55

answered Aug 2 '17 at 19:53

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 3 

With a Just-one-line file in batch:

START "Desire_Path" // Without quotes put the location that you want to start in with cmd

Example (Open a text editor, place the code in there and save the file with a .bat extension):

```
START cd C:\Users
```

Then just double click on it

****Note: if you want the explorer to complete the task don't put the CD command.

*To do the opposite:

In order for you to open a particular directory with the explorer.exe application while using cmd you can use the command START and the absolute route of the folder that you want to display.

edited Oct 8 '15 at 17:23

answered Oct 8 '15 at 16:59



This method is using cmd.exe and Send to shortcut so cmd.exe can open directory directly. This alternative method is in case of not having Open command window here in right click menu.

 3 

1. Open 'File Explorer' and enter shell:sendto in location bar to navigate to Send to folder.
2. Copy a Command Prompt shortcut or create a new shortcut .lnk file.
3. Edit the properties of the shortcut and edit the target to %windir%\system32\cmd.exe /k cd /d and press 'OK' to save the change.
4. Right click on a folder and expand Send to menu to use the cmd shortcut.

This shortcut should open a cmd window with directory selected by the right click.

This method should work under Windows 7 and 10 at least. Name the shortcut as Command Prompt (cd) to specify the task of the shortcut.

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- Show 'The filename, directory name, or volume label syntax is incorrect.' if multiple files are selected.

Little about shortcut: The directory would be automatically added to the end of the shortcut as a parameter when using under `Send to`, so the shortcut does not need to type in the directory.

answered Dec 30 '15 at 18:15



Right click the desktop and navigate to new and then from the sub-menu select "shortcut" → Browse to the Windows directory (or folder) and then to the `System32` directory and click `OK`.

3

Add a `\` and "cmd.exe" (without the quotes) to the command string. It should look like this:

`C:\WINDOWS\System32\cmd.exe`.

Click `Next` and `Finish`. Right click the new CMD icon on your desktop and select properties, and `Next` to the Start. In options, delete the line and add the path to wherever the directory is that you want it to start in... For example, `C:\temp\mp3` and click `OK`.

edited Jan 10 '17 at 21:10

answered Oct 18 '08 at 20:25



Rather than saving it as a shortcut, this is how I do it and I find it very useful. There are already answers to show as a shortcut, but I just wanted to share this, especially I find it very useful for angular projects.

3

- Create a new txt file and write the following code into it.
`@ECHO OFF`
`cd C:\YourProjectPath\FolderPath\`
- save as .bat file with a convenient name. (I usually save it as "auto-mvProjectName.bat")

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- For instance: goto-myProjectName

Then it should take you to there.

answered May 19 '18 at 7:26



curiousBoy

2,935 2 29 35

1 2 next

protected by [JJJ](#) Jan 10 '17 at 21:43

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