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Access to the Windows Startup directory via Run

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22

What is the command to type in the Windows Run that opens the user's Startup directory?

- it's of a format similar to **%windir%** for Windows and **%appdata%** for application data

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13

I'm trying to reduce [RSI](#), so I try to use keyboard shortcuts for as much as possible.

windows

command-line

edited Aug 2 '12 at 7:17



Paul

48.7k

14

122

150

asked Jun 2 '09 at 7:29



SteveC

1,105

9

23

45

migrated from [stackoverflow.com](#) Sep 4 '10 at 6:45

This question came from our site for professional and enthusiast programmers.

"binged" is why Micros~1 search engines keep failing. – [gravity](#) Jun 2 '09 at 7:49

Just completed my answer, with a suggestion as to where you could have seen a shorter version of that directory. – [VonC](#) Jun 3 '09 at 6:08

"Keyboard shortcut" is used for key combinations like Ctrl-C rather than typed commands (even if those commands save time). – Roger Pate Aug 29 '10 at 20:45

What is the command to type in the Windows Run that opens the user's Startup directory? **"The"** command? o.o – [Synetech](#) Dec 8 '12 at 6:30

7 Answers



It's the "shell" command. For example, I can type

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shell:startup



in the *Run dialog* to pop open the \Start Menu\Programs\Startup directory.

There are a LOT of the "shell" commands, and a long listing is at [Access special folders easily using the shell command](#).

edited Feb 26 '12 at 19:44



Peter Mortensen

8,410 16 61 85

answered Aug 28 '10 at 7:49



SteveC

1,105 9 23 45

-
- 2 If you need the startup for all users, use shell:Common Startup – [Michael S.](#) Feb 14 '13 at 15:34
-

Create a small VBS program startup.vbs :

2

```
set objShell = CreateObject("WScript.Shell")
objShell.Run(""" & objShell.SpecialFolders("Startup") & """)
```

This would open current user's startup folder in Windows Explorer. This would work in every still supported Windows version, in every language.

You can use "AllUsersStartup" instead of "Startup" if you need. You can read about SpecialFolders property [here](#).

answered Jun 3 '09 at 8:15



Tometzky

424 2 13

Nice tip - I'm trying to use PowerShell for all my scripting, and it's easy to forget the good things that are in VBScript – [SteveC](#) Jun 4 '09 at 6:09

▲ For Windows 7 or Windows Vista, start run:

2

c:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\startup



edited Feb 25 '12 at 9:11



Peter Mortensen

8,410 16 61 85

answered Nov 8 '10 at 9:08



rajeev

31 1



"%USERPROFILE%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup"

1

does work on Windows XP.



As far as I can tell, there are no further shortcuts. You can see here a list of [all variables](#) and there is no other way to reference Startup.

However, you may have seen a shorter version in some **scripting language macros**, like [Autoit](#):

@StartupDir current user's Startup folder

edited Feb 25 '12 at 8:00



Peter Mortensen

8,410 16 61 85

answered Jun 2 '09 at 7:38



VonC

12.1k 3 40 46

yeah I got that, but I've got this annoying recollection of a tip which was a lot shorter – [SteveC](#) Jun 2 '09 at 15:05



Start Menu\Programs\Startup

0

If it doesn't work, try:



%UserProfile%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup

Or you can go define your own variable - %st% for example. In Windows XP it was under System Properties - Environment.

Also, the Command Prompt, combined with tab completion and doskey aliases is pure awesomeness, in my opinion.

answered Jun 2 '09 at 7:40



grawity

244k 37 516 576



The variable is %username% . So, for my account (roaming) in Windows Vista:

0



- Start, run,
- C:\Users\%USERNAME%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup

edited Feb 25 '12 at 8:12



Peter Mortensen

8,410 16 61 85

answered Jun 3 '09 at 20:05



Mathew

372 4 8



cd "%appdata%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup"

0



edited May 16 '17 at 14:29



PriceChild

4,124 1 20 29

answered May 16 '17 at 9:34



Niels

1