

How do I minimize the command prompt from my bat file



I have this bat file and I want to minimize the cmd window when I run it:

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```
@echo off
cd /d C:\leads\ssh
call C:\Ruby192\bin\setrbvars.bat
ruby C:\leads\ssh\put_leads.rb
```



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Basically I want the command window minimized immediately. Any ideas on how to do this?

[windows](#)[command-line](#)[batch-file](#)[cmd](#)[command-prompt](#)

edited Mar 12 '14 at 16:23

[Nit](#)

14.5k

8

42

78

asked Feb 10 '12 at 17:45

[Matt Elhotiby](#)

17.6k

72

196

302

12 Answers



There is a quite interesting way to execute script minimized by making him restart itself minimised. Here is the code to put in the beginning of your script:

57

```
if not DEFINED IS_MINIMIZED set IS_MINIMIZED=1 && start "" /min "%~dpnx0" %* && exit
... script logic here ...
exit
```



How it works

When the script is being executed `IS_MINIMIZED` is not defined (`if not DEFINED IS_MINIMIZED`) so:

1. **IS_MINIMIZED** is set to **1**: `set IS_MINIMIZED=1 .`

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1. "" - empty title for the window.
 2. /min - switch to run minimized.
 3. "%~dpnx0" - full path to your script.
 4. %* - passing through all your script's parameters.
3. Then initial script finishes its work: `&& exit .`

For the started copy of the script variable `IS_MINIMIZED` is set by the original script so it just skips the execution of the first line and goes directly to the script logic.

Remarks

- You have to reserve some variable name to use it as a flag.
- The script should be ended with `exit`, otherwise the cmd window wouldn't be closed after the script execution.
- If your script doesn't accept arguments you could use argument as a flag instead of variable:

```
if "%1" == "" start "" /min "%~dpnx0" MY_FLAG && exit or shorter if "%1" == "" start "" /min "%~f0" MY_FLAG && exit
```

edited May 3 '17 at 13:09



MC Emperor

9,654 12 56 90

answered Mar 12 '14 at 16:16



izzekil

3,870 1 27 37

1 add "not", eq, -> if not DEFINED – [Noypi Gilas](#) Jan 28 '15 at 11:47

Thanks for noticing this. A genuine typo! – [izzekil](#) Feb 2 '15 at 18:15

thanks, good one! I wanted to kill a process when the user logs in, so I dropped a bat like this in the Startup folder without being too intrusive. – [dmihailescu](#) Mar 25 '15 at 15:03 ✎

I used it for exactly the same purpose :) I was killing some annoying service that popped up on every login to server and I had no permissions to wipe it out from startup sequence. – [izzekil](#) Mar 26 '15 at 0:19

reminds me of the exclusion guards in C. My first year CS professor had a project to show us the value of those guards..... – [John Kraemer](#) Aug 24 '17 at 23:32

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```
start /min C:\Ruby192\bin\setrbvars.bat
```

Since you've specified a batch file as the argument, the command processor is run, passing the `/k` switch. This means that the window will remain on screen after the command has finished. You can alter that behavior by explicitly running `cmd.exe` yourself and passing the appropriate switches if necessary.

Alternatively, you can create a shortcut to the batch file (are PIF files still around), and then alter its properties so that it starts minimized.

answered Feb 10 '12 at 17:50



Cody Gray ♦

198k 37 390 480

i tried this and it does hide the cmd window but it doesnt run the next line ruby C:\leads\ssh\put_leads.rb – Matt Elhotiby Feb 10 '12 at 18:53

@Tamer: No, of course it doesn't. It only runs the command specified as an argument to the `start` command. Put all of the commands inside of the batch file, or call `start` multiple times. – Cody Gray ♦ Feb 11 '12 at 9:13 ✎

Unfortunately, I cannot do this with a scheduled task. The scheduled tasks does not seem to recognize the "start" as a valid command. – macetw Feb 5 '14 at 19:04

1 @macetw How about putting that in another batch file? – E Г И I И O May 9 '18 at 5:02

The only way I know is by creating a Windows shortcut to the batch file and then changing its properties to run minimized by default.

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answered Feb 10 '12 at 17:47



Bruno Silva

2,819 12 19

2 Was a lot easier than expected. – Dennis Jaheruddin Jul 22 '13 at 15:44

If you want to start the batch for Win-Run / autostart, I found I nice solution here <https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000932.htm> & <https://superuser.com/questions/364799/how-to-run-the-command-prompt-minimized>

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- the `cmd.exe` is needed as start is no windows command that can be executed outside a batch
- `/c` = exit after the start is finished
- the `^& exit` part ensures that the window closes even if the batch does not end with `exit`

However, the initial cmd is still not minimized.

answered May 11 '17 at 7:13



Pedi T.

952 3 14 26

Only way that worked for me to start a batch file minimized via Windows Task Scheduler. – [The Business Tomcat](#) Apr 19 '18 at 11:56

Using PowerShell you can minimize from the same file without opening a new instance.

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```
powershell -window minimized -command ""
```

Also `-window hidden` and `-window normal` is available to hide completely or restore.

source: <https://stackoverflow.com/a/45061676/1178975>

answered Apr 11 at 9:14



user1cat

21 1

Yet another free 3rd party tool that is capable of minimizing the console window at any time (not only when starting the script) is Tcl with the TWAPI extension:

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```
echo package require twapi;twapi::minimize_window [twapi::get_console_window] | tclkitsh
-
```

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[answer](#) because I use TWAPI for countless other purposes already.

edited May 23 '17 at 11:47



Community ♦

1 1

answered Mar 6 '17 at 12:12



robert4

822 11 18

▲ If you type this text in your bat file:

1 `start blah.exe /min`

▼ It will immediately minimize as soon as it opens the program. You will only see a brief flash of it and it will disappear.

edited Feb 19 at 13:37



Gerhard Barnard

10.3k 3 14 33

answered Sep 27 '13 at 12:23



Kyroflash

11 1

Thanks for your contribution, but this is the same approach as the highest voted answer. – [yhw42](#) Sep 27 '13 at 12:44

▲ You could try running a script as follows

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```
var WindowStyle_Hidden = 0
var objShell = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell")
var result = objShell.Run("cmd.exe /c setrbvars.bat", WindowStyle_Hidden)
```

save the file as filename.js

answered Feb 10 '12 at 17:50



PatchedUp

21 2

2 The request is to hide the command prompt from a *batch file*, not make a javascript to run elsewhere that runs something else which finally hides it. – [cubie](#) Feb 11 '12 at 12:57

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You can minimize the command prompt on during the run but you'll need two additional scripts: [windowMode](#) and [getCmdPid.bat](#):

```
@echo off

call getCmdPid
call windowMode -pid %errorlevel% -mode minimized

cd /d C:\leads\ssh
call C:\Ruby192\bin\setrbvars.bat
ruby C:\leads\ssh\put_leads.rb
```

answered Mar 9 '17 at 18:09



[npocmaka](#)

42.8k 11 93 135

Another option that works fine for me is to use ConEmu, see <http://conemu.github.io/en/ConEmuArgs.html>

```
"C:\Program Files\ConEmu\ConEmu64.exe" -min -run myfile.bat
```

answered May 11 '17 at 7:39



[Pedi T.](#)

952 3 14 26

One way to 'minimise' the cmd window is to reduce the size of the console using something like...

```
0 echo DO NOT CLOSE THIS WINDOW
  MODE CON COLS=30 LINES=2
```

You can reduce the COLS to about 18 and the LINES to 1 if you wish. The advantage is that it works under WinPE, 32-bit or 64-bit, and does not require any 3rd party utility.

answered Jan 1 at 20:05

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One option is to find one of the various utilities that can change the window state of the currently running console window and make a call to it from within the batch script.

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You can run it as the first thing in your batch script. Here are two such tools:

min.exe <http://www.paulsadowski.com/wsh/cmdprogs.htm>

cmdow <http://www.commandline.co.uk/cmdow/index.html>

edited Feb 19 at 13:38



Gerhard Barnard

10.3k 3 14 33

answered Jun 10 '14 at 19:04



Bernard Chen

3,152 3 16 27

I usually like to use `nircmdc.exe` for stuff like this but for some reason it wouldn't minimize the active window when it was a console window. However, `cmdow` worked great! `cmdow @ /min` was how I did it, where `@` is how to indicate that you want to target the active window. (I'm in Windows 10.) – [Craig Silver](#) Oct 15 '16 at 15:22