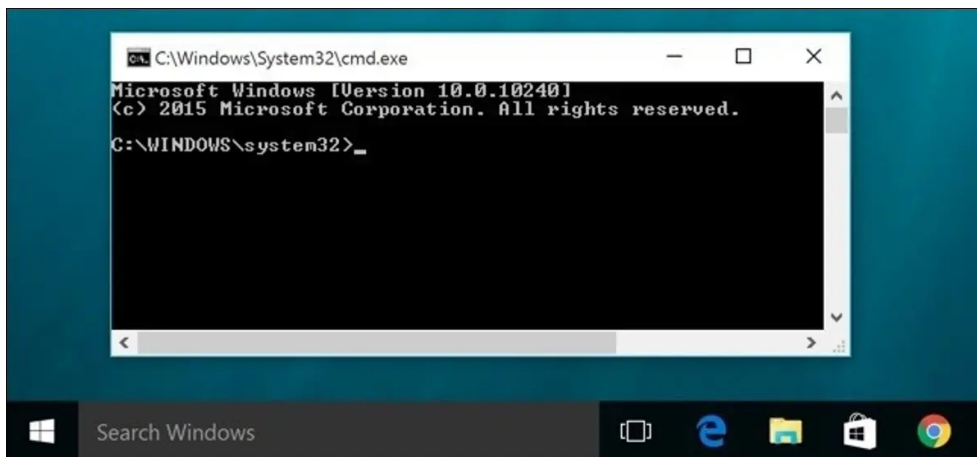


# 10 Ways to Open the Command Prompt in Windows 10



**RAHUL SAIGAL** [@rahulsaigal30](#)

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The Command Prompt has been around forever, and it's still a great resource to have at your disposal. Today we're showing you all of the different ways to open the Command Prompt. We're betting you don't know all of them.

The Command Prompt is a pretty [useful](#) tool. It allows you to do some things quicker than you can do them in the graphic interface and offers some tools that you just can't find in the graphic interface at all. And in true keyboard-ninja spirit, the Command Prompt also supports all kinds of [clever keyboard shortcuts](#) that make it even more powerful. While it's easy to just open the Command Prompt from the Start menu, that's not the only way to do it. So, let's take a look at the rest.

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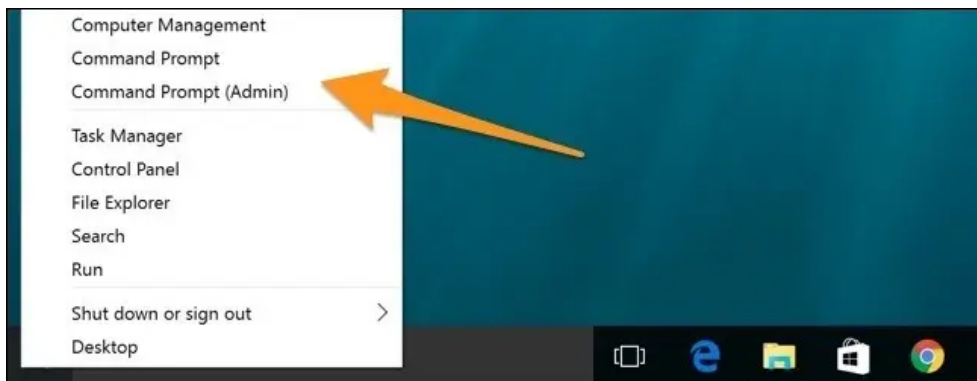
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Note: this article is based on Windows 10, but the majority of these methods should work in earlier versions of Windows, too.

## Open Command Prompt from Windows+X Power Users Menu

Press Windows+X to open the Power Users menu, and then click “Command Prompt” or “Command Prompt (Admin).”



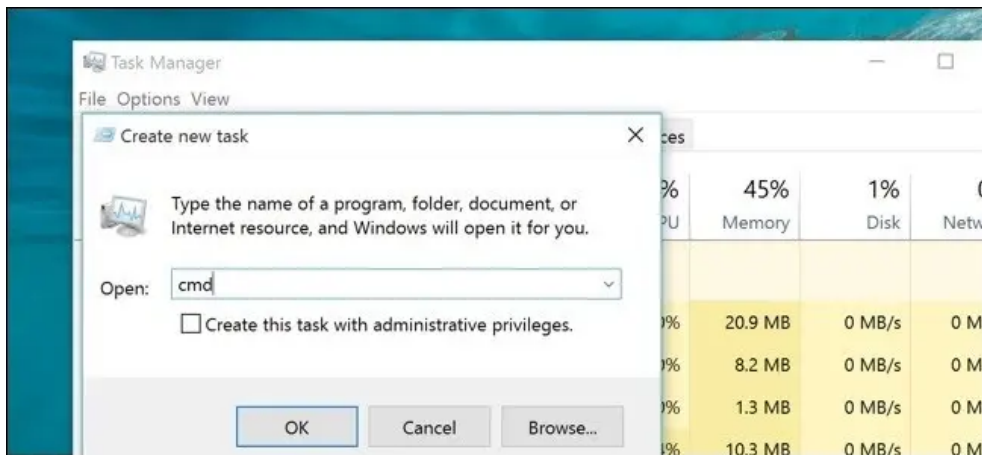
Note: If you see PowerShell instead of Command Prompt on the Power Users menu, that’s a switch that came about with the [Creators Update for Windows 10](#). It’s very easy to [switch back to showing the Command Prompt on the Power Users menu](#) if you want, or you can give PowerShell a try. You can do pretty much everything in [PowerShell](#) that you can do in Command Prompt, plus a lot of other useful things.

**RELATED:** [\*How to Put the Command Prompt Back on the Windows+X Power Users Menu\*](#)

# Open a Command Prompt from Task Manager

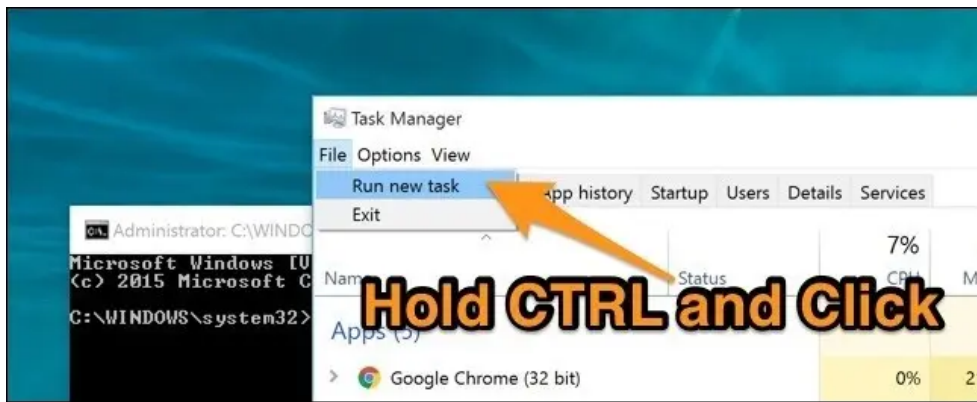
RELATED: [Seven Ways to Open the Windows Task Manager](#)

[Open Task Manager](#) with more details. Open the “File” menu and then choose “Run New Task.” Type `cmd` or `cmd.exe`, and then click “OK” to open up a regular Command Prompt. You can also check the “Create this task with administrative privileges” to open Command Prompt as administrator.



## Open a Command Prompt in Admin Mode from Task Manager the Secret Easy Way

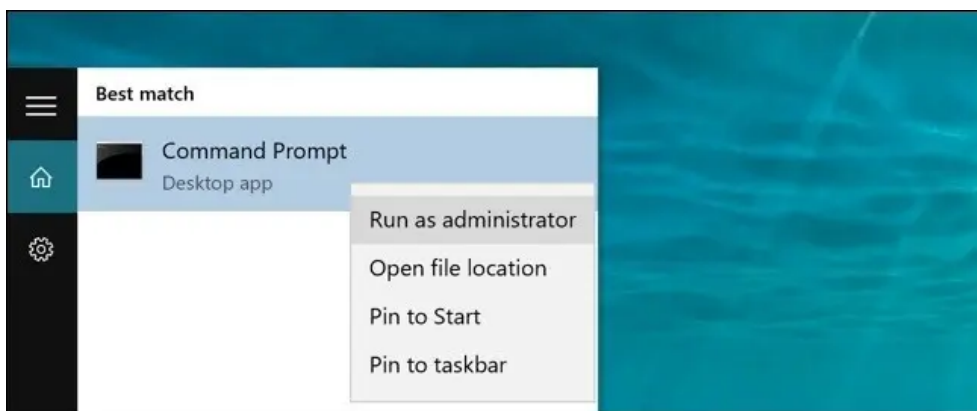
To quickly open a command prompt with administrative privileges from Task Manager, open the “File” menu and then hold the CTRL key while clicking “Run New Task.” This will immediately open Command Prompt with administrative privileges—no need to type anything.



## Open Command Prompt from a Start Menu Search

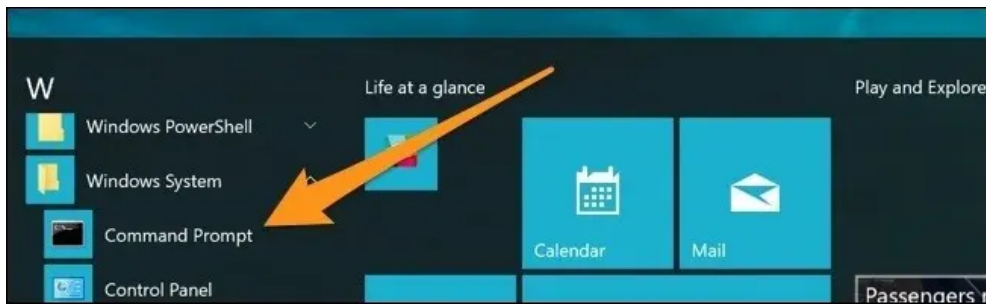
You can easily open the Command Prompt by clicking Start and then typing “cmd” into the search box. Alternatively, click/tap on the microphone icon in Cortana’s search field and say “Launch Command Prompt.”

To open Command Prompt with administrative privileges, right-click the result and then click “Run as Administrator.” You could also highlight the result with the arrow keys and then press Ctrl+Shift+Enter.



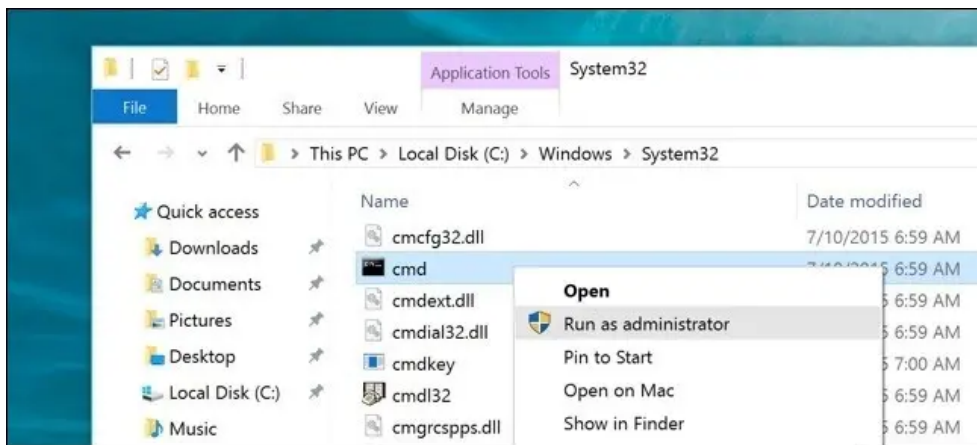
## Open Command Prompt By Scrolling Through the Start Menu

Click Start. Scroll down and expand the “Windows System” folder. Click “Command Prompt.” To open with administrative privileges, right-click Command Prompt and choose “Run as administrator.”



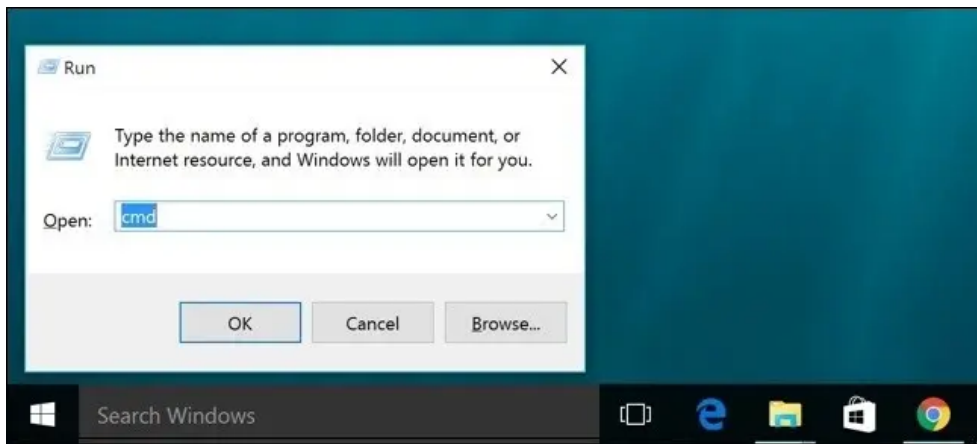
## Open Command Prompt from File Explorer

Open File Explorer, and then navigate to the C:\Windows\System32 folder. Double-click the “cmd.exe” file or right-click the file and choose “Run as administrator.” You can also create a shortcut to this file and store the shortcut anywhere you like.



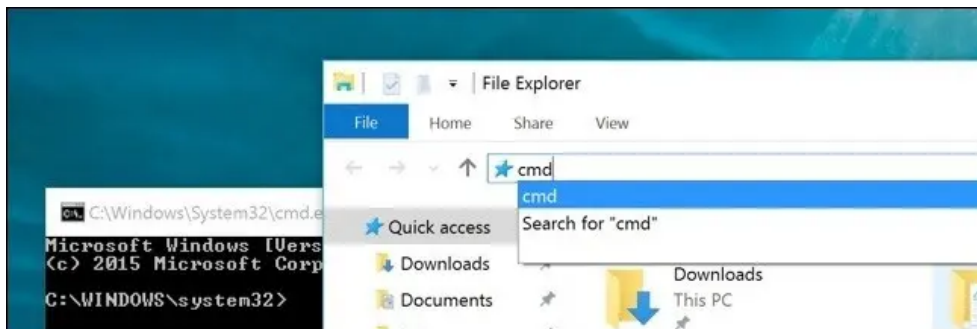
## Open Command Prompt from the Run Box

Press Windows+R to open “Run” box. Type “cmd” and then click “OK” to open a regular Command Prompt. Type “cmd” and then press Ctrl+Shift+Enter to open an administrator Command Prompt.



## Open Command Prompt from the File Explorer Address Bar

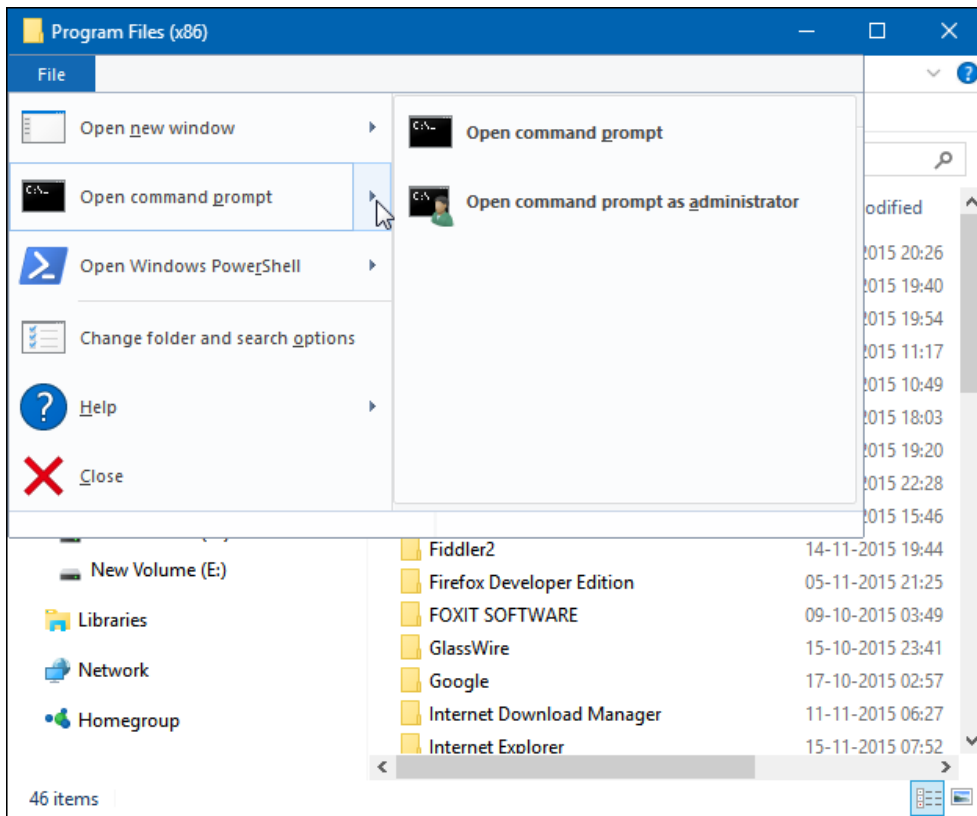
In File Explorer, click the address bar to select it (or press Alt+D). Type "cmd" into the address bar and hit Enter to open the Command Prompt with the path of the current folder already set.



## Open Command Prompt Here from the File Explorer File Menu

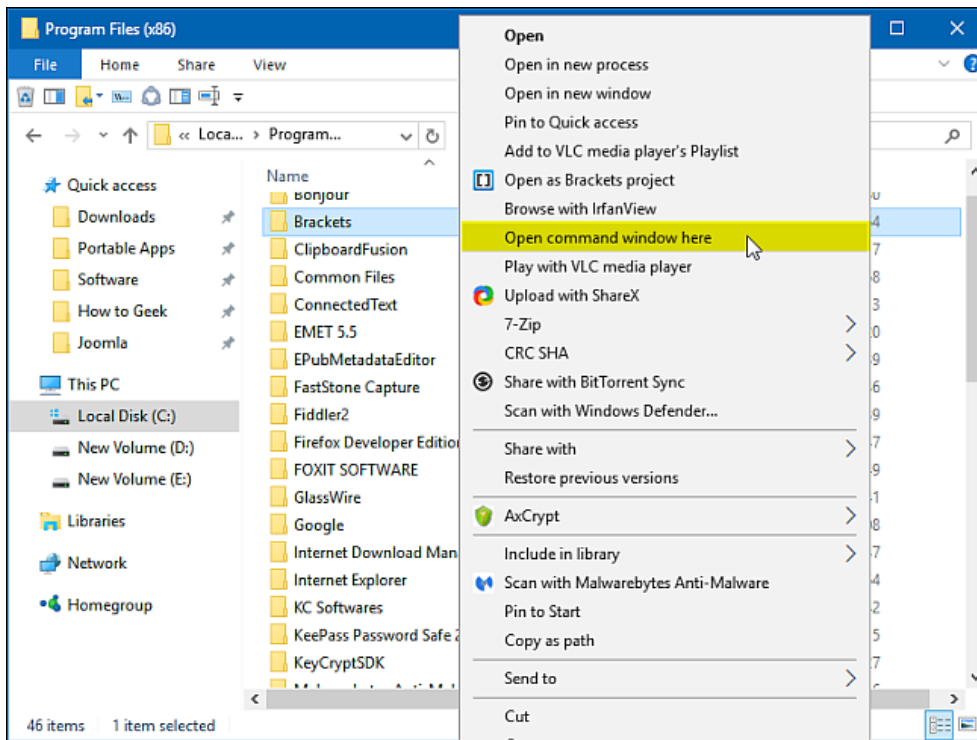
In File Explorer, navigate to any folder you want to open at the Command Prompt. From the "File" menu, select one of the following options:

- **Open command prompt.** Opens a Command Prompt within the currently selected folder with standard permissions.
- **Open command prompt as administrator.** Opens a Command Prompt within the currently selected folder with administrator permissions.



## Open Command Prompt from a Folder's Context Menu in File Explorer

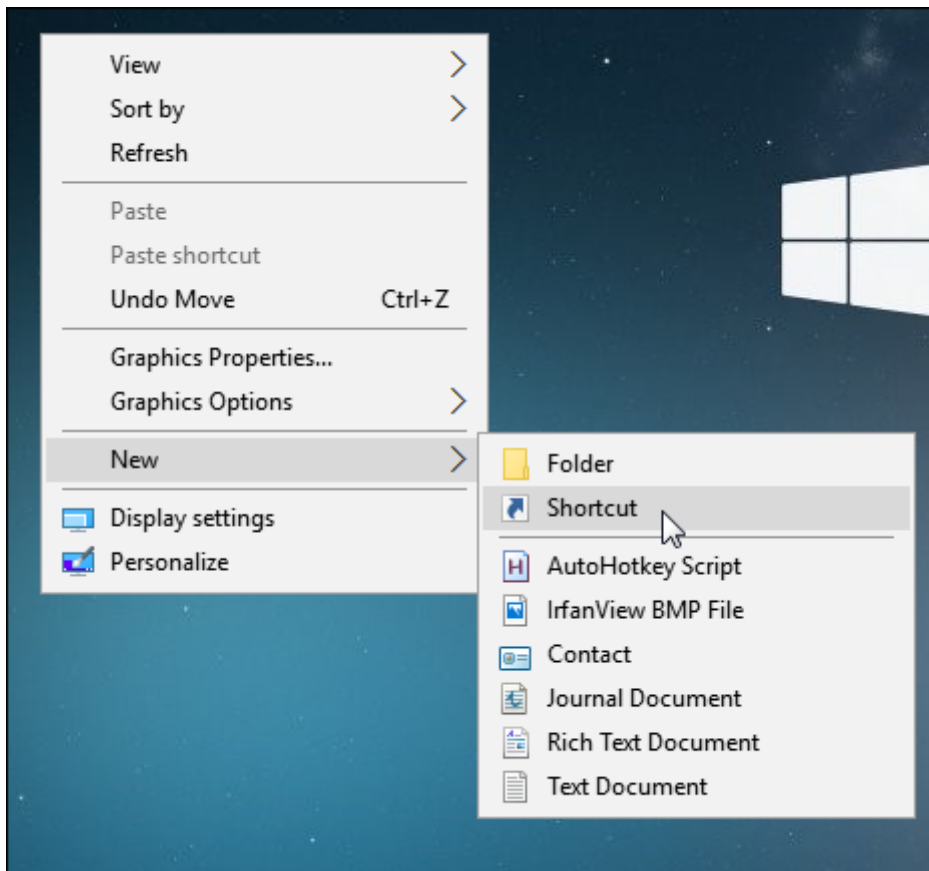
To open a Command Prompt window to any folder, Shift+right-click the folder in File Explorer and then choose "Open command window here."



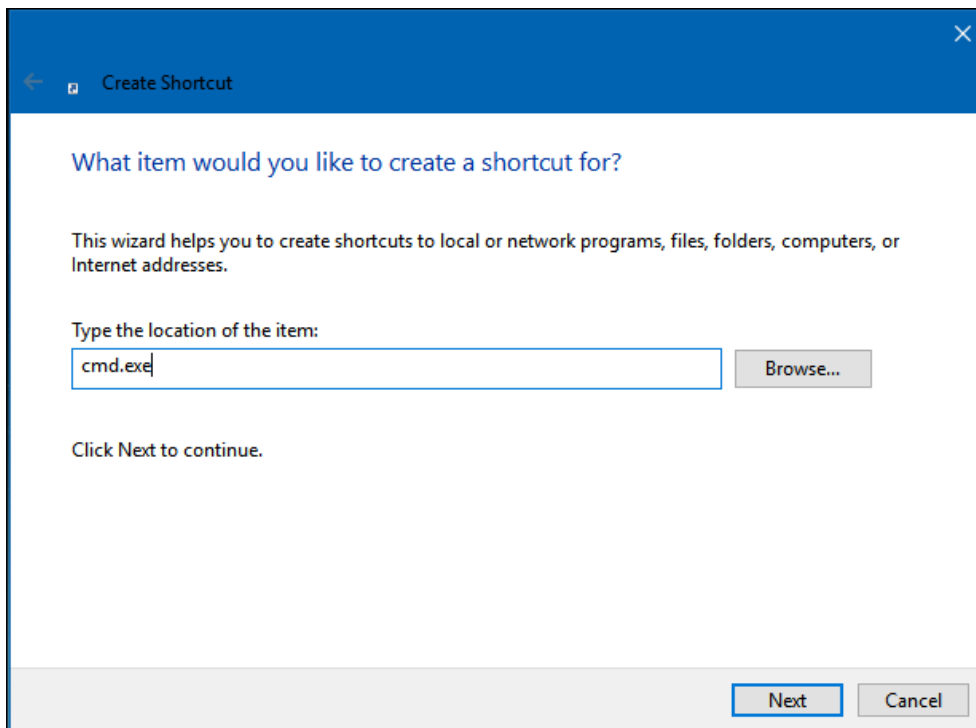
## Create a Shortcut for Command Prompt on the Desktop

Right-click an empty spot on the Desktop. From the context menu, select New > Shortcut.

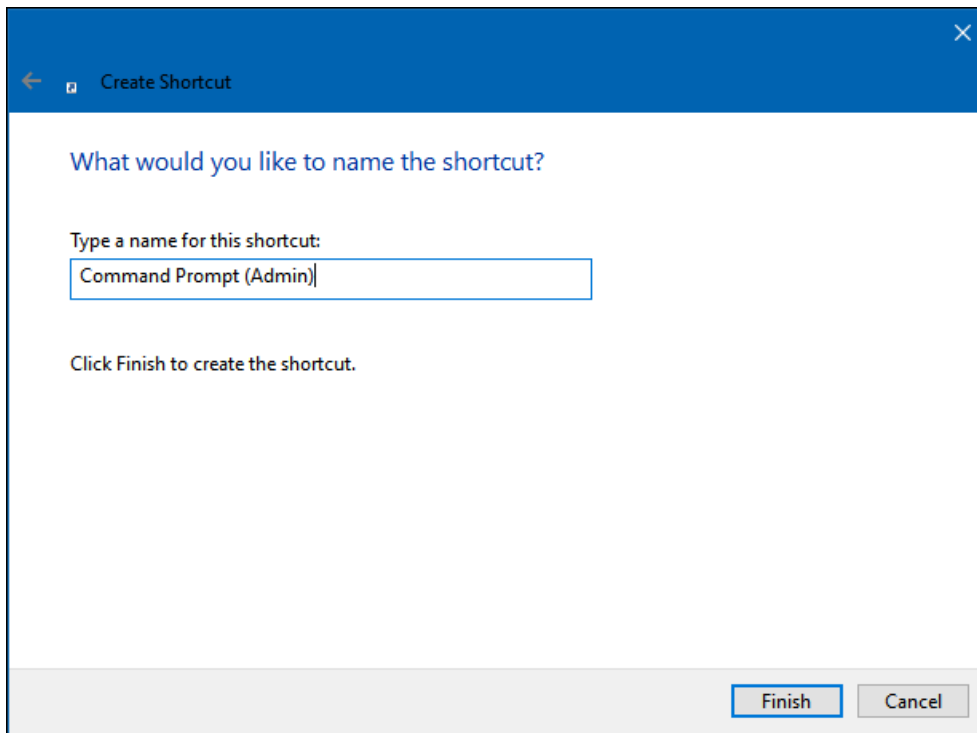




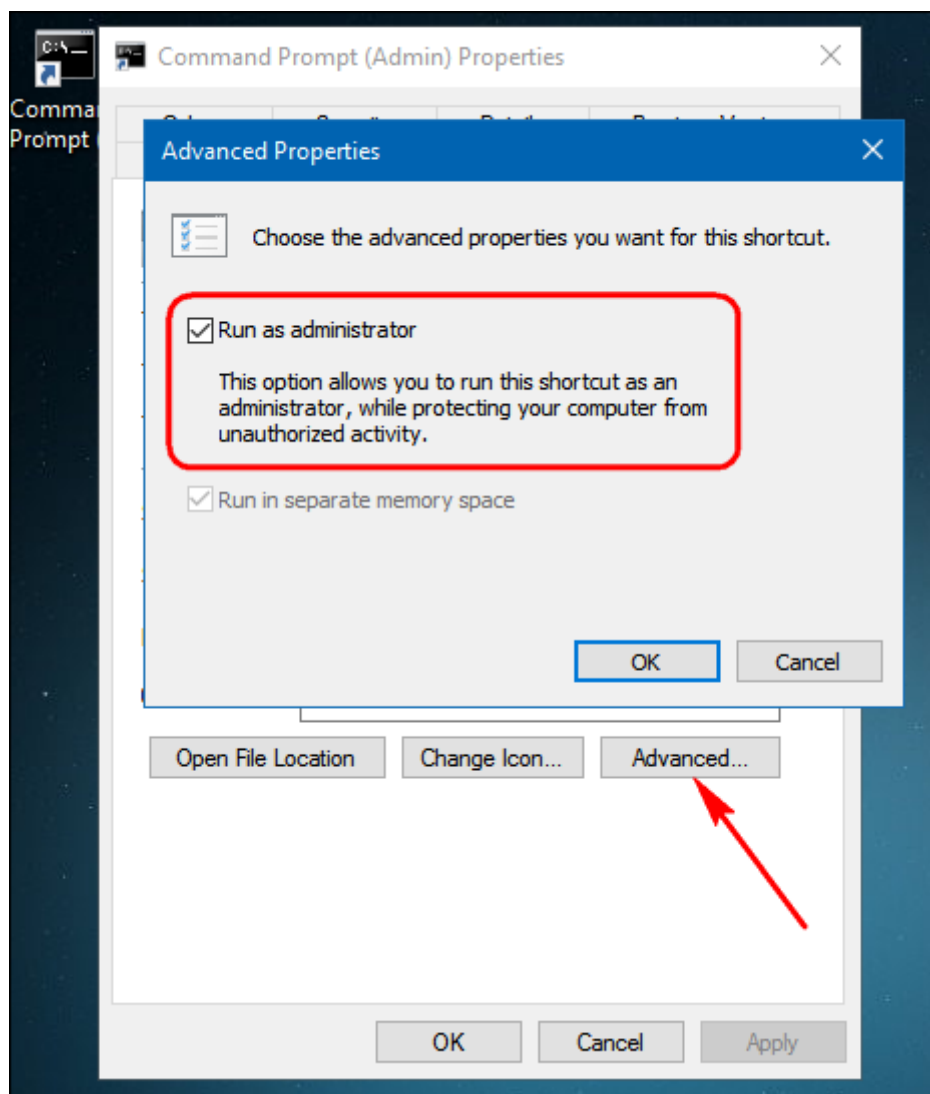
Type “cmd.exe” into the box and then click “Next.”



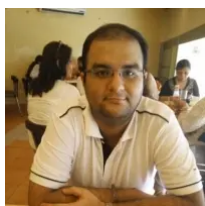
Give the shortcut a name and then click “Finish.”



You can now double-click the shortcut to open Command Prompt. If you want to open the Command Prompt with administrative privileges instead, right-click the shortcut and choose "Properties" from the context menu. Click the "Advanced" button and check the "Run as administrator" option. Close both open properties windows



Now you just have to double-click the shortcut to open Command Prompt as an administrator.



## RAHUL SAIGAL

Rahul Saigal is a technology writer with a half-decade of experience covering everything from software tips to productivity solutions. He's written many approachable articles, in-depth tutorials, and even eBooks. [READ FULL BIO »](#)

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