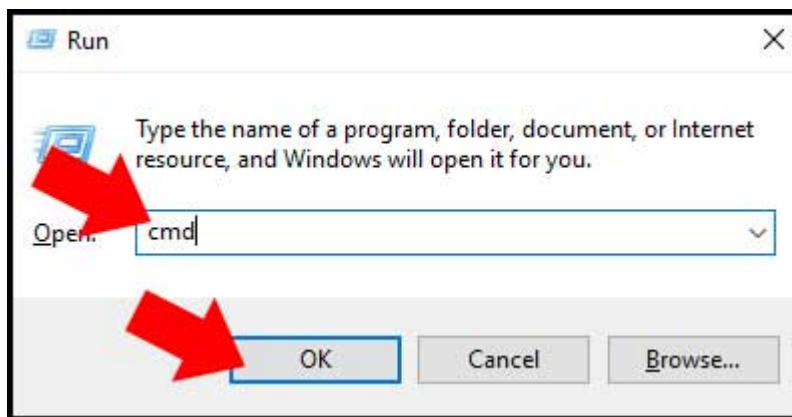


## GETTING STARTED WITH COMMAND PROMPT



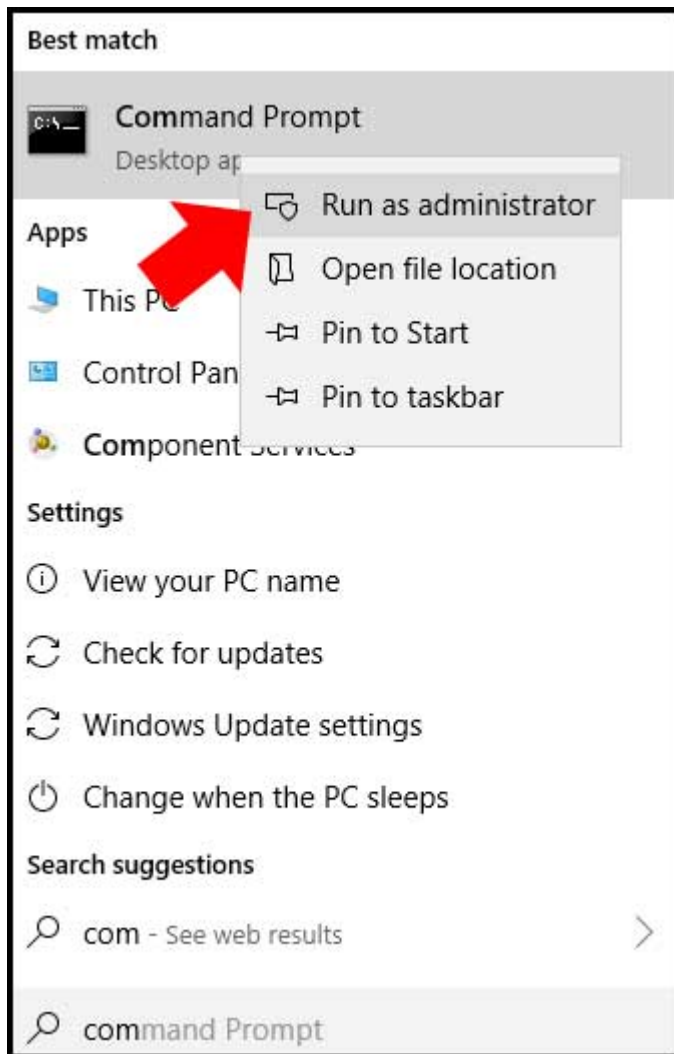
Before we dive into the commands, let us start with the raw basics of “how to open the command prompt” in Windows.

### HOW TO LAUNCH THE COMMAND PROMPT



- Press **Windows + R** to open the run window.
- Type in “cmd” and hit “OK”.

### A NOTE ABOUT SECURITY



By default, launching the command prompt in Windows 10 will be in "restricted access mode". Meaning, messing with the critical system stuff is not allowed. If you want an unrestricted command prompt, here is how to do it:

- \* Press `windows` > search for "command prompt".
- \* Right-click on it, run as administrator.

But beware, this gives the full administrator access to change the system files. This can potentially do some irreversible damage if you do not know what you are doing.

## BASIC WINDOWS COMMANDS

Now that you have launched the command line, here are some of the basic commands to know.

### BASIC NAVIGATION

#### 1) CHANGING THE CURRENT DRIVE

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.535]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
```

```
C:\Users\W.S. Toh>d:  
D:\>e:  
E:\>
```

When the command prompt is launched, all that is staring back is a **C:\Users\NAME**. This should pretty self-explanatory, it is your “current directory”. That is, the current location is at the **C:\** drive, inside the default **Users\NAME** folder.

If you want to change the current directory to another drive, simply enter the drive letter – For example **d:** or **e:.**

## 2) LIST CONTENTS OF CURRENT DIRECTORY

```
D:\>dir  
Volume in drive D is DATA  
Volume Serial Number is CATE-DOGE  
  
Directory of D:\  
11/02/2018  03:42 PM    <DIR>          Documents  
12/13/2018  10:06 PM    <DIR>          http  
12/15/2018  09:11 PM    <DIR>          NetBeans 8.2  
06/17/2017  08:53 PM    <DIR>          obs-studio  
06/17/2017  02:18 PM    <DIR>          Rainmeter  
05/28/2018  01:58 PM    <DIR>          xampp  
            0 File(s)              0 bytes  
            6 Dir(s)  46,296,956,928 bytes free
```

To list the contents of the current folder, use the **dir** command.

## 3) CHANGE CURRENT DIRECTORY

```
D:\>cd http  
D:\http>
```

Next, we have the **cd** command... Should be Captain Obvious, changes the current directory. There is one trick here – We don’t actually need to type out the full folder name. For the above example, we can just type out **cd h** and press **tab** to cycle through the list of folders starting with “h”.

```
D:\http>cd d:\Documents\eBooks  
D:\Documents\eBooks>
```

Another way to use the **cd** command is to enter a full file path.

```
D:\Documents\eBooks>cd..  
D:\Documents>  
  
D:\Documents\eBooks>cd/  
D:\>
```

Lastly, use `cd..` to go up one level, or `cd/` to go all the way back to the root of the current drive.

#### 4) CLEAR SCREEN

```
D:\>cls
```

When the screen gets too messy, use `cls` to clear the screen.

#### 5) LAUNCHING APPLICATIONS

```
D:\>notepad  
D:\>calc
```

From the command prompt, we can also launch various apps.

#### 6) EXIT

```
D:\>exit
```

Captain Obvious to the rescue again. Hit `exit` when done, and this will close the current session.

### FILE ACTIONS

#### 7) COPYING FILES

```
D:\http>copy README.txt d:\http\temp  
1 file(s) copied.
```

To copy a file, simply specify the source file and destination – `copy SOURCE DESTINATION`.

```
D:\http>copy *.* d:\http\temp  
ALT-dummy.php  
ALT-retrieve.php
```

```
ALT-stats.php
ALT-store.php
JSON-retrieve.php
JSON-store.php
README.txt
sql-fav-color.sql
sql-people.sql
    9 file(s) copied.
```

To copy all the files in the current directory, use `copy *.* DESTINATION`.

## 8) X-COPY

```
D:\http\test>xcopy *.* d:\http\temp /e
D:ALT-dummy.php
D:ALT-retrieve.php
D:ALT-stats.php
D:ALT-store.php
D:JSON-retrieve.php
D:JSON-store.php
D:README.txt
D:sql-fav-color.sql
D:sql-people.sql
    9 File(s) copied
```

Now, the problem with `copy` is that it only copies files, but not the folders within. So if you want to copy everything, including the folders within, use the slightly more advanced `xcopy *.* DESTINATION /e` instead.

## 9) MOVING FILES

```
D:\http\test>move README.txt d:\http\temp
    1 file(s) moved.

D:\http\test>move *.* d:\http\temp
D:\http\test\ALT-dummy.php
D:\http\test\ALT-retrieve.php
D:\http\test\ALT-stats.php
D:\http\test\ALT-store.php
D:\http\test\JSON-retrieve.php
D:\http\test\JSON-store.php
D:\http\test\sql-fav-color.sql
D:\http\test\sql-people.sql
    8 dir(s) moved.
```

Don't think this one needs explanation, **move** is the cousin of **copy** and the usage is the same – **move SOURCE DESTINATION**.

## 10) REPLACING FILES AND FOLDERS

```
D:\http\test>replace READLATER.txt d:\http\temp  
Replacing D:\http\temp\READLATER.txt
```

By default, **copy** and **move** will prompt if you want to replace existing files. This can get irritating when moving a large number of files, so use **replace SOURCE TARGET** if you just want to replace everything.

## 11) RENAMING FILES AND FOLDERS

```
D:\http>ren README.txt READLATER.txt
```

Self-explanatory, **ren FROM TO**.

## 12) CREATING A NEW FOLDER

```
D:\http>mkdir myNewFolder
```

## 13) DELETING FILES

```
D:\http>del READLATER.txt
```

To delete a single file.

```
D:\http>del *.*
```

To delete all the files in the folder.

## 14) REMOVING FOLDERS

```
D:\http>rmdir myNewFolder /S  
myNewFolder, Are you sure (Y/N)? y
```

Please take note that the previous **del** command will only delete files, but not remove the folder itself. To remove a folder, we have to use the **rmdir** command instead. If you want to remove the folder entirely (all the

files and folders contained within), add a `/S` option at the end.

## 15) FILE COMPARE

```
D:\http>comp doge.txt cate.txt /A
Comparing doge.txt and cate.txt...
Compare error at OFFSET A
file1 = D
file2 = C
Compare error at OFFSET B
file1 = o
file2 = a
Compare error at OFFSET C
file1 = g
file2 = t
Compare error at OFFSET 10
file1 = G
file2 = E
Compare error at OFFSET 11
file1 = o
file2 = v
Compare error at OFFSET 12
file1 = o
file2 = i
Compare error at OFFSET 13
file1 = d
file2 = l
Compare more files (Y/N) ? n
```

Finally, this is a not-so-useful command that compares 2 files and shows you the differences between them.

## MISC

### 16) REPEAT COMMANDS

Want to repeat a previous command? Press the up and down arrow keys to scroll through your previous commands – No need to retype everything.

### 17) COLOR

```
C:\>color 0a
```

Is the default black-and-white color scheme too boring for you? You can change the colors with the `color` command. It takes 2 alphanumeric characters from 0 to F. The first one is the background color, and the second one is the text color.

## 18) SHUTDOWN

```
C:\>shutdown /s
```

This is the “swag way” to shut down a computer.

- The `/s` option will do a full shutdown.
- Use `/r` to do a reset instead.

## 19) GETTING HELP

```
C:\>replace /?  
Replaces files.
```

```
REPLACE [drive1:][path1]filename [drive2:][path2] [/A] [/P] [/R] [/W]  
REPLACE [drive1:][path1]filename [drive2:][path2] [/P] [/R] [/S] [/W] [/U]
```

Need help with a command? Simply append `/?` to the end, or you can use the `help` command to get a full list of available commands.

```
C:\>help  
For more information on a specific command, type HELP command-name  
ASSOC           Displays or modifies file extension associations.  
ATTRIB          Displays or changes file attributes.  
BREAK           Sets or clears extended CTRL+C checking.  
BCDEDIT         Sets properties in boot database to control boot loading.
```

## USEFUL BITS & LINKS

That’s all for the examples, and here is the summary/cheat sheet of all the basic commands plus some links that may be useful to you.

### ALL THE COMMANDS

#### Basic Navigation

c: d: e:

Change the current drive.

cd

Display the contents of the current directory.

dir



Change the current directory.

cd

Clear the screen.

cls

Closes the current session.

exit

File Actions

Copy files from one place to another.

copy

The slightly more advanced version of copy.

xcopy

Move files from one place to another.

replace

Copy and automatically replace target file(s).

move

Rename a file or folder.

ren

Create a new folder.

mkdir

Delete a file or files.

del

Remove a folder

rmdir

Compare 2 files.

compare Extras

Up and down arrow keys

Scroll through the previous commands.

## Tab key

Autocomplete a file or folder name; Cycles between the files and folders.

## color

Change the color scheme of the command line.

## shutdown

Shutdown the computer.

## help

Display all available commands, get more details on the options of a specific command.