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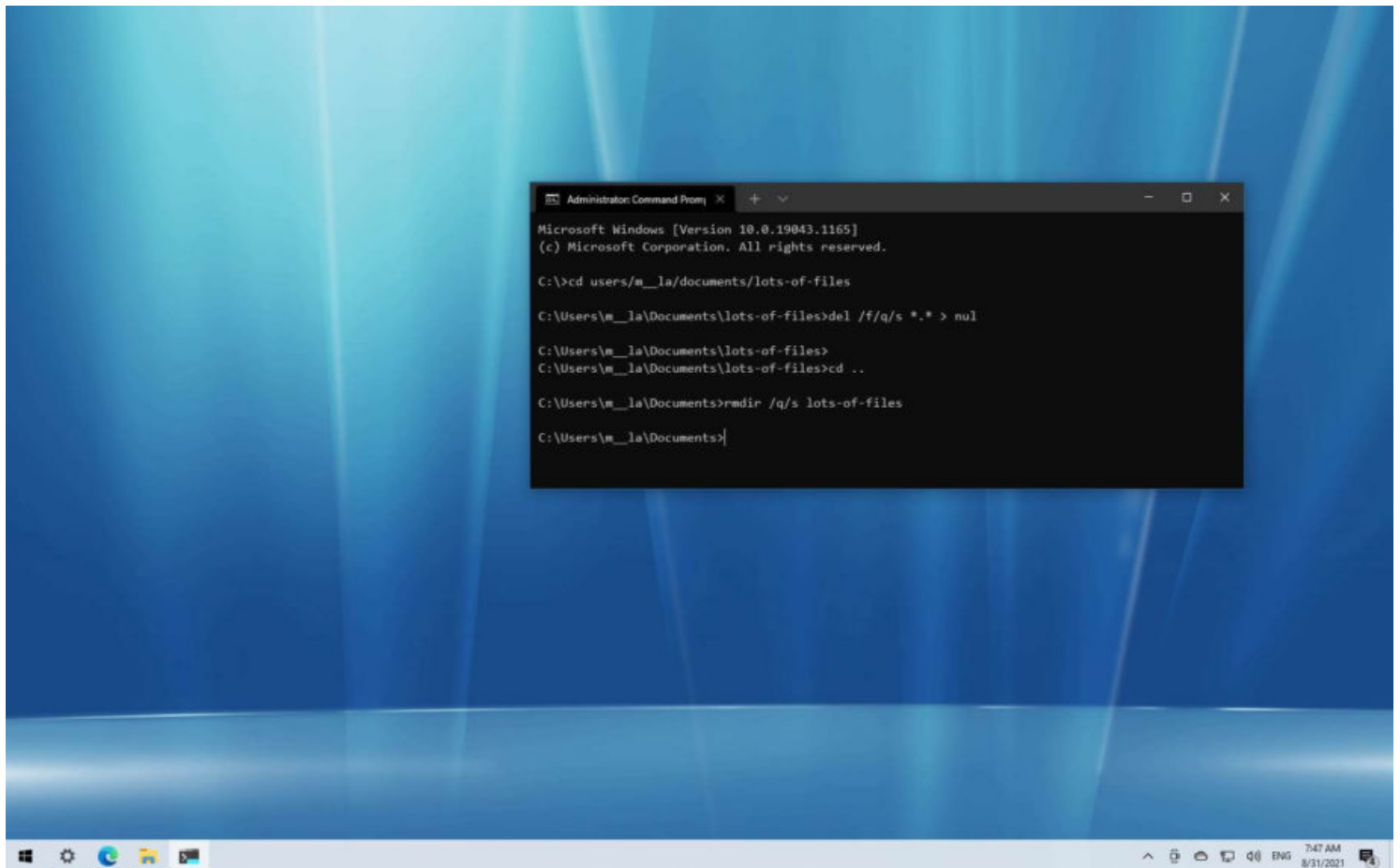
NO MORE WAITING

How to delete large folder extremely fast on Windows 10

Use this method to delete thousands of files and folders in a matter of seconds on Windows 10, not minutes or hours.



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On Windows 10, sometimes you need to delete folders containing many files, and using File Explorer can take a long time. The reason is that during the delete process, Windows 10 runs calculations, analyzes, and shows updates as files and folders get deleted on the screen, something that usually takes time when deleting a large folder with thousands of files and subfolders.

However, you can significantly speed up the process to only a few seconds using a few command lines. The only caveat is that you need to be comfortable using Command Prompt.

In this guide, you will learn the fastest way to delete large folders with thousands of files using command lines and the instructions to add an option on the right-click context menu to automate the process with just one click.

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Delete large folder fast using Command Prompt

To delete a large number of files on Windows 10 using the `del` and `rmdir` commands, use these steps:

- ⚠ **Warning:** Typing the wrong path may delete files in the wrong location, so make sure to use these instructions carefully. You have been warned.

- 1 Open Start on Windows 10.

2 Search for **Command Prompt**, right-click the top result, and select the **Run as administrator** option.

3 Type the following command to navigate to the folder that you want to delete and press **Enter**:

```
%USERPROFILE%\path\to\folder
```

In the command, make sure to update the path to the folder you want to delete.

4 Type the following command to delete all the files in that folder without showing the output and press **Enter**:

```
del /f/q/s *.* > nul
```

In the command, we use the `/f` option to force the deletion of read-only files. The `/q` option enables quiet mode. The `/s` option executes the command for all files in any folder inside the folder you're trying to remove. Using `*.*` tells the `del` command to delete every file and `> nul` disables the console output improving performance and speed.

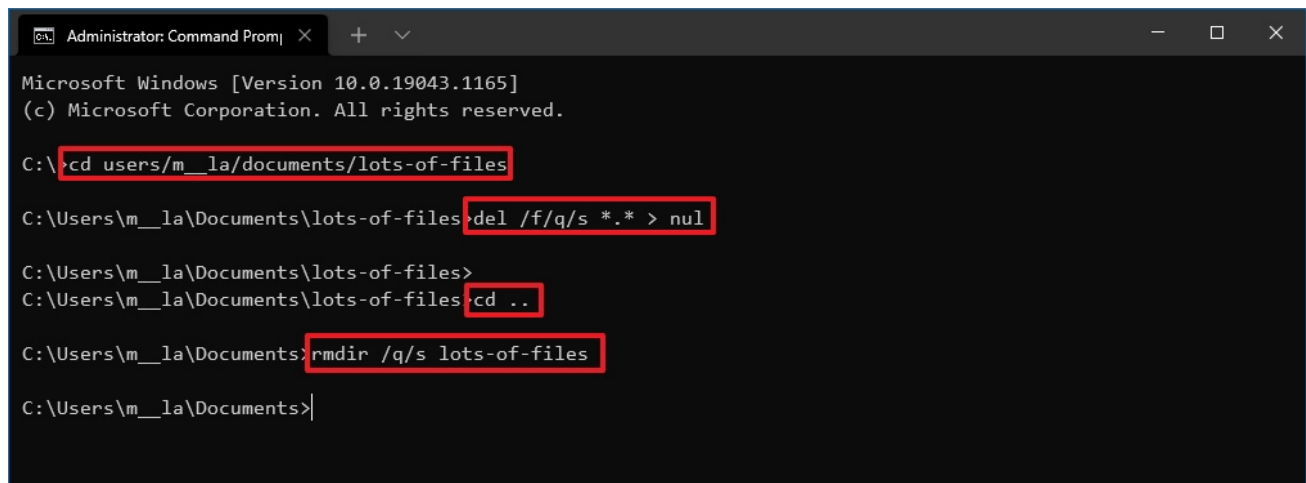
5 Type the following command to go back one level in the folder path and press **Enter**:

```
cd ..
```

6 Type the following command to delete the folder and all its subfolders and press **Enter**:

```
rmdir /q/s FOLDER-NAME
```

In the command, we use the `/q` switch to enable quiet mode, the `/s` option to run the command on all the folders, and **FOLDER-NAME** is the variable you need to specify to delete the folder you want.



```
Administrator: Command Promj
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19043.1165]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\>cd users/m__la/documents/lots-of-files
C:\Users\m__la\Documents\lots-of-files>del /f/q/s *.* > nul
C:\Users\m__la\Documents\lots-of-files>
C:\Users\m__la\Documents\lots-of-files>cd ..
C:\Users\m__la\Documents>rmdir /q/s lots-of-files
C:\Users\m__la\Documents>
```

Once you complete the steps, all the files and folders in the location will delete quickly from your device.

Delete large folder fast adding context menu option

If you are not comfortable writing commands, you do not usually delete tons of files, or you are just looking for a faster way, it's possible to add a right-click context menu option that will run a batch file for the data you want to delete.

To add a context menu option that will delete files and folders extremely fast on Windows 10, use these steps:

- 1 Open **Notepad**.
- 2 Copy and paste the following lines into the Notepad text file:

```
@ECHO OFF
ECHO Delete Folder: %CD%?
PAUSE
SET FOLDER=%CD%
CD /
DEL /F/Q/S "%FOLDER%" > NUL
```

```
RMDIR /Q/S "%FOLDER%"  
EXIT
```

- 3 Click on **File**.
- 4 Select the **Save As** option.
- 5 Save the file as **quick_delete.bat**, and ensure it uses the **.bat** extension.
- 6 Move the **quick_delete.bat** file to the `C:\Windows` folder. (This step is necessary because the file needs to be on a location that has a path environment variable, but you can always create your own if you're up to the challenge.)

Windows folder

- 7 Open **Start**.
- 8 Search for **regedit** and click the top result to open the app.
- 9 Browse the following path:

```
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\
```

! **Quick tip:** You can copy and paste the path in the address bar of the Registry to navigate to the path quickly.

10 Right-click the **Shell** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **Key**.

Shell Registry key

11 Name the key **Quick Delete** and press **Enter**.

12 Right-click the newly created key, select **New** and click on **Key**.

13 Name the key **command** and press **Enter**.

14 Double-click the **command** key default **String** on the right side.

15 Change the value of the key with the following line and click the **OK** button.

```
cmd /c "cd %1 && quick_delete.bat"
```

Command to delete folders and files fast

After you complete the steps, you can right-click a folder and select the **Quick Delete** option from the context menu to remove a large folder super fast.

While executing the command, you will get a security prompt that will prevent you from deleting files by accident. You can always proceed by pressing any key, using the **Ctrl + C** keyboard shortcut, or clicking the **X** button to cancel the operation.

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