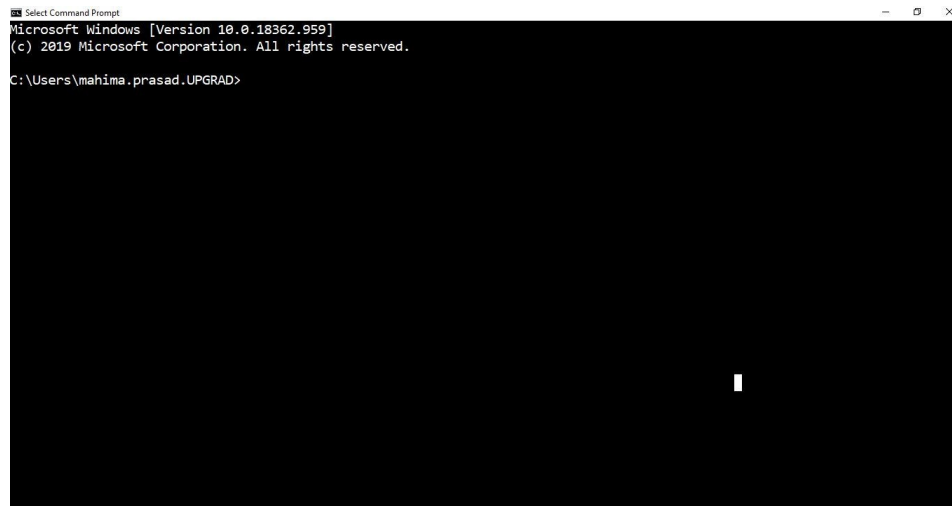# <u>Getting Familiar with the Command Line</u>

For many of you, this would be the first time that you're using the command line as a coding console. The Command-Line can be quite challenging for beginners since a lot of intuitive features that you might already be familiar with are either not available or not enabled on the command line by default. So in this segment, we'll try to bridge that gap and learn some tips and tricks to make the command line more workable.

Customising the Command Line Interface

1) **Changing the background and font**

   By default, the command line has the following interface - a black background over a white font with font size set to 16.
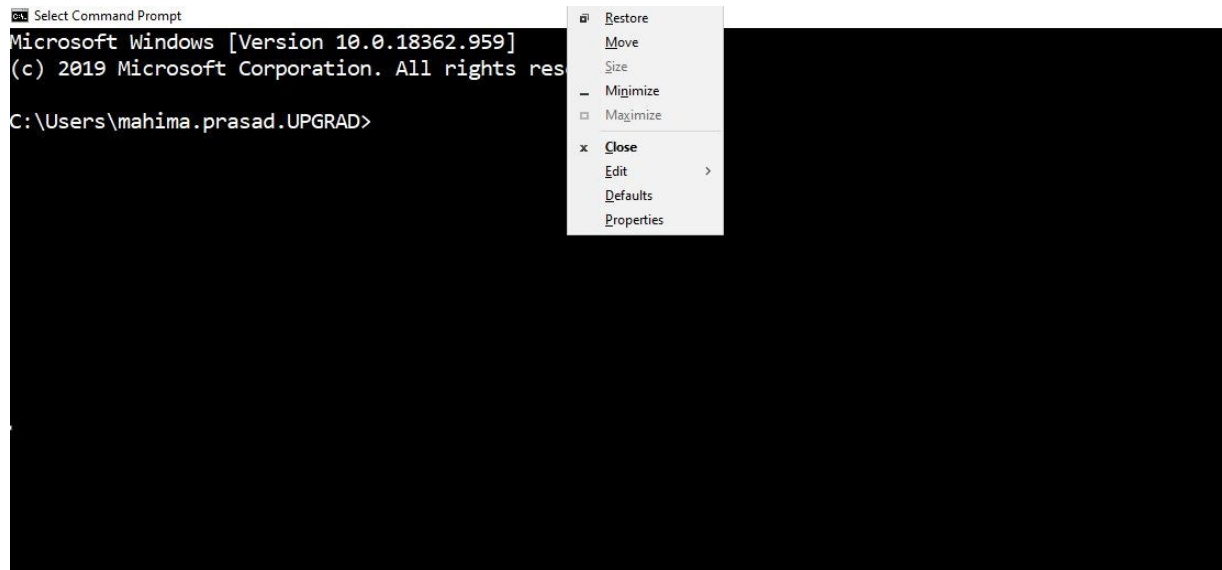
For many people, the black background and the white text on the top of it might cause a bit of strain to the eyes. Also, the font size might be quite small for their liking. So, let's learn how we can customize them both - the background as well as the font size.

First, right-click on the top of the command line window and you'll see a menu pop-up
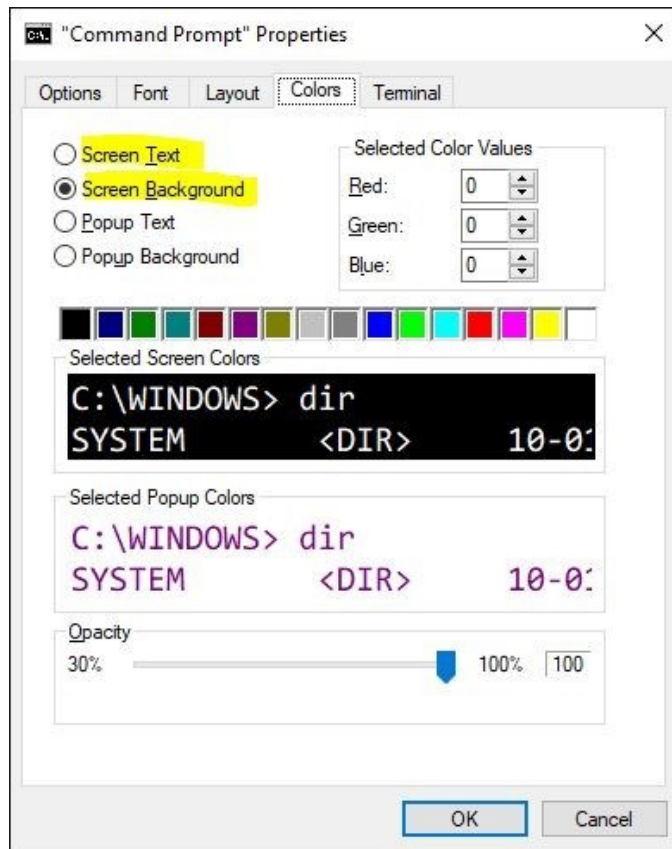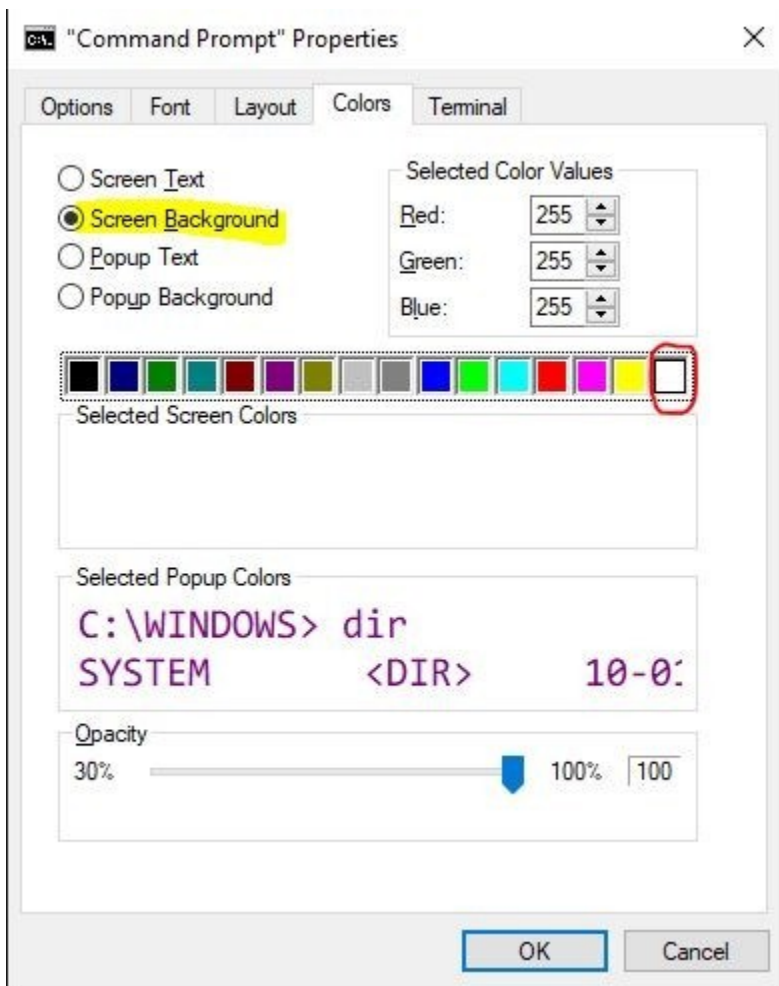
Click on properties. This will open up the following menu
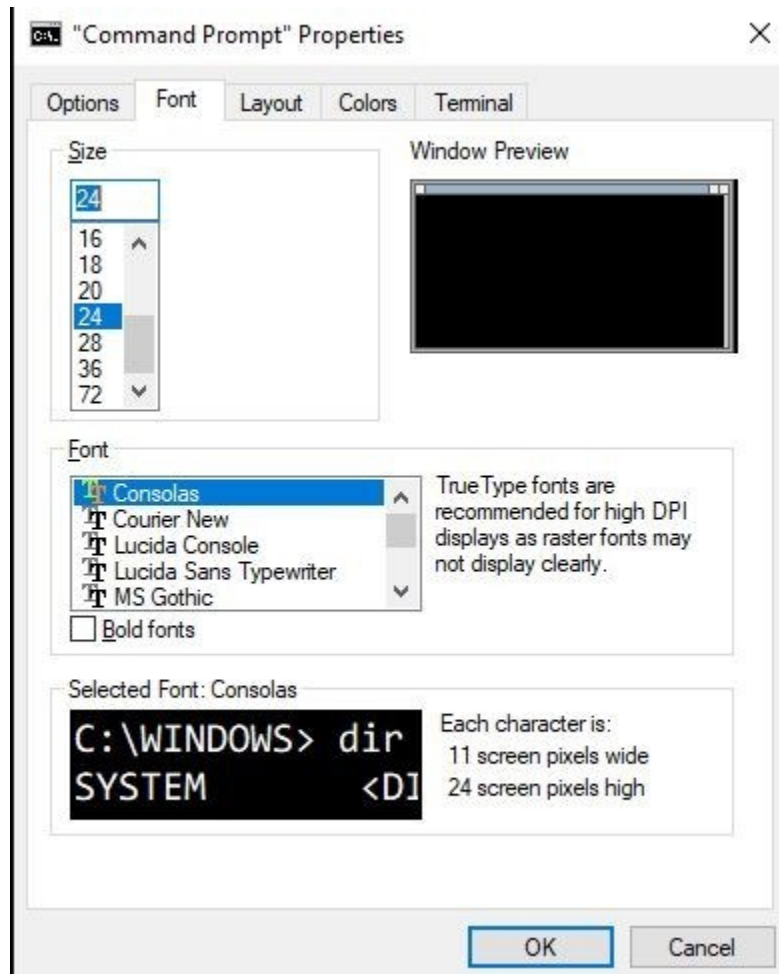
On the top, go to the Font Tab. Select the font size that you want (Ideally 26-36).

Next, in order to change the background colour and the text colour, move to the Colors tab. We need to change the Screen Text and the Screen Background colours as highlighted in the image below

For changing the screen background colour, click on the screen background button(highlighted in yellow) and click on the colour you want(marked in red). In the image below a white background has been chosen as that is one of the most common background colour preferences.

Now move to the Screen Text tab. Here also change the text colour to your preferences. In the image below, a black font colour has been chosen.
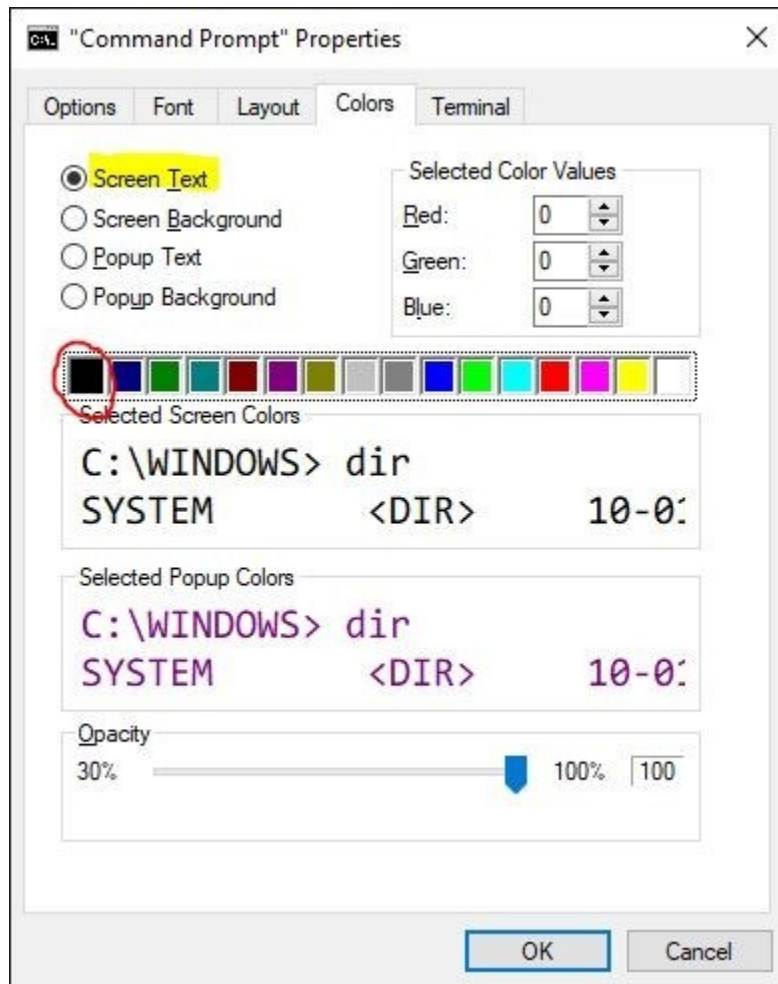
Once all the changes have been, click on OK and then restart your command line. Now it should look like this.

```
Command Prompt                                                        —    □    ×
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.959]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\mahima.prasad.UPGRAD>
```

If you want you can have other customised font colour and background colour combinations as well.

2) Changing the Edit settings

By default, the Edit options aren't very intuitive in the Command-Line. If you want to reuse old pieces of code, you won't be able to copy-paste them by default. However, you can tweak the settings to use these features. Once again right-click on the top of Command Line window and Click on Properties.
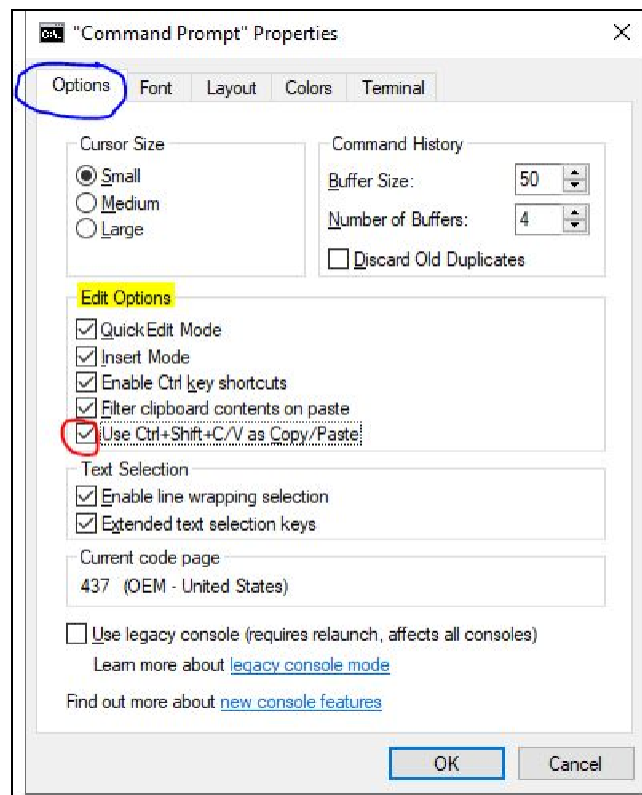
Next, we need to move to the Options tab (marked in blue). Here, under the Edit Options (highlighted in yellow), the 'Use Ctrl+Shift+C/V as Copy/Paste' would be unchecked by default. Click on the box and Mark it as checked and click OK (marked in red)

Now you can copy and paste the codes on Command Line using the Short-cuts **Ctrl+Shift+C/V**.

3) Restrict the auto-scroller

It may so happen that sometimes when you're writing a piece of code, you accidentally scroll down pretty fast. This may result in the command line moving down to an empty screen.

You can restrict this feature on the Command Line with the following steps. Go to Properties > Terminal Tab > Terminal Scrolling section> Click on **Disable Scroll-Forward**> Click OK.
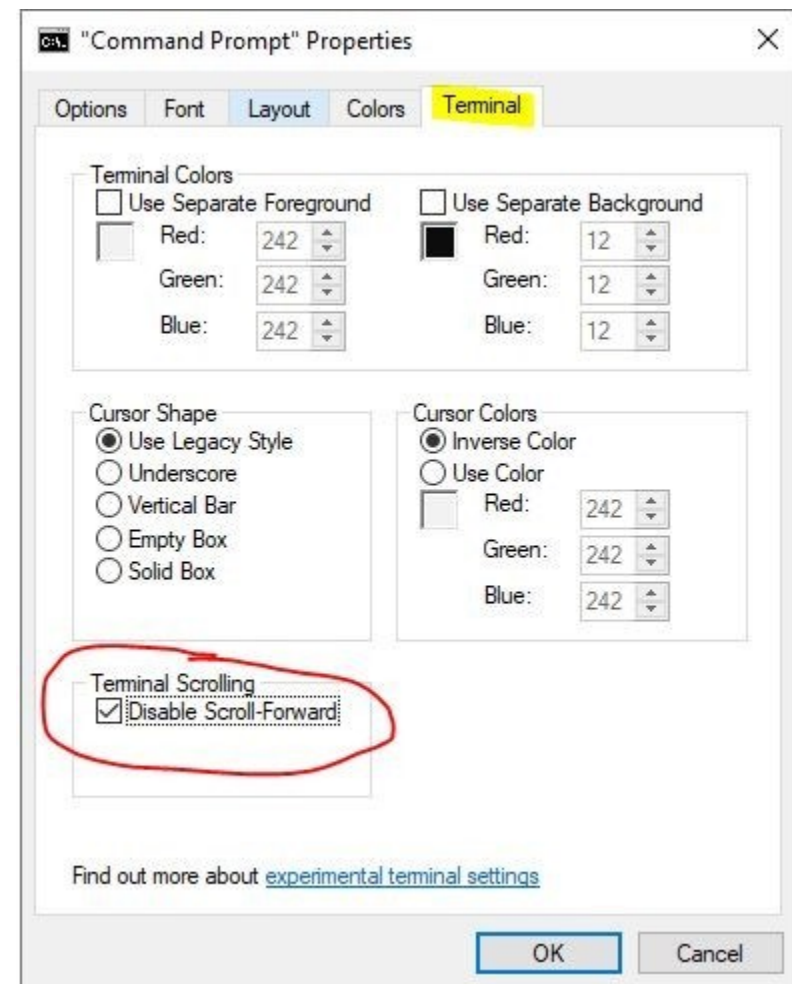
4) Use notepad for Long Queries

Command-Line has a bit of notoriety for not having a built-in undo option (Like the Ctrl+Z shortcut) similar to other coding consoles that can help you in going back to an earlier piece of code that has been just changed. Therefore, it's pretty easy to click on the wrong button and suddenly you may find that all your code is gone.

Unfortunately, the only workaround here is to use the notepad for writing the code and then pasting the code on the command line and then adjusting and making the changes. If you're anticipating that you're going to write a long piece of code, make sure you write it on notepad first. Copy the code from notepad and paste it on the command line. If any error occurs and your code gets lost due to an issue, you can always refer to the code that you wrote on the notepad and not write the entire code once again. So, since this is your first time working on the console, it will be a good practice to write codes on the notepad and then paste it.

Important: Don't press **"Ctrl + C"** accidentally for pasting since this shortcut is used to close the mongo terminal.

5) Use the Up and Down arrows to scroll through and copy the previously executed commands automatically

Command-Line has an intuitive feature that allows you to scroll through past executed commands and copy it to the cursor automatically. Click on the Up and Down arrows on the bottom right of your keyboard to get codes that you have written previously.

6) Changing the cursor type

You might have noticed that the cursor type on the command prompt is a bit different from what you generally work with. Fortunately, you can change this option as well in **Properties -> Terminal**. This window is shown on the image on the right. Here you can choose the cursor shape from the window highlighted in yellow.