

# Windows shortcut to run git bash script

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asked 4 years, 3 months ago

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Assuming I have a test.sh script that runs a server and Git Bash installed, how do I create a Windows shortcut that I can double click to run tesh.sh in Git Bash in the foreground and allows me to see the output of the server?

windows shell desktop msysgit git-bash

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edited Feb 5 '14 at 15:19

asked Feb 4 '14 at 21:51



konyak

4,478 ● 2 ● 30 ● 48

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## 4 Answers

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55



Git bash is already a batch file with content similar to this :

```
C:\WINNT\system32\cmd.exe /c ""C:\Git\bin\sh.exe" --login -i"
```

If you want **run (and leave running) a shell script** in the context of the shell, specify it at the command line. The trick is that when the script file name is interpreted, it uses the *Windows path*, not the equivalent path in the sh/Git environment.

In other words, to run the file `D:\temp\test.sh` in the Git shell and leave it running, create this batch file :

```
C:\WINNT\system32\cmd.exe /c ""C:\Git\bin\sh.exe" --login -i -- D:\temp\test.sh"
```

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On the other hand, if you want to **run a script and get your shell back**, you should :

1. Open the shell as is
2. Edit or create `~/.profile` (try `vi ~/.profile`)
3. Add this line : `~/test.sh` (ajdust the path if needed)

So with a `.profile` that looks like this :

```
echo Executing .profile
/bin/sh ~/test.sh
```

And `test.sh` that looks like this :

```
echo Hello, World!
```

You will get this prompt :

```
Welcome to Git (version 1.7.11-preview20120710)

Run 'git help git' to display the help index.
Run 'git help <command>' to display help for specific commands.
Executing .profile
Hello, World!

ixe013@PARALINT01 ~
$
```

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edited Feb 5 '14 at 15:38

answered Feb 5 '14 at 15:07



ixe013

6,919 ● 2 ● 32 ● 58

Awesome, after I revised the question, I realized I didn't need it to return to the Gish Bash shell prompt after executing the script. – [konyak](#) Feb 5 '14 at 15:56

Is there a way to suppress the four lines "Welcome to Git ..." at the beginning? – [BillyTom](#) May 31 '16 at 6:50

1 Found it already - it is just a plain text file: etc/motd – [BillyTom](#) May 31 '16 at 6:59

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For many it'll be `C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe /c ""C:\Program Files\Git\bin\sh.exe" --login -i -- D:\temp\test.sh"` – [Hannes Schneidermayer](#) Apr 9 '17 at 18:01

Using `-i` while also specifying a script to execute is mostly pointless - the `bash` instance will *not* stay open, and to the script it will look like it's being run in an interactive shell, which is irrelevant at best, and can result in different behavior at worst. You should make it clearer that your profile-based solution will invoke the script for *all* future login shells, which may be undesired. – [mklement0](#) Apr 9 '17 at 21:05

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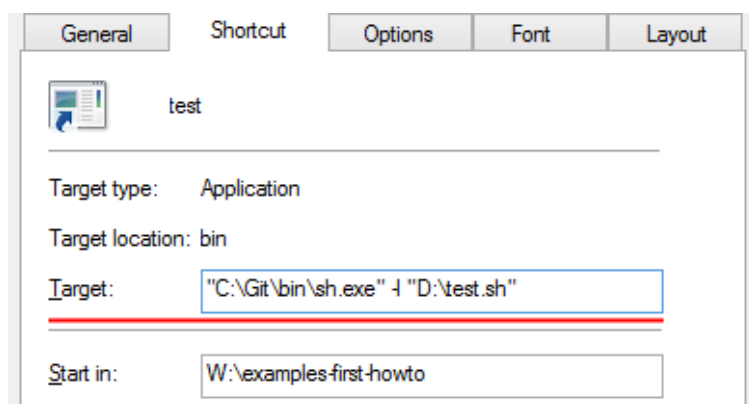
Other answers work, but there is a shorter solution, that fully answers the **question**, which was:

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How to create a Windows shortcut that I can double click to run `tesh.sh` in Git Bash

The **answer** is: add the following command to the `Target:` field of the shortcut:

```
"C:\Git\bin\sh.exe" -l "D:\test.sh"
```



Where, `-l` is the short for `--login`.

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To better understand what this command does, consult with official GNU docs about [Invoking Bash](#):

- `-l ( --login )`: Make this shell act as if it had been directly invoked by login. When the shell is interactive, this is equivalent to starting a login shell with `exec -l bash`. When the shell is not interactive, the login shell startup files will be executed. `exec bash -l` or `exec bash --login` will replace the current shell with a Bash login shell.

Also note that:

- You either need the full path to `sh.exe` or have it in your `PATH` environment variable (as others have already pointed out).
- If you really need to force shell invocation in interactive mode, you can add the `-i` option
- The last parameter is the path to the script that has to be executed. This path should be in Windows format.

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answered Feb 28 '16 at 16:58



[quasoft](#)

3,095 ● 21 ● 30

3 +1 Perfect. Just one additional advice: Save your \*.sh script as UTF-8 (**no** Windows 1252 like notepad does and **no** UTF8-BOM like Visual Studio does!) – [Marcel](#) Mar 17 '17 at 14:58

1 Note that this will automatically close the window when the script terminates, so your answer doesn't satisfy the "allows me to see the output of the server" requirement. Also, by running the script in a regular console window that defaults to the Windows OEM code page, you may run into character encoding issues. – [mklement0](#) Apr 9 '17 at 21:15

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I'd recommend to use environment variable `%ComSpec%`, instead of absolute path to `cmd` :

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```
%ComSpec% /c ""C:\Program Files (x86)\Git\bin\sh.exe" --login -i"
```



or even just `cmd` command, which is usually available from `%PATH%`:

```
cmd /c ""C:\Program Files (x86)\Git\bin\sh.exe" --login -i"
```

if your `C:\Program Files (x86)\Git\bin` added to `PATH` (which is also common solution and one of cases on *TortoiseGit* installing) you can use just:

```
cmd /c "sh --login -i"
```

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edited Feb 28 '16 at 21:41

answered Jul 11 '15 at 14:29



radistao

4,676 ● 3 ● 21 ● 43

I had to use `cmd.exe` (with the `.exe` extension), otherwise, it would not run. – Jon Apr 14 '16 at 13:32 ✎

check your `PATHEXT` environmen varialbe, it should be something like this  
`.COM;.EXE;.BAT;.CMD;.VBS;.VBE;.JS;.JSE;.WSF;.WSH;.MSC` – radistao Apr 14 '16 at 21:01

`PATHEXT=.COM;.EXE;.BAT;.CMD;.VBS;.VBE;.JS;.JSE;.WSF;.WSH;.MSC;.PY;.PYW` – Jon Apr 15 '16 at 20:39

is there any error message when you run `cmd ?` – radistao Apr 16 '16 at 20:53

If you create a *shortcut file* as requested by the OP, `cmd.exe` needn't be involved at all. – mklement0 Apr 9 '17 at 21:18

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▲ Best solution in my opinion:

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Invokes the right shell, no unnecessary windows and invokes a bash script afterwards; the window will stay open after the script exits:

- **Create a shortcut** to `mintty.exe` on your desktop, for example
- **Edit properties** of the shortcut and change the target (keep the path):

```
"C:\Program Files\Git\usr\bin\mintty.exe" -h always /bin/bash -l -e  
'D:\folder\script.sh'
```

Explanation of the parameters:

`-h` always keeps the window open when the script finished, so the window won't disappear while you are still reading the output (remove if you don't need to read the output and want the window to close automatically).

`-l` makes this shell act as if it had been directly invoked by login.

`-e` exits immediately if a pipeline returns a non-zero status ([more info](#)).

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[edited Mar 28 at 10:43](#)

answered Apr 9 '17 at 18:54



[Hannes Schneidermayer](#)

877 ● 1 ● 9 ● 16

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