

Essential Windows CMD Commands You Should Know



ASSOC	Displays or modifies file extension associations
ATTRIB	Displays or changes file attributes
BREAK	Sets or clears extended CTRL+C checking
BCDBOOT	Used to copy critical files to the system partition and to create a new system BCD store
BCDEDIT	Sets properties in boot database to control boot loading
CACLS	Shows or changes access control lists (ACLs) of files
CALL	Calls a batch program from another
CD	Shows the name of or changes to a current directory
CHCP	Displays or sets the active code page number
CHDIR	Displays the name of or changes to the current directory
CHKDSK	Checks a disk and displays a status report
CHKNTFS	Displays or modifies the checking of disk at boot time
CHOICE	Batch file command that allows users to select from a set of options
CIPHER	Displays or alters the encryption of directories (files) on NTFS partitions
CLIP	Redirects output off another command to the Windows clipboard
CLS	Clears the screen
CMD	Starts a new instance of the Windows command interpreter
CMDKEY	Creates, lists, and deletes stored user names and passwords or credentials
COLOR	Sets the default console colors
COMP	Compares the contents of two files or sets of files byte-by-byte
COMPACT	Displays or alters the compression of files on NTFS partitions
CONVERT	Converts FAT volumes to NTFS. You cannot convert the current drive
COPY	Copies one or more files to another location
DATE	Displays or sets the date
DEFRAG	Disk defragment accessory
DEL	Deletes one or more files
DIR	Displays a list of files and sub-directories in a directory
DISKCOMP	Compares the contents of two floppy disks
DISKCOPY	Copies the contents of one floppy disk to another
DISKPART	Displays or configures Disk Partition properties
DOSKEY	Edits command lines, recalls Windows commands, and creates macros
DRIVERQUERY	Displays current device driver status and properties
ECHO	Displays messages, or turns commands echoing on or off
ENDLOCAL	Ends localization of environment changes in a batch file
ERASE	Deletes one or more files
EXIT	Quits and closes the command shell
EXPAND	Expands compressed files
FC	Compares two files or sets of files, and displays the differences between them
FIND	Searches for a text string in a file or files
FINDSTR	Searches for strings in files
FOR	Runs a specified command for each item in a set
FORFILES	Selects files in a folder for batch processing
FORMAT	Formats a disc for use with Windows
FSUTIL	Displays or configures the file system properties
FTYPE	Displays or modifies file types used in file extensions associations
GOTO	Directs the Windows command interpreter to a labeled line in a batch program
GPRESULT	Displays Group Policy Information for machine or user.
GRAFTABL	Enables Windows to display an extended character set in graphics mode
HELP	Provides help information for Windows commands
ICACLS	Display, modify, backup, or restore ACLs for files and directories
IF	Performs conditional processing in batch programs.
IPCONFIG	Displays all current TCP/IP network configuration values
LABEL	Creates, changes, or deletes the volume label of a disk

MD	Creates a directory
MKDIR	Creates a directory
MKLINK	Creates Symbolic Links and Hard Links
MODE	Configures a system device
MORE	Displays output one screen at a time
MOVE	Moves one or more files from one directory to another directory
NETSTAT	Returns a list of currently open ports and related IP addresses
OPENFILES	Queries, displays, or disconnects open files or files opened by network users
PATH	Displays or sets a search path for executable files
PATHPING	Advanced version of ping, used if there are multiple routers between your PC and the device you're testing
PAUSE	Suspends processing of a batch file
PING	Sends a series of test packets to the specified address
POPD	Restores the previous value of the current directory saved by PUSH
POWERCFG	Manages and tracks energy utilization and power consumption
PRINT	Prints a text file
PROMPT	Changes the Windows command prompt
PUSHD	Saves the current directory then changes it
RD	Removes a directory
RECIMG	Configures the custom Windows recovery image
RECOVER	Recovers readable information from a bad or defective disk
REM	Designates comments (remarks) in batch files
REN	Renames a file or files
RENAME	Renames a file or files
REPLACE	Replaces files
RMDIR	Removes a directory
ROBOCOPY	Advanced utility to copy files and directory trees
SET	Displays, sets, or removes environment variables for current session
SETLOCAL	Begins localization of environment changes in a batch file
SETX	Sets environment variables
SFC	Finds corrupt/missing files, replaces them with cached copies
SC	Displays or configures services (background processes)
SCHTASKS	Schedules commands and programs to run on a computer
SHIFT	Shifts the position of replaceable parameters in batch files
SHUTDOWN	Allows proper local or remote shutdown of machine
SORT	Sorts input
START	Starts a separate window to run a specified programs or command
SUBST	Associates a path with a drive letter
SYSTEMINFO	Displays machine specific properties and configuration
TAKEOWN	Allows an administrator to take ownership of a file
TASKLIST	Displays all currently running tasks including services
TASKKILL	Kill running process or applications
TIME	Displays or sets the system time
TIMEOUT	Pauses the command processor for the specified number of seconds
TITLE	Sets the window title for a CMD.EXE session
TRACERT	Returns information about each step in the route between your PC and the target
TREE	Graphically displays the directory structure of a drive or path
TYPE	Displays the contents of a text file
VER	Displays the Windows version
VERIFY	Tells Windows whether or verify that your files are written correctly to a disk
VOL	Displays a disk volume label and serial number
VSSADMIN	Volume Shadow Copy Service administration tool
WHERE	Displays the locations of files that match a search pattern
WMIC	Displays WMI information inside interactive command shell
XCOPY	Copies files and directory trees