

# Essential Windows CMD Commands You Should Know



<b>ASSOC</b>	Displays or modifies file extension associations	<b>MD</b>	Creates a directory
<b>ATTRIB</b>	Displays or changes file attributes	<b>MKDIR</b>	Creates a directory
<b>BREAK</b>	Sets or clears extended CTRL+C checking	<b>MKLINK</b>	Creates Symbolic Links and Hard Links
<b>BCDBOOT</b>	Used to copy critical files to the system partition and to create a new system BCD store	<b>MODE</b>	Configures a system device
<b>BCDEDIT</b>	Sets properties in boot database to control boot loading	<b>MORE</b>	Displays output one screen at a time
<b>CACLS</b>	Shows or changes access control lists (ACLs) of files	<b>MOVE</b>	Moves one or more files from one directory to another directory
<b>CALL</b>	Calls a batch program from another	<b>NETSTAT</b>	Returns a list of currently open ports and related IP addresses
<b>CD</b>	Shows the name of or changes to a current directory	<b>OPENFILES</b>	Queries, displays, or disconnects open files or files opened by network users
<b>CHCP</b>	Displays or sets the active code page number	<b>PATH</b>	Displays or sets a search path for executable files
<b>CHDIR</b>	Displays the name of or changes to the current directory	<b>PATHPING</b>	Advanced version of ping, used if there are multiple routers between your PC and the device you're testing
<b>CHKDSK</b>	Checks a disk and displays a status report	<b>PAUSE</b>	Suspends processing of a batch file
<b>CHKNTFS</b>	Displays or modifies the checking of disk at boot time	<b>PING</b>	Sends a series of test packets to the specified address
<b>CHOICE</b>	Batch file command that allows users to select from a set of options	<b>POPD</b>	Restores the previous value of the current directory saved by PUSH D
<b>CIPHER</b>	Displays or alters the encryption of directories (files) on NTFS partitions	<b>POWERCFG</b>	Manages and tracks energy utilization and power consumption
<b>CLIP</b>	Redirects output off another command to the Windows clipboard	<b>PRINT</b>	Prints a text file
<b>CLS</b>	Clears the screen	<b>PROMPT</b>	Changes the Windows command prompt
<b>CMD</b>	Starts a new instance of the Windows command interpreter	<b>PUSHD</b>	Saves the current directory then changes it
<b>CMDKEY</b>	Creates, lists, and deletes stored user names and passwords or credentials	<b>RD</b>	Removes a directory
<b>COLOR</b>	Sets the default console colors	<b>RECI MG</b>	Configures the custom Windows recovery image
<b>COMP</b>	Compares the contents of two files or sets of files byte-by-byte	<b>RECOVER</b>	Recovers readable information from a bad or defective disk
<b>COMPACT</b>	Displays or alters the compression of files on NTFS partitions	<b>REM</b>	Designates comments (remarks) in batch files
<b>CONVERT</b>	Converts FAT volumes to NTFS. You cannot convert the current drive	<b>REN</b>	Renames a file or files
<b>COPY</b>	Copies one or more files to another location	<b>RENAME</b>	Renames a file or files
<b>DATE</b>	Displays or sets the date	<b>REPLACE</b>	Replaces files
<b>DEFRAG</b>	Disk defragment accessory	<b>RMDIR</b>	Removes a directory
<b>DEL</b>	Deletes one or more files	<b>ROBOCOPY</b>	Advanced utility to copy files and directory trees
<b>DIR</b>	Displays a list of files and sub-directories in a directory	<b>SET</b>	Displays, sets, or removes environment variables for current session
<b>DISKCOMP</b>	Compares the contents of two floppy disks	<b>SETLOCAL</b>	Begins localization of environment changes in a batch file
<b>DISKCOPY</b>	Copies the contents of one floppy disk to another	<b>SETX</b>	Sets environment variables
<b>DISKPART</b>	Displays or configures Disk Partition properties	<b>SFC</b>	Finds corrupt/missing files, replaces them with cached copies
<b>DOSKEY</b>	Edits command lines, recalls Windows commands, and creates macros	<b>SC</b>	Displays or configures services (background processes)
<b>DRIVERQUERY</b>	Displays current device driver status and properties	<b>SCHTASKS</b>	Schedules commands and programs to run on a computer
<b>ECHO</b>	Displays messages, or turns commands echoing on or off	<b>SHIFT</b>	Shifts the position of replaceable parameters in batch files
<b>ENDLOCAL</b>	Ends localization of environment changes in a batch file	<b>SHUTDOWN</b>	Allows proper local or remote shutdown of machine
<b>ERASE</b>	Deletes one or more files	<b>SORT</b>	Sorts input
<b>EXIT</b>	Quits and closes the command shell	<b>START</b>	Starts a separate window to run a specified programs or command
<b>EXPAND</b>	Expands compressed files	<b>SUBST</b>	Associates a path with a drive letter
<b>FC</b>	Compares two files or sets of files, and displays the differences between them	<b>SYSTEMINFO</b>	Displays machine specific properties and configuration
<b>FIND</b>	Searches for a text string in a file or files	<b>TAKEOWN</b>	Allows an administrator to take ownership of a file
<b>FINDSTR</b>	Searches for strings in files	<b>TASKLIST</b>	Displays all currently running tasks including services
<b>FOR</b>	Runs a specified command for each item in a set	<b>TASKKILL</b>	Kill running process or applications
<b>FORFILES</b>	Selects files in a folder for batch processing	<b>TIME</b>	Displays or sets the system time
<b>FORMAT</b>	Formats a disc for use with Windows	<b>TIMEOUT</b>	Pauses the command processor for the specified number of seconds
<b>FSUTIL</b>	Displays or configures the file system properties	<b>TITLE</b>	Sets the window title for a CMD.EXE session
<b>FTYPE</b>	Displays or modifies file types used in file extensions associations	<b>TRACERT</b>	Returns information about each step in the route between your PC and the target
<b>GOTO</b>	Directs the Windows command interpreter to a labeled line in a batch program	<b>TREE</b>	Graphically displays the directory structure of a drive or path
<b>GPRESULT</b>	Displays Group Policy Information for machine or user.	<b>TYPE</b>	Displays the contents of a text file
<b>GRAFTABL</b>	Enables Windows to display an extended character set in graphics mode	<b>VER</b>	Displays the Windows version
<b>HELP</b>	Provides help information for Windows commands	<b>VERIFY</b>	Tells Windows whether or verify that your files are written correctly to a disk
<b>ICACLS</b>	Display, modify, backup, or restore ACLs for files and directories	<b>VOL</b>	Displays a disk volume label and serial number
<b>IF</b>	Performs conditional processing in batch programs.	<b>VSSADMIN</b>	Volume Shadow Copy Service administration tool
<b>IPCONFIG</b>	Displays all current TCP/IP network configuration values	<b>WHERE</b>	Displays the locations of files that match a search pattern
<b>LABEL</b>	Creates, changes, or deletes the volume label of a disk	<b>WMIC</b>	Displays WMI information inside interactive command shell
		<b>XCOPY</b>	Copies files and directory trees