

Basic Command Line Uses

Navigation and file operation basics

- Move around in the file-system (FS) with `cd`
- Delete files using `del`
- Delete folders (directories) using `rmdir`

Preface

Command Prompt and PowerShell are interchangeable for most basic tasks in Windows. For the purpose of this guide either can be used and any differences will be noted.

cd

When you open Command Prompt as a standard user (not as admin) you are by default located in `C:\Users\<username>` (your user folder) this can be seen in the prompt as well.

When opening Command Prompt as admin you will be put into `C:\Windows\System32` by default.

We do not often want to work in the root of our user profile or in System32 so we will need to change what folder we are in. Folders can also called "Directories", if we want to Change Directory we will use `cd`.

Say we want want to remove a file that is in `C:\Users\FooRoo\Downloads`, we will `cd` to that directory by running `cd C:\Users\FooRoo\Downloads`. The prompt in your Command Prompt or PowerShell will change to this new path letting us know where we are now working out of.

del

Using `del` is simple, we call the command and a file name that we want to delete. We are in our Downloads folder and want to delete a file called "ChromeInstaller.exe".

```
del ChromeInstaller.exe
```

If we did not want to `cd` first we could have called `del` against a fully qualified path instead: `del C:\Users\FooRoo\Downloads\ChromeInstaller.exe`

rmdir

In addition to the `ChromeInstaller.exe` file in our Downloads we also want to remove a folder there called `temp` and all of its contents.

Assuming we are still in the proper directory we will remove `temp` and everything inside of it with:

```
rmdir /s temp
```

The `/s` on this command specifies that we want the folder and everything in it gone. If we tried to only `rmdir temp` we would get an error about it having children items.

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