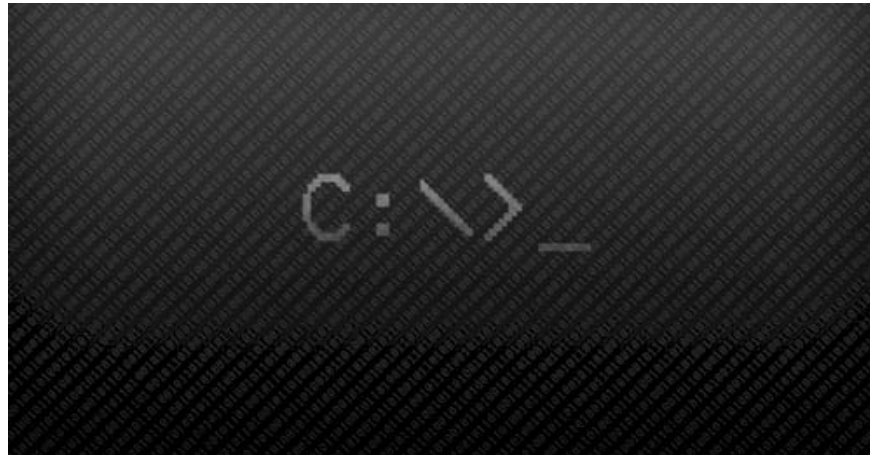


# 15 common Command Prompt commands you should know on your computer.

This compilation of 15 Command Prompt (CMD) commands on your computer will help you perform various tasks such as checking your network IP address, checking your internet connection speed, automatically shutting down your computer, and more. Follow the detailed CMD commands below to apply them to your daily work.

Microsoft has slowly but surely pushed the command line aside in the Windows interface. This is not without reason, as it is an outdated tool and largely unnecessary from a time when command-line input was done via text.



However, many commands are still useful today, and even Windows 8 and Windows 10 have added new features. Therefore, today, Taimienphi will introduce you to **15 popular Command Prompt commands** you should know. All of them will be in the following article.

Here are 15 common Command Prompt commands you should know.

## *1. Ipconfig*

This command forwards the IP address your computer is currently using. However, if your device is connected to a router (like most computers these days), you will receive the router's internal network address.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Wireless LAN adapter Wireless Network Connection 3:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

Ethernet adapter UPN - UPN Client:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection* 12:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

Wireless LAN adapter Wireless Network Connection 2:
```

However, ipconfig can be useful with extensions. " **ipconfig /Release** " and " **ipconfig /renew** " can force your device to search for a new IP address, which is helpful if your computer doesn't have an IP address available. You can also use " **ipconfig /flushdns** " to refresh your DNS address.

### 2. Netstat

Entering the command "netstat -an" will give you a list of open ports and their associated IP addresses.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>netstat -an

Active Connections

Proto Local Address           Foreign Address         State
TCP    0.0.0.0:80              0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:135            0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:443            0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:445            0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:36162          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:49152          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:49153          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:49154          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:49157          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    0.0.0.0:49158          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    127.0.0.1:1001         0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    127.0.0.1:5354         0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    127.0.0.1:5354         127.0.0.1:49155        ESTABLISHED
TCP    127.0.0.1:5354         127.0.0.1:49156        ESTABLISHED
TCP    127.0.0.1:5939        0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    127.0.0.1:27015       0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
TCP    127.0.0.1:27015       127.0.0.1:49166        ESTABLISHED
```

This is a very useful command when you're trying to troubleshoot devices connected to your computer or when you're worried about a Trojan infecting your system and you're trying to locate a malicious connection.

### 3. Ping

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>ping tainienphi.vn

Pinging tainienphi.vn [123.30.238.26] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 123.30.238.26: bytes=32 time=10ms TTL=118
Reply from 123.30.238.26: bytes=32 time=4ms TTL=118
Reply from 123.30.238.26: bytes=32 time=3ms TTL=118
Reply from 123.30.238.26: bytes=32 time=3ms TTL=118

Ping statistics for 123.30.238.26:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 3ms, Maximum = 10ms, Average = 5ms

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>_
```

Ping (Packet Internet Groper) is used to check if two devices on a network can connect to each other. Ping is also used to measure packet latency on a network. Most operating systems, such as Linux and Windows, support the ping command.

#### 4. PathPing

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - pathping tainienphi.vn
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>pathping tainienphi.vn

Tracing route to tainienphi.vn [123.30.238.26]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
  0  Lenovo-01-PC [192.168.1.36]
  1  192.168.1.1
  2  125.235.243.172.adsl.viettel.vn [125.235.243.172]
  3  125.235.243.5.adsl.viettel.vn [125.235.243.5]
  4  Lenovo-01-PC [27.68.229.9]
  5  Lenovo-01-PC [27.68.228.26]
  6  123.29.0.0.static.vnpt.vn [123.29.16.85]
  7  * * *
Computing statistics for 150 seconds...
```

This is a more advanced version of ping, useful if you have multiple routers between your computer and the devices you're testing. Like ping, you use this command by typing " **pathping** " followed by the IP address, but unlike ping, pathping also forwards some information about the routes the test packets are taking.

#### 5. Tracert

```

Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>tracert tainienphi.vn

Tracing route to tainienphi.vn [123.30.238.26]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
  0  1  2 ms   2 ms   2 ms  192.168.1.1
  1  2  31 ms  27 ms  17 ms  125.235.243.172.adsl.viettel.vn [125.235.243.172]
  2  3  6 ms   14 ms  7 ms  125.235.243.5.adsl.viettel.vn [125.235.243.5]
  3  4  8 ms   15 ms  7 ms  Lenovo-01-PC [27.68.229.9]
  4  5  3 ms   9 ms   13 ms  Lenovo-01-PC [27.68.228.26]
  5  6  2 ms   3 ms   3 ms  123.29.0.0.static.vnpt.vn [123.29.16.85]
  6  7  *      *      *      Request timed out.
  7  8  4 ms   12 ms  9 ms  static.vnpt.vn [113.171.27.138]
  8  9  3 ms   10 ms  3 ms  static.vnpt.vn [113.171.33.251]
  9 10  4 ms   3 ms   3 ms  static.vnpt.vn [123.30.238.26]

Trace complete.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>_

```

The " **tracert** " command is similar to **pathping** . When you type " **tracert** " followed by the IP address or domain name you want to access in CMD, you will receive information about each step in the path between your computer and the target. Unlike pathping, tracert also tracks how much time (in milliseconds) elapses between servers or devices.

## 6. Shutdown

Just like on Windows 8/8.1, you will have a command to shut down your computer.

```

Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-01-PC>shutdown /r /o
Usage: shutdown [/i | /l | /s | /r | /g | /a | /p | /h | /e] [/f]
        [/m \\computer] [/t xxx] [/d [plu:]xx:yy [/c "comment"]]

No args      Display help. This is the same as typing /?.
/?           Display help. This is the same as not typing any options.
/i           Display the graphical user interface (GUI).
             This must be the first option.
/l           Log off. This cannot be used with /m or /d options.
/s           Shutdown the computer.
/r           Shutdown and restart the computer.
/g           Shutdown and restart the computer. After the system is
             rebooted, restart any registered applications.
/a           Abort a system shutdown.
             This can only be used during the time-out period.
/p           Turn off the local computer with no time-out or warning.
             Can be used with /d and /f options.
/h           Hibernate the local computer.
             Can be used with the /f option.
/e           Document the reason for an unexpected shutdown of a computer.
/m \\computer Specify the target computer.
/t xxx      Set the time-out period before shutdown to xxx seconds.

```

This is, of course, a backup option with the shutdown button; what we have is the command " **shutdown /r /o** ", which restarts your computer and launches the advanced start menu, where you can access Safe Mode and the recovery utility window. This command is quite useful if you want to restart your computer for troubleshooting purposes.

## 7. System File Checker

System File Checker is an automated scanning and repair tool that focuses on Windows system files.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - sfc /scannow
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>sfc /scannow

Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.

Beginning verification phase of system scan.
Verification 2% complete.
```

You will need to run Command Prompt with administrator privileges and enter the command " **sfc /scannow** ". If SFC finds any corrupted or missing files, it will automatically replace them using a Windows backup for this purpose. CMD commands can take quite a while to execute on older laptops.

### 8. Tasklist

You can use the `tasklist` command to ask the system to display a list of all currently running programs on your computer. While this might seem redundant since we already have Task Manager, sometimes this CMD command allows us to see hidden running tasks.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

chrome.exe           2352 Console           1           59,516 K
chrome.exe           4728 Console           1           35,284 K
chrome.exe           4648 Console           1           72,108 K
chrome.exe           4676 Console           1           24,132 K
Skype.exe            5092 Console           1          115,644 K
SkypeBrowserHost.exe 5300 Console           1           44,620 K
SkypeBrowserHost.exe 5924 Console           1           77,880 K
FSCapture.exe        5324 Console           1           2,416 K
Photoshop.exe        4332 Console           1          106,096 K
spluov64.exe         4312 Console           1           4,804 K
wordpad.exe          1896 Console           1           40,288 K
chrome.exe           6004 Console           1          193,108 K
filezilla.exe        5880 Console           1           26,880 K
chrome.exe           3128 Console           1          115,532 K
chrome.exe           5980 Console           1          210,436 K
ArticleTool.exe     5372 Console           1           65,848 K
chrome.exe           5364 Console           1          297,856 K
wordpad.exe          1920 Console           1           39,344 K
audiodg.exe          824 Services           0           17,576 K
cmd.exe              5204 Console           1           3,028 K
conhost.exe          4100 Console           1           5,860 K
tasklist.exe         1724 Console           1           5,676 K
UniProSE.exe         4356 Services           0           6,308 K

C:\Users\Tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>
```

It also includes a range of tweaking tools. "Tasklist -svc" shows the services associated with each job, using "tasklist -v" gets details about each task, and "tasklist -m" will find the .dll file associated with the active task. These CMD commands are useful for advanced troubleshooting.

### 9. Taskkill

```

Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>taskkill /f /im skype.exe
SUCCESS: The process "Skype.exe" with PID 5092 has been terminated.

C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>

```

Tasks appearing in the "tasklist" command will have an executable file and a process ID (a four-digit number) associated with them. You can force stop a program by using "taskkill -im" followed by the name of the executable file, or "taskkill -pid" followed by your process. Again, this command seems a bit redundant when we already have everything in Task Manager, but you can use it to terminate an unresponsive or hidden program.

### 10. DriverQuery

```

Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
viaide      viaide      Kernel      7/14/2009 6:19:50 AM
ombus       ombus       Kernel      11/20/2010 4:57:29 PM
UMBushHID  UMBushHID  Kernel      11/20/2010 4:57:13 PM
volmgr      Volume Manager Driver Kernel      11/20/2010 4:19:23 PM
volmgrx     Dynamic Volume Manager Kernel      11/20/2010 4:20:43 PM
volnap      Storage volumes Kernel      11/20/2010 4:20:00 PM
vsmraid     vsmraid    Kernel      1/31/2009 8:18:57 AM
vvifibus   Virtual WiFi Bus Drive Kernel      7/14/2009 7:07:21 AM
vvififlt   Virtual WiFi Filter Dr Kernel      7/14/2009 7:07:22 AM
vvifimp    Microsoft Virtual WiFi Kernel      7/14/2009 7:07:28 AM
WacomPen   Wacom Serial Pen HID D Kernel      7/14/2009 7:02:07 AM
WANARP     Remote Access IP ARP D Kernel      11/20/2010 5:52:36 PM
Wanarpv6   Remote Access IPv6 ARP Kernel      11/20/2010 5:52:36 PM
Wd         Microsoft Watchdog Tim Kernel      7/14/2009 6:19:55 AM
WdfB1000   Kernel Mode Driver Fra Kernel      7/26/2012 9:25:13 AM
WfpLwf     WFP Lightweight Filter Kernel      7/14/2009 7:09:26 AM
WIMMount   WIMMount   File System  7/14/2009 6:29:31 AM
WinUsb     SAMSUNG Android USB Dr Kernel      11/20/2010 5:43:56 PM
WinAcpi    Microsoft Windows Mana Kernel      7/14/2009 6:31:02 AM
ws2ifsl    Winsock IFS Driver Kernel      7/14/2009 7:10:33 AM
UsAudioDevic UsAudioDevice_383S<1> Kernel      7/23/2009 7:04:10 PM
WudFPF     User Mode Driver Frame Kernel      11/20/2010 5:42:44 PM
WUDFRd     WUDFRd     Kernel      11/20/2010 5:43:32 PM

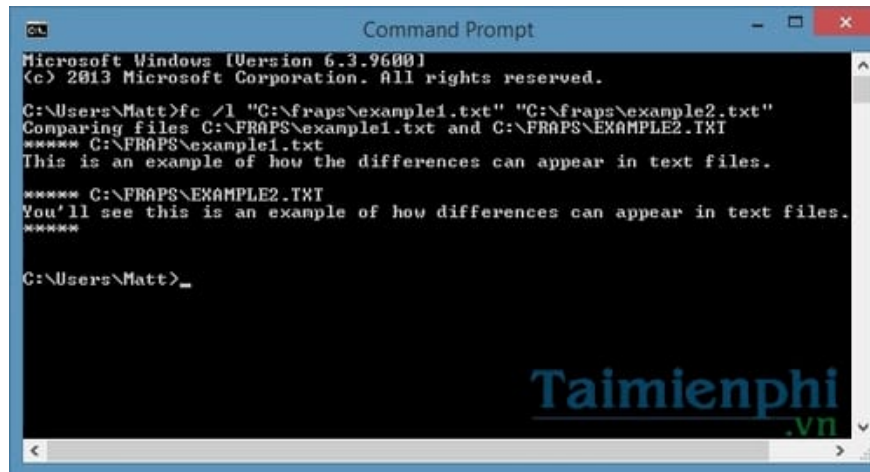
C:\Users\tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>_

```

Drivers remain the most important software installed on a computer. Incorrect configuration or the absence of drivers can cause all sorts of problems, so it's essential to obtain a list of computer access configurations, which is what the "driverquery" command does. You can also view the extended list using the "driverquery -v" command to get more information, including the directories where drivers are installed.

### 11. File Compare

You can use this command to identify differences between two text files. It's especially useful for writers and programmers trying to find subtle changes between two versions of a file. Just type "fc" followed by the directory path and filenames of the two files you want to compare.



```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.3.9600]
(c) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Matt>fc /l "C:\fraps\example1.txt" "C:\fraps\example2.txt"
Comparing files C:\FRAPS\example1.txt and C:\FRAPS\EXAMPLE2.TXT
***** C:\FRAPS\example1.txt
This is an example of how the differences can appear in text files.
***** C:\FRAPS\EXAMPLE2.TXT
You'll see this is an example of how differences can appear in text files.
*****

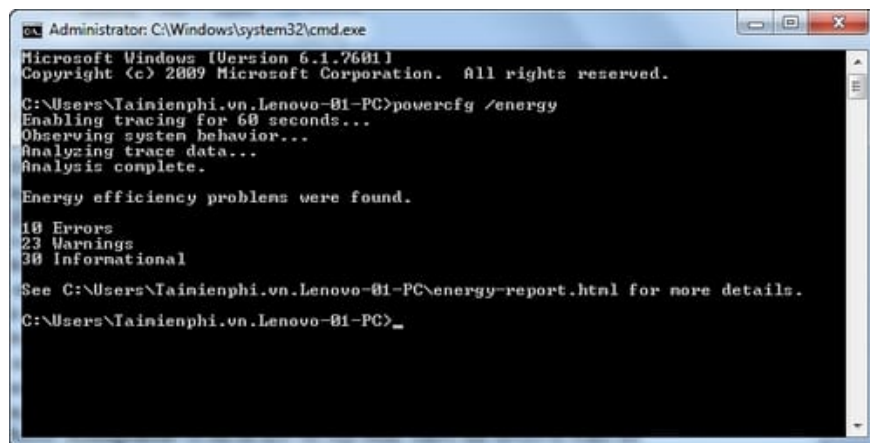
C:\Users\Matt>_
```

You can also extend CMD commands in several ways. Type "**/b**" to compare binary-only output, "**/c**" disregards the case of the text in comparison, and "**/l**" compares only text in ASCII character encoding.

## 12. Powercfg

Powercfg is a very powerful command used to manage and monitor how your computer uses energy. You can use the commands "**powercfg /hibernate on**" and "**powercfg /hibernate off**" to manage hibernation, and you can also use the command "**powercfg /a**" to see if power savers are currently available on your computer.

Another useful command is "**powercfg /devicequery s1\_supported**", which displays a list of devices on your computer that support standby. When enabled, you can use these devices to bring your computer out of standby mode, even remotely. You can enable this feature by selecting the devices in **Device Manager**, opening their properties, going to the **Power Management** tab, and then checking the "Allow this device to wake the computer" box.



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\taimienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>powercfg /energy
Enabling tracing for 60 seconds...
Observing system behavior...
Analyzing trace data...
Analysis complete.

Energy efficiency problems were found.

10 Errors
23 Warnings
30 Informational

See C:\Users\taimienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC\energy-report.html for more details.

C:\Users\taimienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>_
```

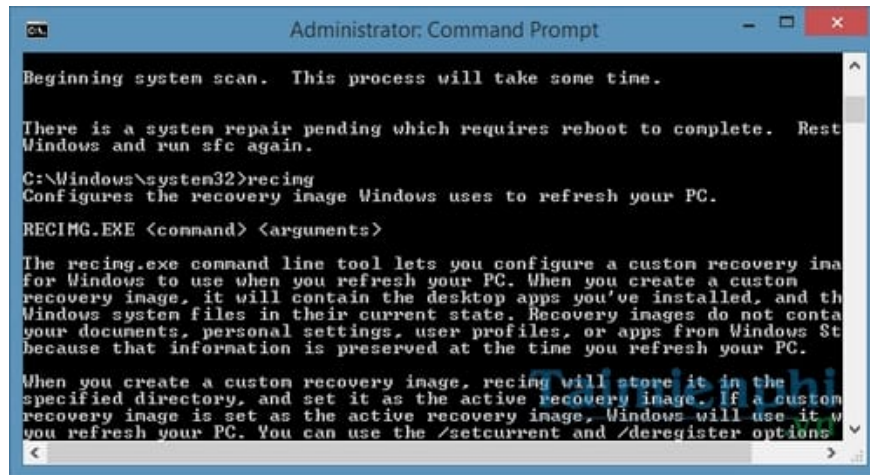
The command "**Powercfg /lastwake**" will show you what device last woke your computer from sleep mode. You can use this command to troubleshoot your computer if it wakes up from sleep randomly.

You can use the command "**powercfg /energy**" to build a detailed power consumption report for your computer. This report will be saved to the specified directory after the command finishes. The report will tell you about any system errors that might increase power consumption, such as devices blocking certain sleep modes, or configurations that are poorly responsive to your power management settings.

On Windows 8, the command "**powercfg /batteryreport**" provides a detailed analysis of battery usage, if applicable. The report provides details on the time and length of charge and discharge cycles, average battery life, and estimated battery capacity.

### 13. Recovery Image (Windows 8)

Almost all Windows 8/8.1 computers come with a recovery image file, but that image may contain bloatware that you don't want to reinstall. Once you skip installing the software, you can create a new image file using the "**recimg**" command.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.

There is a system repair pending which requires reboot to complete. Restart
Windows and run sfc again.

C:\Windows\system32>recimg
Configures the recovery image Windows uses to refresh your PC.

RECIMG.EXE <command> <arguments>

The recimg.exe command line tool lets you configure a custom recovery ima
for Windows to use when you refresh your PC. When you create a custom
recovery image, it will contain the desktop apps you've installed, and th
Windows system files in their current state. Recovery images do not conta
your documents, personal settings, user profiles, or apps from Windows St
because that information is preserved at the time you refresh your PC.

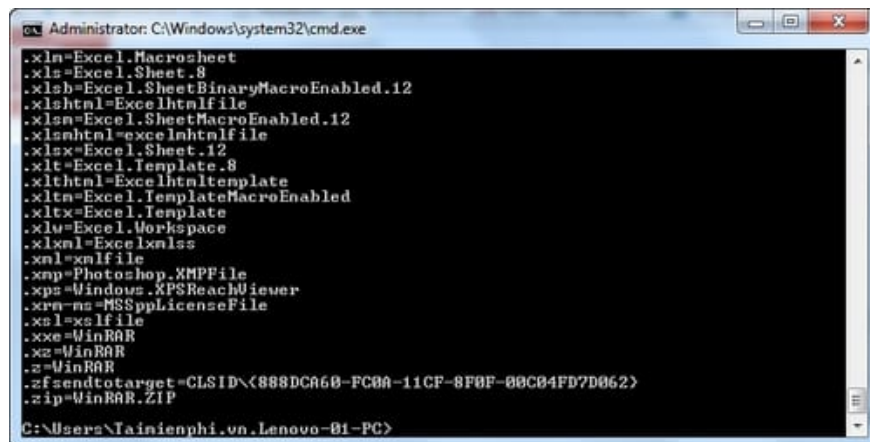
When you create a custom recovery image, recimg will store it in the
specified directory, and set it as the active recovery image. If a custom
recovery image is set as the active recovery image, Windows will use it w
you refresh your PC. You can use the /setcurrent and /deregister options
```

You need administrator privileges to use the `**recimg**` command, and you can only access the customizations of the image files you create through the `Refresh` feature on Windows 8.

On Windows 10, system recovery has changed. Windows 10 systems don't come with a recovery partition, making it more important than ever to create a recovery drive.

### 14. ASSOC.

Most files in Windows are associated with a specific program assigned to open them by default. Sometimes, remembering the combinations can become confusing. You can remind yourself by typing the command "**PGS**" to display a complete list of file name extensions and associated programs.



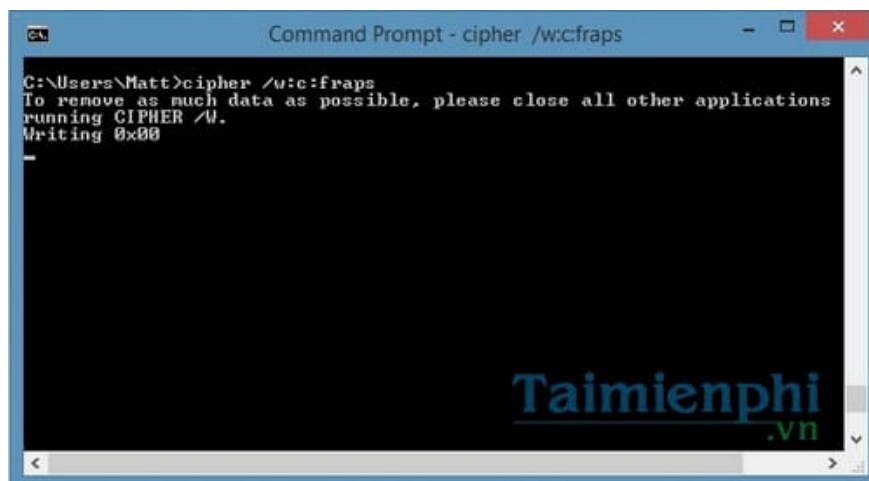
```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
.xln=Excel.MacroSheet
.xls=Excel.Sheet.8
.xlb=Excel.SheetBinaryMacroEnabled.12
.xlhtml=Excel.htmlfile
.xlsm=Excel.SheetMacroEnabled.12
.xlsmhtml=Excel.htmlfile
.xlsx=Excel.Sheet.12
.xlt=Excel.Template.8
.xlthml=Excel.htmltemplate
.xltm=Excel.TemplateMacroEnabled
.xltx=Excel.Template
.xlw=Excel.Workspace
.xml=Excel.xmlss
.xml=xmlfile
.xmp=PhotoShop.XMPFile
.xps=Windows.XPSReachViewer
.xrm-ms=MSSppLicenseFile
.xsl=xmlfile
.xxe=WinRAR
.z=WinRAR
.zf=sendtarget=CLSID\{888DCA60-FC0A-11CF-8F0F-00C04FD7D062}
.zip=WinRAR.ZIP

C:\Users\Tainienphi.vn.Lenovo-B1-PC>
```

You can also extend the commands to change file associations. For example, " **assoc.txt=** " will change the file association for text files so that whatever program you type after the equals sign is correct. The PGS command will reveal the file extension and program name, which will help you use this command correctly. You can more easily do this in a GUI, but a command-line interface is a perfect alternative to this functionality.

### 15. Cipher.

Deleting files on a hard drive is simple, but they aren't actually erased. Instead, it marks them as inaccessible and free space. The files can still be recovered until the system overwrites them with new data, which can take some time.



However, deleting a directory by writing random data to it is not possible. To clean up your C drive, for example, you would use the command "cipher /w:c", which will scan for free space on the drive. The CMD command does not overwrite but completely deletes the data, so you won't need to wipe the files you need by running this command.

Above is a compilation of 15 popular Command Prompt commands that Taimienphi wants to introduce to you. If there are any errors or additions, please feel free to comment below so we can update it together.

Furthermore, the CMD command is very useful because it allows us to do many things without needing third-party software. For example, the guide **on hiding hard drive partitions using CMD**, introduced in a previous article, is quite helpful for those who need privacy on their computers.

You finished reading the article "**15 common Command Prompt commands you should know on your computer.**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.