

Hidden Windows features make software installation easy

Windows 10 and 11 include a command-line tool that handles app installation — and it's incredibly easy to use.

Many people are tempted to reinstall Windows after every major update, except they don't want to spend hours reinstalling all their apps. It turns out that Windows 10 and 11 include a command-line tool that handles app installations—and it's incredibly easy to use.

How to use WinGet to quickly install any application

Getting started with WinGet is easy. First, check that you have Windows Package Manager installed by opening Command Prompt as administrator . Hit the **Windows** key , type **cmd** , and select **Run as administrator** . Running as administrator is important; it prevents each app installer from triggering its own UAC prompt , making the installation process go much more smoothly.

In the window that appears, type **winget** and press **Enter** . If you see a list of commands, you're good to go. If not, you'll need to install the App Installer from the Microsoft Store , which comes with WinGet. If you prefer, you can install WinGet from the app's GitHub repository.

Let's see how it works by installing Google Chrome. Type:

```
winget install Google.Chrome
```

And that's it! WinGet finds Chrome, downloads it from Google 's servers , and installs it automatically without you having to click on Google's website or any installer. Same goes for almost any popular program:

```
winget install Mozilla.Firefox winget install 7zip.7zip winget install Discord.D
```

But how do you know the right name to use? Luckily, WinGet has a search feature. For example, if you're not sure what to type for ShareX, here's how you can search:

```
winget search "ShareX"
```

The above command will show you all the programs that match their exact ID. You should see something like **ShareX.ShareX** , which is what you need to use with the install command.

Here's a useful tip: You can use the **--silent** flag to completely bypass any installer pop-ups:

```
winget install Spotify.Spotify --silent
```

If you want to see what is installed on your computer, type:

```
winget list
```

This shows every program WinGet knows about. To update everything at once, just run:

```
winget upgrade --all
```

The above command will check all programs for updates and install them. This is a better way to handle consistent update notifications for multiple programs.

```
Windows\system32\cmd.exe
logs,--open-logs          Open the default logs location
verbose,--verbose-logs   Enables verbose logging for winget
nowarn,--ignore-warnings Suppresses warning outputs
disable-interactivity    Disable interactive prompts
proxy                    Set a proxy to use for this execution
no-proxy                 Disable the use of proxy for this execution

help can be found at: https://aka.ms/winget-command-help

Windows\system32>winget search "sharex"
  Id              Version Source
-----
eX 9NBLGGH4Z1SP  Unknown msstore
eX ShareX.ShareX 17.1.0  winget

Windows\system32>
```

```
Windows\system32\cmd.exe
no-proxy                 Disable the use of proxy for this execution

help can be found at: https://aka.ms/winget-command-help

Windows\system32>winget search "sharex"
  Id              Version Source
-----
eX 9NBLGGH4Z1SP  Unknown msstore
eX ShareX.ShareX 17.1.0  winget

Windows\system32>winget install Google.Chrome
d Google Chrome [Google.Chrome] Version 138.0.7204.97
application is licensed to you by its owner.
Microsoft is not responsible for, nor does it grant any licenses to, third-
party packages.
Loading https://dl.google.com/dl/chrome/install/googlechromestandalonee
64.msi
[Progress Bar] 34.0 MB / 129 MB
```

```

windows\System32>wingetlist
'wingetlist' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.

windows\System32>winget list
-----
Id                                Version    Available    Source
-----
7zip.7zip                          24.09     24.09        winget
ShareX.ShareX                      17.1.0    17.1.0        winget
ARP\Machine\X64\AM...              24.3.1    24.3.1        winget
Audacity.Audacity                  3.5.1     3.7.4        winget
AutoHotkey.AutoHotkey              2.0.19    2.0.19        winget
CPUID.HWMonitor                    1.53      1.58         winget
Dell.PeripheralManager             1.7.7     1.7.7         winget
Ditto.Ditto                        3.24.246.0 3.24.246.0  winget
ARP\Machine\X64\Fa...              1.0.15    1.0.15        winget
Fing.Fing                          3.8.1     3.9.0        winget
BlastApps.FluentSearch             0.9.91.9995 1.0.0.85  winget

```

How to install multiple applications using WinGet + Winstall

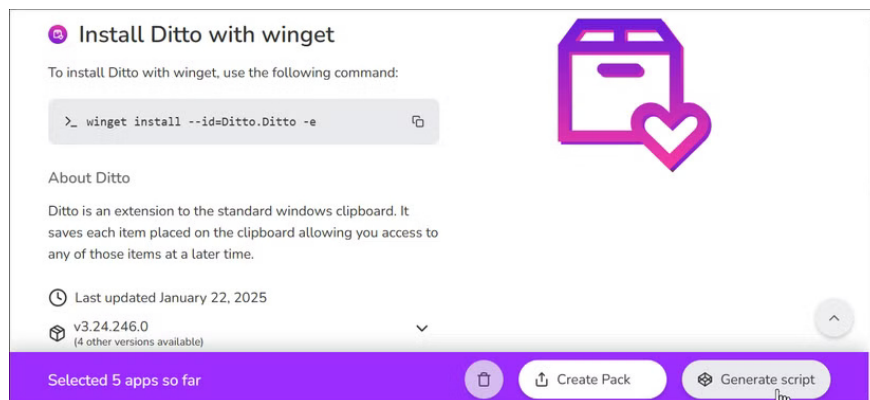
While WinGet is certainly impressive, you have to enter each application name individually or create a **packages.json** script to install them in bulk. That's where Winstall comes in — a free website that creates custom WinGet scripts to install all your applications at once.

Go to winstall.app in your browser. You'll see a grid of popular programs. Click on any you want — Chrome, Discord, Steam, VLC, and Notepad++, for example. Each click will add that program to your package. If you don't find something, use the search bar at the top to search for any application in the WinGet repository. When you're done, click **Generate Script** at the bottom.

Winstall creates a batch file with all your choices. It looks like this (with the "-e" flag forcing an exact match):

```
winget install --id=Google.Chrome -e winget install --id=Discord.Discord -e winget install --id=Steam.Steam -e winget install --id=VLC.VLC -e winget install --id=Notepad++.Notepad++ -e
```

Click the **Download .bat** button to save the file. If you get a security warning, click **Keep Anyway** to continue. Once finished, right-click the file and select **Run as administrator**. Now sit back and watch Windows install everything automatically.



For even more convenience, you can save your list of favorite programs as a text file. Then, whenever you need to set up a new computer, just run the same script. It's like having a personal installer that sets up your computer

exactly the way you want it, every time.

WinGet can be intimidating if you're not familiar with the command line, but it's simpler than traditional installers. You don't have to remember complicated commands; installing, searching, and upgrading covers 90% of what you need. Keep a simple text file with your favorite WinGet commands and you'll never have to fumble for a download link again.

You finished reading the article "**Hidden Windows features make software installation easy**" 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.