

# How to change the folder in Command Prompt on Windows 10

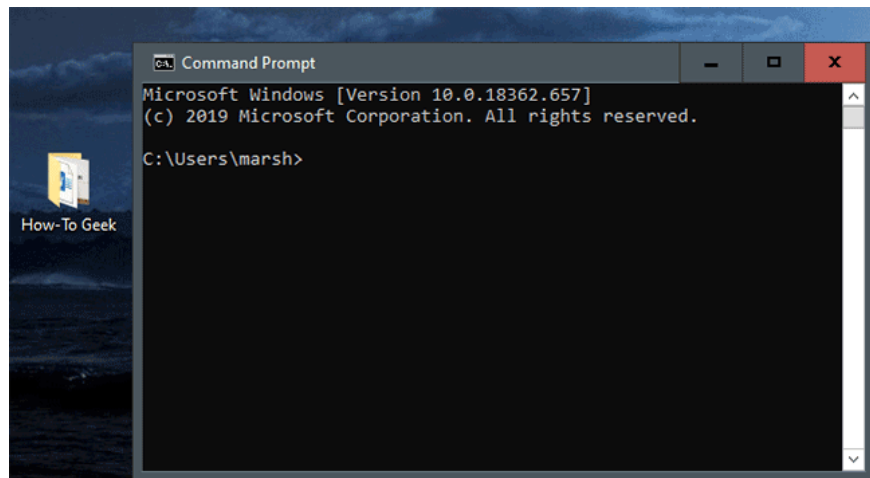
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One of the first things you need to learn when you become more familiar with the Command Prompt on Windows 10 is how to change the folders in the file system of the operating system. There are several ways you can do this, so the following article will guide you through them.

## Change directories by drag and drop method

If the folder you want to open in Command Prompt is on the screen or opened in File Explorer, you can quickly change it. Enter `cd` followed by a space, drag and drop the folder into the window, and then press `Enter`.

The directory you move to will be reflected in the command line.



The directory you move to will be reflected in the command line

## Change the directory right in Command Prompt

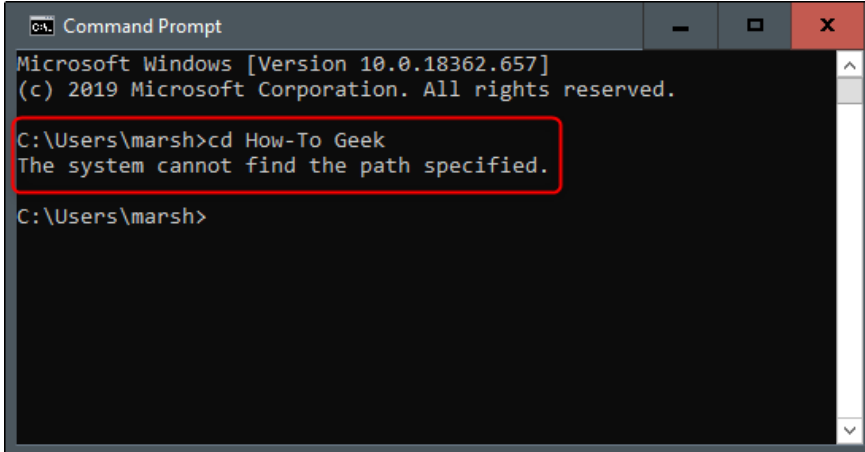
It is not always convenient to open File Explorer, then drag and drop. That's why being so great at typing a command to change the directory right in the Command Prompt is so great.

For example, you are in the user directory and there is a **Documents** folder in the next file path. You can type the following command in Command Prompt to switch to that directory:

```
cd Documents
```

Note that this only works if you are in the temporary file structure. In the example case, that would be **(user directory)> Documents** . In the current directory, this method cannot be used to navigate to a nested directory on two levels.

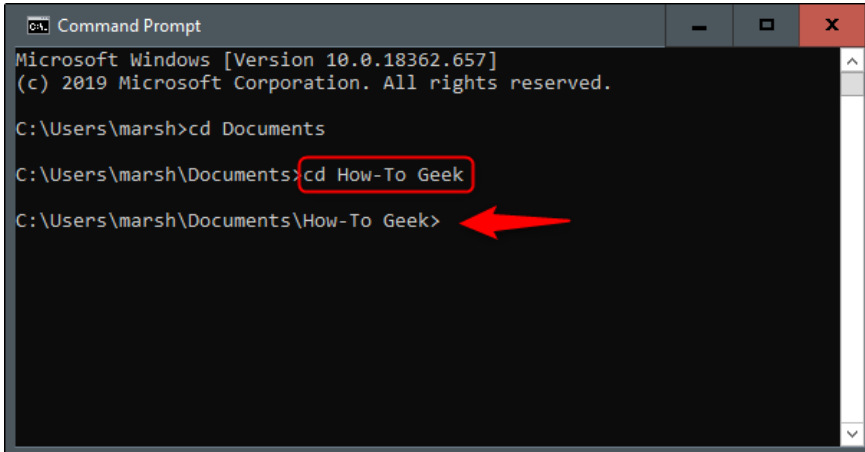
So, suppose you are currently in the user directory and want to move to the **How-To Geek folder** , located in **Documents**. If you try to jump straight into **How-To Geek** without going to **Documents** , you will get an error like in the image below.

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Command Prompt". The text inside shows the system version and copyright information: "Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657] (c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved." Below this, the user is at the prompt "C:\Users\marsh>". They have entered the command "cd How-To Geek". The system has responded with the error message "The system cannot find the path specified." This entire line of input and output is enclosed in a red rectangular box. The prompt "C:\Users\marsh>" is visible again on the line below.

An error will occur if you move to a nested folder on two levels

As mentioned earlier, you are currently in the user directory. Type `cd Documents` in Command Prompt to access **Documents**.

You are now in the **Documents** folder . To move down another level, enter `cd` on the command line followed by the name of the directory.

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Command Prompt". The text inside shows the system version and copyright information: "Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657] (c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved." Below this, the user is at the prompt "C:\Users\marsh>". They have entered the command "cd Documents". The system has responded with "C:\Users\marsh\Documents>". On the next line, they have entered "cd How-To Geek". The system has responded with "C:\Users\marsh\Documents\How-To Geek>". A red arrow points to the final prompt. The command "cd How-To Geek" is enclosed in a red rectangular box.

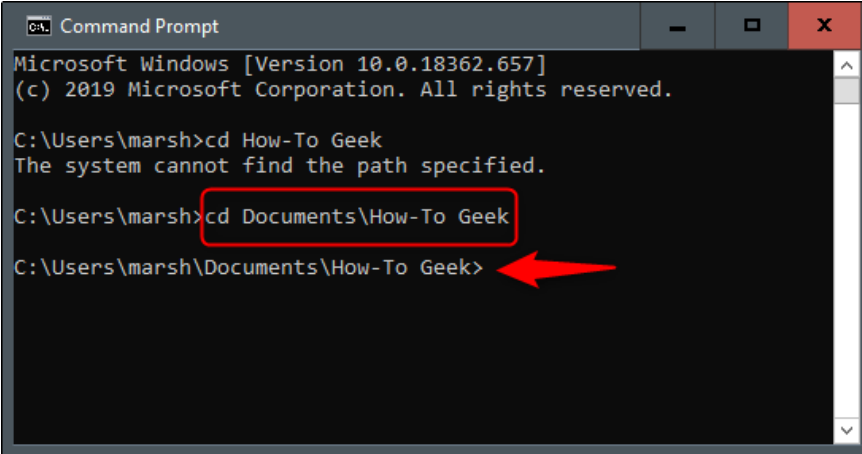
Need to move in turn to each folder level

Now, suppose you go back to the user directory and want to skip the extra step to jump down two directory levels. In the example case, this will be the **How-To Geek** folder . Type the following command:

```
cd Documents\How-To Geek
```

This allows moving 2 directory levels with one command.

```
cd Documents\How-To Geek
```



```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\marsh>cd How-To Geek
The system cannot find the path specified.

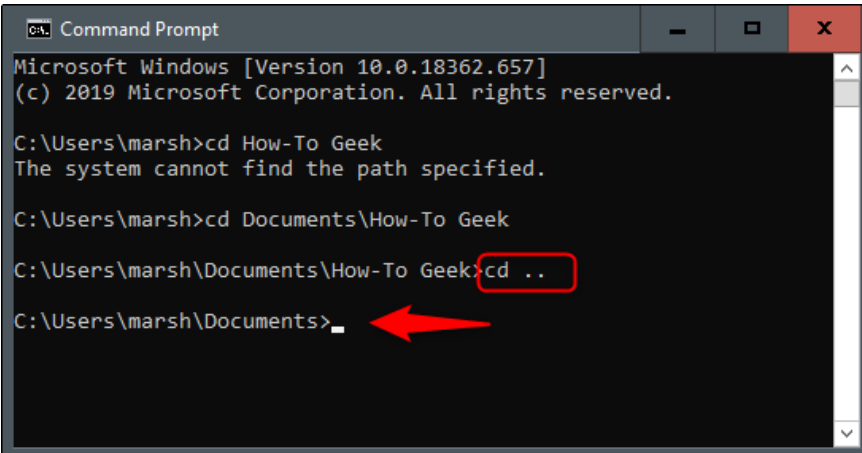
C:\Users\marsh>cd Documents\How-To Geek
C:\Users\marsh\Documents\How-To Geek>
```

Move 2 levels of folders with one command

If you've entered the wrong directory and want to go back, type the following command:

```
cd. .
```

This command allows you to move up one level.



```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

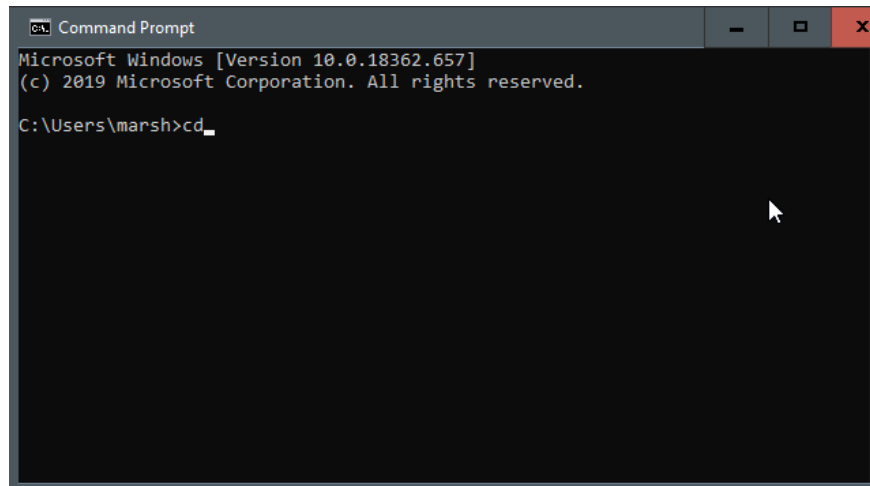
C:\Users\marsh>cd How-To Geek
The system cannot find the path specified.

C:\Users\marsh>cd Documents\How-To Geek
C:\Users\marsh\Documents\How-To Geek>cd ..
C:\Users\marsh\Documents>
```

Move up one directory level

## Navigation tips

If you want to make a little more efficient change of directory, enter `cd` the command line, followed by the first few letters of the directory you want. Then, click `Tab` to automatically complete the folder name.




```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\marsh>cd_
```

Press Tab to autocomplete folder name

Alternatively, you can type `cd`, followed by the first letter of the folder, then press Tab multiple times until the correct folder appears.



```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.657]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\marsh>
```

Press Tab repeatedly until the correct folder appears

## View directory content

If you're disoriented and don't know where to go next, you can view the contents of the current directory by typing `dir` in the command line.

```
Command Prompt
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\marsh>cd Documents
C:\Users\marsh\Documents>dir
Volume in drive C is OS
Volume Serial Number

Directory of C:\Users\marsh\Documents

02/12/2020  09:57 PM  <DIR>      .
02/12/2020  09:57 PM  <DIR>      ..
05/27/2019  11:03 PM  <DIR>      Background check docs
10/22/2019  11:00 PM  <DIR>      Custom Office Templates
11/09/2019  05:46 PM  <DIR>      Downloads
02/26/2018  04:04 PM  <DIR>      Emulators
12/15/2019  08:31 PM  <DIR>      GIT local
02/24/2020  07:16 PM  <DIR>      How-To Geek
06/26/2019  10:01 AM  <DIR>      Important Documents
05/11/2019  11:19 PM  <DIR>      Invoices
11/26/2019  09:51 PM  <DIR>      ITEnterpriser
```

View directory content

This will give you a hint on which folder to navigate next.

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