

How to open Microsoft Excel from Command Prompt

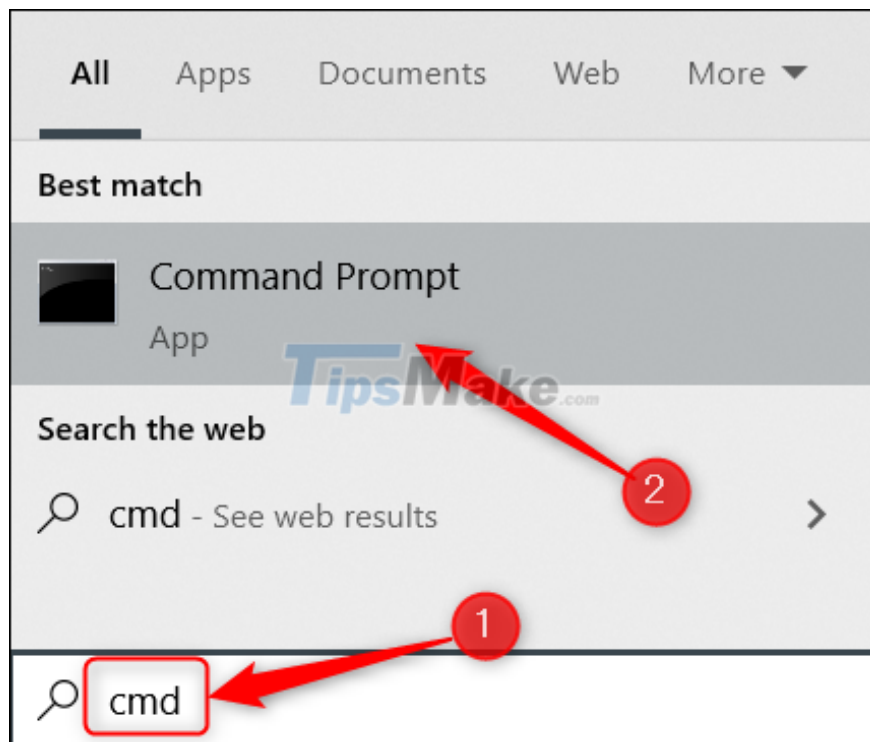
There are many ways to start Excel using the Command Prompt. Normally, to open a program on Windows 10, most people will choose to double-click that program icon on the desktop. The case of Microsoft Excel is no exception.

However, you can also launch PowerPoint from the Windows Command Prompt. This method is more complicated, but allows you to add additional parameters to perform advanced actions that cannot be done when opening the application as usual, such as starting PowerPoint in Safe. Mode to fix the problem. Find out below.

Launch Excel with Command Prompt

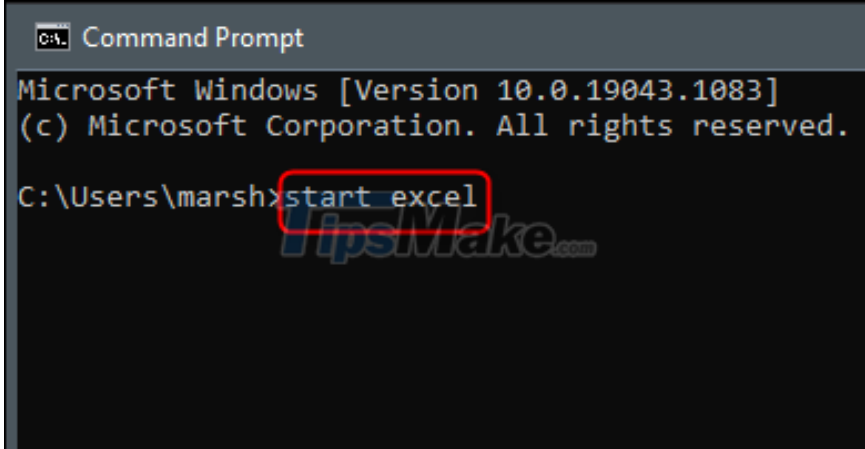
There are many ways to start Excel using the Command Prompt. But if you want to open Excel in its normal state (i.e. like when double-clicking the application icon), there are two simple methods of doing it.

First, open Command Prompt by entering the keyword 'cmd' in the Windows Search bar and clicking on the Command Prompt application from the returned search results.



Command Prompt will open. To launch Excel, type this command and press Enter:

```
start excel
```

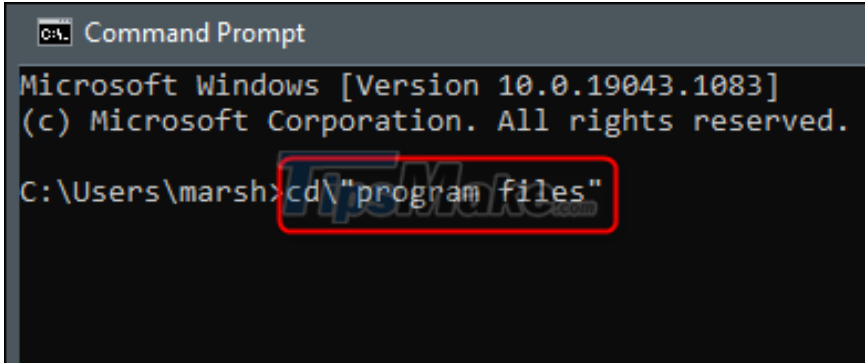
A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "C:\> Command Prompt". The main text area shows the following: "Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19043.1083] (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. C:\Users\marsh>start excel". The command "start excel" is highlighted with a red rectangular box. A watermark "TipsMake.com" is visible in the background.

Excel opens immediately.

Another way to open Excel is to locate the folder where the excel.exe file is located, change to that folder in the Command Prompt, and then run a simple command.

To locate the excel.exe file, you need to be in the Program Files folder in the Command Prompt. The cd command can be used to change directories. Type this command in Command Prompt and then press Enter:

```
cd"program files"
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "C:\> Command Prompt". The main text area shows the following: "Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19043.1083] (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. C:\Users\marsh>cd\"program files\"". The command "cd\"program files\"" is highlighted with a red rectangular box. A watermark "TipsMake.com" is visible in the background.

You should now be in the Program Files folder. Next, you need to find out in which folder the excel.exe file is located. To do that, run the following command:

```
dir excel.exe /s
```

The directory information containing the excel.exe file will be returned immediately.

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19043.1083]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\marsh>cd "program files"

C:\Program Files>dir excel.exe /s
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is BAD1-C03A

Directory of C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16
07/09/2021  11:52 AM          63,903,576 EXCEL.EXE
              1 File(s)             63,903,576 bytes
```

Now that you have located the folder containing the excel.exe file, navigate to that folder. In this example, we will run the following command:

```
cd Microsoft OfficerootOffice16
```

```
Select Command Prompt
07/09/2021  11:52 AM          63,903,576 EXCEL.EXE
              1 File(s)             63,903,576 bytes

Total Files Listed:
              2 File(s)            127,807,152 bytes
              0 Dir(s)            801,591,681,024 bytes free

C:\Program Files>cd Microsoft Office\root\Office16
```

Now that you're in the right directory, all that's left to do is type `excel` in Command Prompt and press Enter.

```
Command Prompt
07/09/2021  11:52 AM          63,903,576 EXCEL.EXE
              1 File(s)             63,903,576 bytes

Total Files Listed:
              2 File(s)            127,807,152 bytes
              0 Dir(s)            801,591,681,024 bytes free

C:\Program Files>cd Microsoft Office\root\Office16
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16>excel
```

The Excel window will open. However, the main purpose of launching Excel from the Command Prompt is so that you can control and perform more advanced tasks than usual.

Parameters and switch commands in Excel

Below is a list of switch commands provided by the official Microsoft Office support website. Add them to the end of the command `start excel` in the Command Prompt.

Switch and parameter Description

workbook path | file name

Open the destination file.

Eg:

```
start excel 'c:Example Folderfile_name1.xlsx'
```

Or:

```
start excel http://MySite/file_name1.xlsx
```

```
/r workbook path | file name
```

Open the target workbook as read-only.

Eg:

```
start excel /r 'c:Example Folderfile_name1.xlsx'
```

Or:

```
start excel /r http://MySite/file_name1.xlsx
```

```
/t workbook path | file name
```

Open the target file as a template.

Eg:

```
start excel /t 'c:Example Folderfile_name1.xlsx'
```

Or:

```
start excel /t http://MySite/file_name1.xlsx
```

/e or /embed

Prevent the Excel start screen from appearing and open a new blank sheet

/s or /safemode Start Excel in Safe Mode. Excel will launch without any other add-ins, templates, or customizations. This will come in handy when you need to troubleshoot problems in Excel. **/m** Create a new workbook containing an XLM macro page.

/x

Start a separate Excel process.

Using these commands, you can open Excel in a number of different ways.

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