

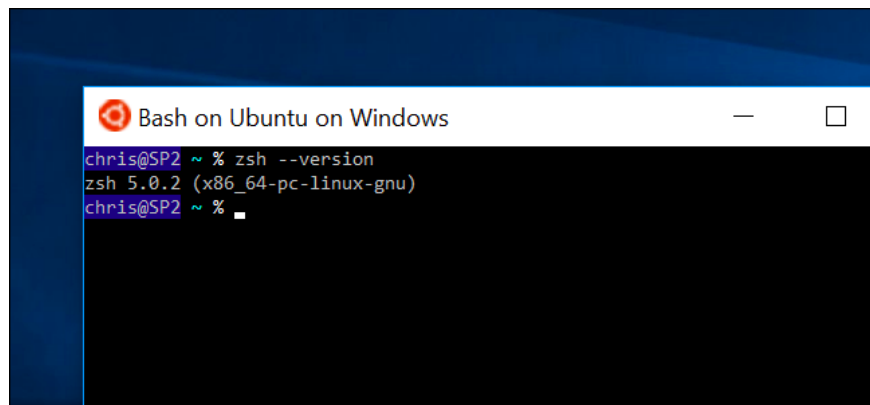
How to use Zsh (or other Shells) on Windows 10?

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Since Insider Build 14342, Zsh shell has been running on Windows 10. You can set Bash to automatically execute Zsh every time Bash starts.

Zsh is a shell program designed to interact, and Zsh is also a powerful scripting language. Zsh integrates many useful features of both bash, ksh and tcsh, and offers many other features.



```
chris@SP2 ~ % zsh --version
zsh 5.0.2 (x86_64-pc-linux-gnu)
chris@SP2 ~ %
```

1. Install Bash

Before installing the Shell of your choice, the first thing you need to do is activate Windows subsystem for Linux and install Bash.

This process will install the Ubuntu user space environment on Windows, including the Bash shell.

```
C:\Windows\System32\bash.exe
-- Beta feature --
This will install Ubuntu on Windows, distributed by Canonical
and licensed under its terms available here:
https://aka.ms/uowterms

Type "y" to continue: y
Downloading from the Windows Store... 100%
Extracting filesystem, this will take a few minutes...
Installation successful!
Please create a default UNIX user account. The username does not need to match yo
For more information visit: https://aka.ms/wslusers
Enter new UNIX username:
```

2. How to install Zsh (or other shell)?

After installing Bash, you just need to install the Shell you want to use in Bash. To do this, use apt-get, just like when you install any package on Ubuntu Linux.

To install Zsh, open the Bash shell and run the command:

```
sudo apt-get install zsh
```

Press "y" when asked and press Enter to continue. Apt-get will automatically download and install Zsh from repositories of Ubuntu.

```
chris@SP2: ~
chris@SP2:~$ sudo apt-get install zsh
[sudo] password for chris:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libfreetype6 os-prober
Use 'apt-get autoremove' to remove them.
The following extra packages will be installed:
  zsh-common
Suggested packages:
  zsh-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  zsh zsh-common
0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 2,726 kB of archives.
After this operation, 11.4 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```

If you want to use another Shell, just specify the Shell name instead of writing Zsh. For example, if you want to install Fish shell, run the following command:

```
sudo apt-get install fish
```

3. How to open Zsh (or other Shell)?

To open Zsh or other shells after installation is complete, simply enter the shell name in the Bash command prompt (Bash prompt) and press Enter. For example, to start using Zsh from Bash, you just need to enter:

Zsh

You will be prompted to set up the first Zsh process and create a configuration profile the first time you open Zsh. Enter "2" to create a configuration profile containing default settings.



```
chris@SP2: ~  
chris@SP2:~$ zsh  
chris@SP2 ~ %
```

To remove the zsh shell and return to Bash, run the following command:


exit

4. How does Bash automatically run Zsh?

Because of the way Microsoft executes this feature, you cannot open Zsh directly and bypass Bash. To run any Linux software, you must open the Bash window and run the software there. However, you can set Bash to automatically convert to Zsh whenever you open.

To do this you have to edit the **.bashrc** file. Bash will run the command in this file every time it starts. To open the **.bashrc** file in nano, run the following command:

nano .bashrc



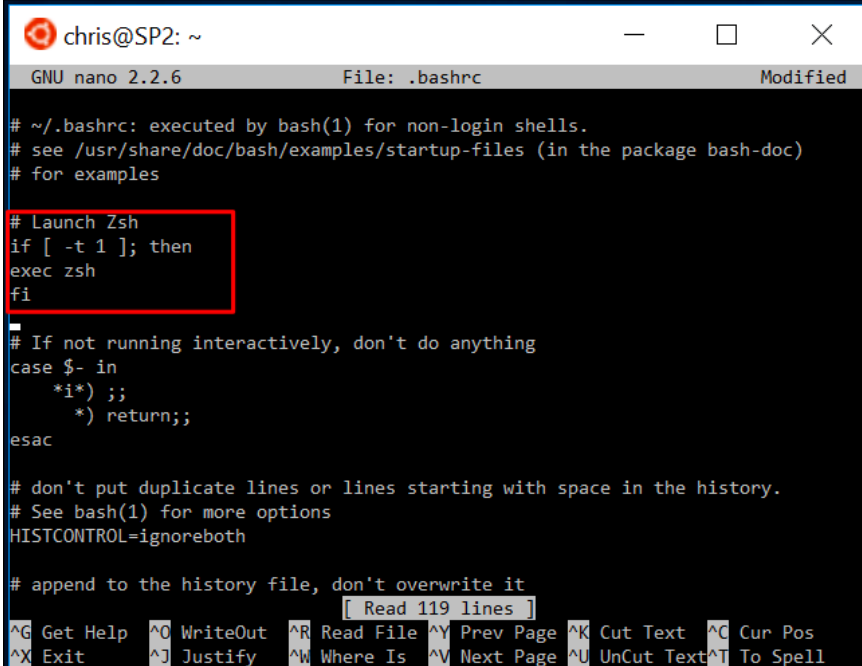
```
chris@SP2: ~  
chris@SP2:~$ zsh  
chris@SP2 ~ % nano .bashrc
```

Add the following lines to the file. You can only add "exec zsh", but the following commands will ensure Bash only opens Zsh when you open the Bash window. This is to avoid causing problems with other software:

Launch Zsh

```
if [-t 1]; then  
  
exec zsh  
  
fi
```

If you want to execute another shell, you only need to replace "zsh" with that shell command.



```
chris@SP2: ~  
GNU nano 2.2.6 File: .bashrc Modified  
  
# ~/.bashrc: executed by bash(1) for non-login shells.  
# see /usr/share/doc/bash/examples/startup-files (in the package bash-doc)  
# for examples  
  
# Launch Zsh  
if [ -t 1 ]; then  
exec zsh  
fi  
  
# If not running interactively, don't do anything  
case $- in  
  *) ;;  
  *) return;;  
esac  
  
# don't put duplicate lines or lines starting with space in the history.  
# See bash(1) for more options  
HISTCONTROL=ignoreboth  
  
# append to the history file, don't overwrite it  
[ Read 119 lines ]  
^G Get Help ^O WriteOut ^R Read File ^Y Prev Page ^K Cut Text ^C Cur Pos  
^X Exit ^J Justify ^W Where Is ^V Next Page ^U UnCut Text ^T To Spell
```

Once done, press **Ctrl + O** and press **Enter** to save the changes. Press **Ctrl + X** to exit nano.

From now on whenever you open the Bash application on Windows, it will automatically open Zsh shell.

If you want to change to the original state, follow the same steps, edit the .bashrc file again and delete the parts you added.

Refer to some of the following articles:

1. Learn the file system and folders on Linux operating systems
1. Clear the Dropbox cache Windows and Linux to free up memory space
1. Certain deadly commands never run on Linux

Good luck!

You finished reading the article "**How to use Zsh (or other Shells) on Windows 10?**" 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.