

## Shell: folder shortcuts

Description ↕	Shell: folder shortcut ↕	Equivalent ↕
Display installed Windows Updates	shell:AppUpdatesFolder	Control Panel > Programs and Features> Installed updates
Display links provided by your PC manufacturer (if any)	shell:OEM Links	
Open the Computer folder	shell:MyComputerFolder	"This PC"
Open the folder holding all user profiles	shell:UserProfiles	C:\Users
Open the Fonts folder	shell:Fonts	%SystemRoot%\Fonts = C:\Windows\Fonts
Open the Games folder	shell:Games	
Open the HomeGroup folder	shell:HomeGroupFolder	
Open the HomeGroup folder for the currently logged-on user (if any)	shell:HomeGroupCurrentUserFolder	
Open the Network Places folder	shell:NetworkPlacesFolder	"Network"
Open the Printers folder	shell:PrintersFolder	Control Panel > Printers
Open the Public Application Data folder	shell:Common AppData	%ProgramData% = C:\ProgramData
Open the Public Desktop	shell:Common Desktop	%Public%\Desktop\ = C:\Users\Public\Desktop
Open the Public Documents folder	shell:Common Documents	%Public%\Documents\ = C:\Users\Public\Documents
Open the Public Downloads folder	shell:CommonDownloads	%Public%\Downloads\ = C:\Users\Public\Downloads
Open the Public Game Explorer folder	shell:PublicGameTasks	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer
Open the Public ringtones folder.	shell:CommonRingtones	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones
Open the Public Start Menu folder	shell:Common Start Menu	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu
Open the Public Start Menu Programs folder	shell:Common Programs	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Progr =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs
Open the Public Startup folder	shell:Common Startup	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Progr =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Start
Open the Public Templates folder	shell:Common Templates	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\ =C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Templates
Open the Recycle Bin	shell:RecycleBinFolder	"Recycle Bin"
Open the Users\Public folder (Shared files)	shell:Public	%Public% = C:\Users\Public
Open the Windows installation folder (usually \Windows)	shell:Windows	%SystemRoot% = C:\Windows
Open the Windows Resources folder (themes are stored here)	shell:ResourceDir	%SystemRoot%\Resources\ = C:\Windows\Resources
Open the Windows System folder	shell:System	%SystemRoot%\System32\ = C:\Windows\System32
Open the Windows System folder for 32-bit files on 64-bit Windows, Or \Windows\System32 on 32-bit Windows	shell:Systemx86	%SystemRoot%\SysWOW64\ = C:\Windows\SysWOW64
Access shortcuts pinned to the Start menu or Taskbar	shell>User Pinned	%AppData%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Laun = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet exp="" launch\user="" pinned<="" td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet>
Display the user's Ringtones folder	shell:Ringtones	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Ringtones\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\ringt< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\ringt<>
Display further user tiles	shell:Roaming Tiles	

Description ↕	Shell: folder shortcut ↕	Equivalent ↕
		%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Roaming Tiles\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\roam< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\roam<>
Display your user tiles (the images you can use for your account)	shell:UserTiles	%UserProfile%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\a< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\a<>
Open the Client Side Cache Offline Files folder, if supported	shell:CSCFolder	Client Side Cache, if enabled
Open the folder where files are stored before being burned to disc	shell:CD Burning	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Burn\Burn\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\burn\< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\burn\<>
Open the Public user tiles folder	shell:PublicUserTiles	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\User Account Pictures\
Open the Quick Launch folder (disabled by default)	shell:Quick Launch	%AppData%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Laun = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet exp<="" td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet>
Open the Saved Games folder	shell:SavedGames	%UserProfile%\Saved Games = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\save< td=""> </username&gt;\save<>
Open the saved searches folder	shell:Searches	%UserProfile%\Searches = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\searches< td=""> </username&gt;\searches<>
Open the user's \Music\Playlists folder	shell:Playlists	
Open the user's Application Data folder	shell:AppData	%AppData% = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\<>
Open the user's Application Data folder	shell:Local AppData	%LocalAppData% = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\<>
Open the user's certificates folder	shell:SystemCertificates	%AppData%\Microsoft\System Certificates\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\system cer<="" td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\system>
Open the user's Credentials folder	shell:CredentialManager	%AppData%\Microsoft\Credentials\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\credentials< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\credentials<>
Open the user's desktop folder	shell:Desktop	Desktop merged from %UserProfile%\Desktop + %Public%
Open the user's Documents folder	shell:Personal	%UserProfile%\Documents = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\docum< td=""> </username&gt;\docum<>
Open the user's downloads folder	shell:Downloads	%UserProfile%\Downloads = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\downlo< td=""> </username&gt;\downlo<>
Open the user's encryption keys folder	shell:Cryptokeys	%AppData%\Microsoft\Crypto\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\crypto< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\crypto<>
Open the user's Game Explorer folder	shell:GameTasks	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\GameExplorer\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\game< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\game<>
Open the user's History folder	shell:History	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\History\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\histo< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\histo<>
Open the user's Links folder	shell:Links	%UserProfile%\Links = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\links< td=""> </username&gt;\links<>
Open the user's Network Places folder	shell:NetHood	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Network Shortcuts\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\n< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\n<>
Open the user's printer shortcuts folder	shell:PrintHood	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Printer Shortcuts\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\pr< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\pr<>
Open the user's profile folder	shell:Profile	%UserProfile% = C:\Users\ <username&gt;< td=""> </username&gt;<>
Open the user's Send To folder	shell:SendTo	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\SendTo\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si<>
Open the user's Start Menu folder	shell:Start Menu	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si<>
Open the user's Start Menu Programs folder	shell:Programs	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si<>
Open the user's Startup folder	shell:Startup	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\si  Menu\Programs\Startup
Open the user's Templates folder	shell:Templates	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\te< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\te<>
Open the user's Windows Contacts folder	shell:Contacts	%UserProfile%\Contacts = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\contacts< td=""> </username&gt;\contacts<>
Open the user's Recent Documents folder	shell:Recent	%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Recent\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\ir< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\ir<>
Opens the user's AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Protect folder	shell:DpAPIKeys	%AppData%\Microsoft\Protect\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\protect< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\protect<>

Description ↕	Shell: folder shortcut ↕	Equivalent ↕
Display 32-bit programs stored on 64-bit Windows, or the \Program Files folder on 32-bit Windows	shell:ProgramFilesX86	%ProgramFiles(x86)% = C:\ProgramFiles (x86)
Display the Control Panel	shell:ControlPanelFolder	Control Panel
Open the user's Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder (if any)	shell:Administrative Tools	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\start menu\programs\administrative="" td="" tools<=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\start>
Display Metro App shortcuts (Windows 8)	shell:Immersive Application Shortcuts	
Open All Users Start Menu\Administrative Tools folder	shell:Common Administrative Tools	%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Administrative Tools\ = C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Admi
Launches Internet Explorer Applets and applications	shell:InternetFolder	
Open the Common Files for 32-bit programs stored on 64-bit Windows, Or the Program Files\Common Files folder on 32-bit Windows	shell:ProgramFilesCommonX86	%ProgramFiles(x86)%\Common Files\ = C:\ProgramFiles (x86)\Common Files
Open the Control Panel "Install a program from the network" applet	shell:AddNewProgramsFolder	Control Panel > Get Programs from the network
Open the Control Panel "Uninstall or change a program" applet	shell:ChangeRemoveProgramsFolder	Control Panel > Uninstall or change a program
Open the default Sidebar Gadgets folder	shell:Default Gadgets	
Open the hidden ImplicitAppShortcuts folder	shell:ImplicitAppShortcuts	%AppData%\Microsoft\InternetExplorer\ImplicitApp = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet explorer\implicitappshortcuts<="" td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\roaming\microsoft\internet>
Open the Internet Explorer Cookies folder	shell:Cookies	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCookies\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\inetc< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\inetc<>
Open the Internet Explorer Favorites folder	shell:Favorites	%UserProfile%\Favorites\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\favorites< td=""> </username&gt;\favorites<>
Open the list of Network Connections	shell:ConnectionsFolder	Control Panel > Network Connections
Open the Program Files folder	shell:ProgramFiles	%ProgramFiles% = C:\Program Files
Open the Program Files\Common Files folder	shell:ProgramFilesCommon	%ProgramFiles%\Common Files\ = C:\Program Files\Common Files
Open the Temporary Internet Files folder	shell:Cache	%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\iNetCache\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\inetc< td=""> </username&gt;\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\inetc<>
Open the user folder of downloaded Sidebar Gadgets	shell:Gadgets	
Open the Windows Search tool	shell:SearchHomeFolder	Windows Explorer Search box
Display public libraries, if any	shell:PublicLibraries	%Public%\Libraries\ = C:\Users\Public\Libraries
Display your Music library	shell:MusicLibrary	Libraries\Music
Display your Pictures library	shell:PicturesLibrary	Libraries\Pictures
Display your Videos library	shell:VideosLibrary	Libraries\Videos
Open the Documents library	shell:DocumentsLibrary	Libraries\Documents
Open the Libraries folder	shell:Libraries	Libraries
Open the Windows Photo Gallery Original Images folder, if installed	shell:Original Images	
Open the Public Music folder	shell:CommonMusic	%Public%\Music\ = C:\Users\Public\Music
Open the Public Pictures folder	shell:CommonPictures	%Public%\Pictures\ = C:\Users\Public\Pictures
Open the Public Video folder	shell:CommonVideo	%Public%\Videos\ = C:\Users\Public\Videos
Open the Sample Music folder	shell:SampleMusic	%Public%\Music\Sample Music\ = C:\Users\Public\Music\S
Open the Sample Pictures folder	shell:SamplePictures	%Public%\Pictures\Sample Pictures\ = C:\Users\Public\I Pictures
Open the Sample Videos folder	shell:SampleVideos	%Public%\Videos\Sample Videos\ = C:\Users\Public\Video
Open the user's Music folder	shell:My Music	%UserProfile%\Music\ = C:\Users\ <username&gt;\music< td=""> </username&gt;\music<>

Description ↕	Shell: folder shortcut ↕	Equivalent ↕
Open the user's Pictures folder	shell:My Pictures	%UserProfile%\Pictures = C:\Users\ <username>\Pictures</username>
Open the user's Pictures\Slide Shows folder (if present)	shell:PhotoAlbums	
Open the user's Videos folder	shell:My Video	%UserProfile%\Videos = C:\Users\ <username>\Videos</username>
Display Sync Centre	shell:SyncCenterFolder	Control Panel > Sync Centre
Display Sync Centre Conflicts	shell:ConflictFolder	Control Panel > Sync Conflicts
Display Sync Centre Results	shell:SyncResultsFolder	Control Panel > Sync Results
Open the Sync Centre Setup options	shell:SyncSetupFolder	Control Panel > Setup new Sync Partnerships

Unless indicated otherwise, all the shortcuts above work in all versions of Windows from Vista upwards.

Shell folder shortcuts can be used directly in the Windows Explorer Address bar: `shell:Desktop`

Or in the Start Menu `Start | Run | shell:Desktop`

## Command Line

From the command line `shell:` shortcuts can be passed to [Explorer.exe](#):

```
C:\> explorer.exe shell:desktop
```

You can also pass a variable or string:

```
C:\> explorer.exe %ProgramFiles%
```

The **START** command also accepts `shell:` shortcuts with spaces but they have to be quoted like so:

```
C:\> start "" "shell:my music"
```

```
C:\> start "" %UserProfile%\Music\
```

## Shortcuts

To create a shortcut to any of the shell folders above: Right click the Desktop > New Shortcut and set the location/target to `explorer.exe` followed by the `shell:option`

For example:

```
explorer.exe shell:PrintersFolder
```

Alternatively you can use a variable/string:

```
explorer.exe "%ProgramData%\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\"
```

Non admin users will find it difficult to create a `Shell:` shortcut directly on the Task bar, it can be done but requires creating the shortcut in:

```
%USERPROFILE%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch\User Pinned\TaskBar
```

It can then be dragged into the taskbar.

Create a 'God mode' shortcut (a full set of Control Panel options) by setting the shortcut target to:

```
%WinDir%\explorer.exe shell::{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}
```

*"You go away for a long time and return a different person - you never come all the way back" ~ Paul Theroux*

## Related

[EXPLORER](#) - Open Windows Explorer.

[User Shell Folders](#) - Profile, Start Menu - Location of user profile folders.

[Remove sidebar folder shortcuts from "This PC" on Windows 10](#) - howtogeek.com

[Env. Variables](#) - List of environment variables.

[RUN commands](#) Start | Run commands.

