

# Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ?

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-11/19875.html>

---

**From:** Wesley Vogel (123WVogel955\_at\_comcast.net)

**Date:** 11/29/04

Date: Mon, 29 Nov 2004 11:15:57 -0700

Hi R. C.,

I pretty much agree with everything you've stated.

I don't believe that I qualify as an expert. But I had to get my 2¢ worth in. :-)

===

For a good example of how COMMAND.COM runs CMD.EXE.

Have a look here >>>>

The Windows NT Command Shell

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/winntas/deploy/shellscr.mspx>

Scroll down to (or Ctrl + F, for COMMAND.COM runs CMD.EXE) >>>>

CMD.EXE and COMMAND.COM

[[You can see COMMAND.COM automatically execute a 32-bit CMD.EXE shell by using the Windows NT Task Manager application. Follow this procedure:]]

[[This simple experiment shows that every command entered for execution, regardless of the shell used, is ultimately executed by CMD.EXE, the Windows NT command shell.]]

===

Also...

NTVDM.EXE is the program that creates the virtual MS-DOS 16-bit environment and is a Win32 (32-bit) program. NTVDM.EXE = NT Virtual DOS Machine.

We have to remember that Windows XP is really Windows NT 5.1.

When you open command.com, Task Manager shows it as MS-DOS Prompt under the Applications tab.

Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ? 1

icrosoft.public.windowsxp.general: Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ?

In Task Manager, under Applications tab, right click MS-DOS Prompt and select: Go To Process.

Task Manager will then switch to the Processes tab with ntvdm.exe highlighted.

===

One of the many ways I seem to learn about things is by posting about something I think I know about. This usually elicits posts with even more info about that subject. :-D

--

Hope this helps. Let us know.

Wes

In news:%23vI6wqi1EHA.2804@TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl,

R. C. White <rc@corridor.net> hunted and pecked:

> Hi, Wes.

>

>> Using command.com will open cmd.exe.

>

> I'm not sure what this means, but as I said in my earlier post:

>

>>> Either CMD.EXE or COMMAND.COM can be used to open a "DOS" window

>

> and

>

>>> When in the CMD.EXE window, type "command" (no quotes) to open the

>>> 16-bit emulator inside the 32-bit; in the COMMAND.COM window, type

>>> "cmd" to open the 32-bit version inside.

>

> CMD.EXE identifies itself in its "DOS" window as:

> Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]

>

> COMMAND.COM identifies itself as:

> Microsoft(R) Windows DOS

>

> Their claimed copyright dates are 1985-2001 for CMD.EXE, 1990-2001 for

> COMMAND.COM.

>

> I'm an accountant (and retired), not a techie, so I'm not sure what

> goes on down in the guts of the OS or the NTVDM. My comments were

> not meant for experts, but for readers in these newsgroups

> (windowsxp.basics, .general and .newusers) who might have been

> confused by the comment, "CMD.EXE...it's not a DOS window", in

> response to the questions in the Subject line. It's easy to test

> what I've posted. EITHER of them will open a "DOS" window; neither

> of them is true MS-DOS; either can be opened inside the other; and

> they both work the same in WinXP Home and WinXP Pro.

>

> RC

> --

> R. C. White, CPA

> San Marcos, TX

> rc@corridor.net

> Microsoft Windows MVP

>

> "Wesley Vogel" <123WVogel955@comcast.net> wrote in message

> news:OrDEhu%230EHA.3840@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...

>> Using command.com will open cmd.exe.

>>

Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ? 2

microsoft.public.windowsxp.general: Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ?

```
>> [[When a command is entered for execution by this shell
>> {command.com}, it does not actually execute it. Instead, it packages
>> the command text and sends it to a 32-bit CMD.EXE command shell for
>> execution.]]
>>
>> --
>> Hope this helps. Let us know.
>> Wes
>>
>> In news:%23fOb8iP0EHA.3808@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl,
>> R. C. White <rc@corridor.net> hunted and pecked:
>>> Hi, Thread.
>>>
>>> I hate to resurrect this two-month-old thread, but I disagree some
>>> of the comments in the parts of the thread that have not scrolled
>>> off. Perhaps it was cleared up in posts that I can't see now; if
>>> so, I apologize for butting in.
>>>
>>>> CMD.EXE is the Windows NT command line interface, its not a DOS
>>>> window.
>>>>
>>>> Either CMD.EXE or COMMAND.COM can be used to open a "DOS" window
>>>> ("DOS" in quotes to emphasize that it is an emulator, not true
>>>> MS-DOS). To see for yourself, click Start | Run (or just press
>>>> Win+R) and type in the Open box: cmd, then press Enter. You should
>>>> see a "DOS" window open. Then click Start | Run again and enter:
>>>> Command. You should see a second "DOS" window open. You can
>>>> Alt+Tab between them to see the differences, or resize them to see
>>>> both "DOS" windows at once and compare them.
>>>>
>>>> CMD.EXE is the 32-bit emulator; COMMAND.COM is the 16-bit version.
>>>> When in the CMD.EXE window, type "command" (no quotes) to open the
>>>> 16-bit emulator inside the 32-bit; in the COMMAND.COM window, type
>>>> "cmd" to open the 32-bit version inside. In either case, Exit
>>>> returns you to the parent shell; Exit from the top-level parent
>>>> closes the window. Most MS-DOS commands work in either window,
>>>> although there are some differences. Type Help in either one to see
>>>> a list of commands.
>>>>
>>>> And, yes, this works the same for WinXP Home Edition and
>>>> Professional.
>>>>
>>>> RC
>>>>
>>>> "S.Sengupta" <ssengupta@msn.com> wrote in message
>>>> news:uMPySOYoEHA.3728@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...
>>>>> CMD.EXE is the Windows NT command line interface, its not a DOS
>>>>> window. Whereas,COMMAND.COM is a 16-bit DOS application which is
>>>>> used for older DOS compatibility and actually runs inside the NTVDM
>>>>> (NT Virtual DOS Machine) due to its 16-bit nature.
>>>>>
>>>>> regards,
>>>>> ssg MS-MVP
>>>>> pronetworks.org
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> *ProteanThread* wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>>> and does "command.com" pose a risk (as some viruses that attacked
>>>>>> older win3x/msdos and win9x machines attached themselves to
>>>>>> command.com) ?
```

Re: whats the diff between "command.com" and "cmd.exe" ? does xp home have it or just xp pro ? 3