

Runas

Archived: 2026-04-06 00:36:25 UTC

Allows a user to run specific tools and programs with different permissions than the user's current logon provides.

runas [{**/profile**/**noprofile**}] [**/env**] [**/netonly**] [**/smartcard**] [**/showtrustlevels**] [**/trustlevel**]

****/user:*****UserAccountName* **program**

/profile : Loads the user's profile. **/profile** is the default.

/no profile : Specifies that the user's profile is not to be loaded. This allows the application to load more quickly, but it can also cause a malfunction in some applications.

/env : Specifies that the current network environment be used instead of the user's local environment.

/netonly : Indicates that the user information specified is for remote access only.

/smartcard : Indicates whether the credentials are to be supplied from a smartcard.

/showtrustlevels : Lists the **/trustlevel** options.

/trustlevel : Specifies the level of authorization at which the application is to run. Use **/showtrustlevels** to see the trust levels available.

/user: *UserAccountName* : Specifies the name of the user account under which to run the program. The user account format should be *user@domain* or *Domain\User*.

program : Specifies the program or command to run using the account specified in **/user**.

/? : Displays help at the command prompt.

- It is good practice for administrators to use an account with restrictive permissions to perform routine, nonadministrative tasks, and to use an account with broader permissions only when performing specific administrative tasks. To accomplish this without logging off and back on, log on with a regular user account, and then use the **runas** command to run the tools that require the broader permissions.
- For examples of the use of the **runas** command, see Related Topics.
- The use of **runas** is not restricted to administrator accounts, although that is the most common use. Any user with multiple accounts can use **runas** to run a program, MMC console, or Control Panel item with alternate credentials.
- If you want to use the Administrator account on your computer, for the **/user:** parameter, type one of the following:

/user: *AdministratorAccountName @ ComputerName*

/user: *ComputerName \ AdministratorAccountName*

- If you want to use this command as a domain administrator, type one of the following:

/user: *AdministratorAccountName @ DomainName*

/user: *DomainName \ AdministratorAccountName*

- With the **runas** command, you can run programs (*.exe), saved MMC consoles (*.msc), shortcuts to programs and saved MMC consoles, and Control Panel items. You can run them as an administrator while you are logged on to your computer as a member of another group, such as the Users or Power Users group.
- You can use the **runas** command start any program, MMC console, or Control Panel item. As long as you provide the appropriate user account and password information, the user account has the ability to log on to the computer, and the program, MMC console, or Control Panel item is available on the system and to the user account.
- With the **runas** command, you can administer a server in another forest (the computer from which you run a tool and the server you administer are in different domains).
- If you try to start a program, MMC console, or Control Panel item from a network location using **runas**, it might fail because the credentials used to connect to the network share are different from the credentials used to start the program. The latter credentials may not be able to gain access to the same network share.
- Some items, such as the Printers folder and desktop items, are opened indirectly and cannot be started with the **runas** command.
- If the **runas** command fails, the **Secondary Logon** service might not be running or the user account you are using might not be valid. To check the status of the **Secondary Logon** service, in Computer Management, click **Services and Applications**, and then click **Services**. To test the user account, try logging on to the appropriate domain using the account.

To start an instance of the command prompt as an administrator on the local computer, type:

runas /user: localmachinename \administrator cmd

When prompted, type the administrator password.

To start an instance of the Computer Management snap-in using a domain administrator account called **companydomain\domainadmin**, type:

runas /user:companydomain\domainadmin "mmc %windir% \system32\compmgmt.msc"

When prompted, type the account password.

To start an instance of Notepad using a domain administrator account called **user** in a domain called **domain.microsoft.com**, type:

runas /user:user@domain.microsoft.com "notepad my_file.txt"

When prompted, type the account password.

To start an instance of a command prompt window, saved MMC console, Control Panel item, or program that will administer a server in another forest, type:

runas /netonly /user: *domain\username* "command"

domain\username must be a user with sufficient permissions to administer the server. When prompted, type the account password.

Format	Meaning
<i>Italic</i>	Information that the user must supply
Bold	Elements that the user must type exactly as shown
Ellipsis (...)	Parameter that can be repeated several times in a command line
Between brackets ([])	Optional items
Between braces ({}); choices separated by pipe (). Example: {even odd}	Set of choices from which the user must choose only one
Courier font	Code or program output

[Cmd](#)

[Command-line reference A-Z](#)

[Create a shortcut using runas command parameters](#)