

How to make Windows programs start automatically

Updated: 12/30/2019 by Computer Hope

To make a Windows program automatically start each time you boot your computer, perform the steps below for your version of Windows.

Windows 8 and 10

1. Copy and paste the below path into File Explorer or browse to the below path.

```
C:\Users\hope\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup
```



Tip: In our example, "hope" is our username, and "C:\Users\hope" is our user profile folder. You need to replace "hope" with your username. If you're not sure what your username is, see: [How to open your user profile folder in Windows](#).

2. Once the Startup window is open, find the shortcut, document, or program you want to start each time Windows loads.
3. Once found, right-click the file icon and select **Copy**.
4. Back in the Startup window, right-click in a blank space in the window and select **Paste** to place that file icon into the Startup folder.

Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7

1. Find the shortcut or program you want to start each time Windows loads.
2. Once found, right-click the icon and select **Copy**.
3. Click the **Start** button.
4. Click **All Programs**.
5. Right-click on the Startup folder and select **Open**.
6. Once the Startup folder is open, right-click an empty portion of the folder window and select **Paste shortcut**.



Windows 3.11

There are two methods of automatically starting programs after Windows 3.11 boots.

First, create an icon for what you want to start. Or, copy the icon of what you want to start, and place it in the **startup** group in Program Manager. Anything in the startup group automatically loads when Windows starts each time.



Alternatively, you can start Windows from the MS-DOS, and automatically launch a program. At the MS-DOS command line, you can type **win executable** to start Windows 3.11 and automatically run the named program executable. For example, typing **win notepad** runs Windows and launches Notepad automatically.

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