

# List of Microsoft Word Command Line startup switches

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Microsoft Word has several useful command line switches that can be used to start Word. These switches can be used to make Word run in a specific way or perform specific task – like if you want to start it in the Safe Mode without any addons.

## **Microsoft Word Command Line startup switches**

To open a Word document using the switches in Windows 10/8/7, type `winword.exe /x`. Here “/x” is the switch.

To modify how Microsoft Office Word starts on a one-time basis, you can add switches to the Microsoft Windows Run command (Start menu).

The following is the list of switches for Microsoft Word:

Type	To do this
<b>/a</b>	Starts Word and prevents add-ins and global templates (including the Normal template) from being loaded automatically.  The <b>/a</b> switch also locks the setting files; that is, the setting files cannot be read or modified if you use this switch.
<b>/laddinpath</b>	Starts Word and then loads a specific Word add-in.
<b>/m</b>	Starts a new instance of Word without running any AutoExec macros.
<b>/mmacroname</b>	Starts Word and then runs a specific macro. The <b>/m</b> switch also prevents Word from running any AutoExec macros.
<b>/n</b>	Starts a new instance of Word with no document open. Documents opened in each instance of Word will not appear as choices in the <b>Window</b> menu of other instances.
<b>/safe</b>	Starts Word in Safe Mode.
<b>/ttemplatename</b>	Starts Word with a new document based on a template other than the Normal template.
<b>/w</b>	Starts a new instance of Word with a blank document. Documents opened in each instance of Word will not appear as choices in the <b>Window</b> menu of the other instances.
(no switch)	A new Word window is opened with a blank document using the existing instance of the Word program.

Type	To do this
<b>/c</b>	Starts a new instance of Word and then invokes NetMeeting.
<b>/q</b>	Starts Word without displaying the Word splash screen. This switch is only available in Word 2000 Service Release 1 (SR-1).
<b>/r</b>	Starts Word, starts Setup, makes changes in the Windows registry, and then quits. This switch forces a re-register of Word in the Windows registry.
<b>/u</b>	Has no effect and does not start Word.
<b>/x</b>	Starts a new instance of Word from the operating shell (for example, to print in Word). This instance of Word responds to only one DDE request and ignores all other DDE requests and multi-instances. If you are starting a new instance of Word in the operating environment (for example, in Windows), it is recommended that you use the <b>/w</b> switch, which starts a fully functioning instance.
<b>/z</b>	This is similar to the <b>/t</b> switch. However, this switch raises the <b>New</b> event. For example: winword.exe /z mytemplate.dot. For more information, visit the following MSDN Web site: <a href="http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/h8c469ey.aspx">http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/h8c469ey.aspx</a>
<b>pathname\filename</b>	Starts Word with a specific document open.  <b>Note</b> To open multiple files at once, use <i>pathname\filename</i> .  Example: "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\Winword.exe" c:\filename1.doc c:\filename2.doc
(any other switch)	Starts a new instance of Word. For example, if you start Word with just the <b>/</b> and no switch, or with any unlisted switch combination, Word just starts a new instance of Word with a new blank document.

Type	To do this
<b>/f</b>	Starts Word with a new document based on an existing file.
<b>/h http://filename</b>	Starts Word and opens a read-only copy of a document that is stored on a Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services site. The site must be on a computer that is running Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 or Windows SharePoint Services 2.0.
<b>/t filename</b>	Starts Word and opens an existing file.
<b>/pxslt</b>	Starts Word and opens an existing XML document based on the specified Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT). <b>Note</b> XSLT: A file that is used to transform XML documents into other types of documents, such as HTML or XML. It is designed for use as part of XSL.

If you plan to use a modified startup method frequently, you can create a shortcut on the Windows desktop, using these switches.

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