

A list of useful Google Chrome command line switches

<https://www.ghacks.net/2013/10/06/list-useful-google-chrome-command-line-switches/>

Chrome supports hundreds of different command line switches that may add features to the browser, change how features work, or remove features from it.

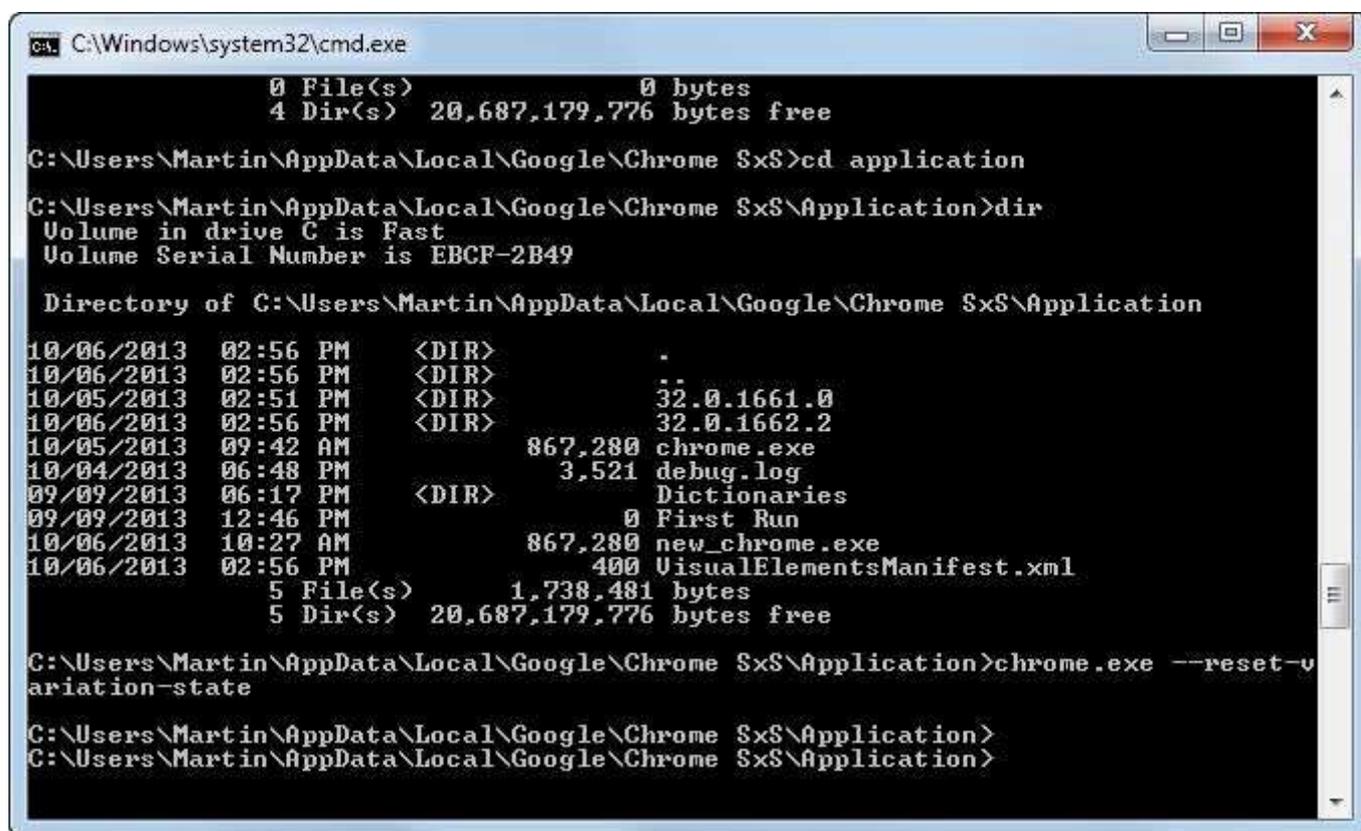
Some switches are only useful to developers, as they enable them to test certain features in Chrome, while others have practical uses that users of the web browser will appreciate as well.

The following list highlights important Chrome command line switches for users of the browser.

Before that, I'd like to walk you through the configuration process that explains how you can add one or multiple command line switches to the Chrome browser.

Note: The guide explains how this is done on Windows only.

Adding command line switches to Chrome



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
0 File(s)          0 bytes
4 Dir(s)  20,687,179,776 bytes free

C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS>cd application
C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS\Application>dir
Volume in drive C is Fast
Volume Serial Number is EBCF-2B49

Directory of C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS\Application

10/06/2013  02:56 PM    <DIR>          .
10/06/2013  02:56 PM    <DIR>          ..
10/05/2013  02:51 PM    <DIR>          32.0.1661.0
10/06/2013  02:56 PM    <DIR>          32.0.1662.2
10/05/2013  09:42 AM             867,280 chrome.exe
10/04/2013  06:48 PM             3,521 debug.log
09/09/2013  06:17 PM    <DIR>          Dictionaries
09/09/2013  12:46 PM             0 First Run
10/06/2013  10:27 AM             867,280 new_chrome.exe
10/06/2013  02:56 PM             400 VisualElementsManifest.xml
5 File(s)          1,738,481 bytes
5 Dir(s)  20,687,179,776 bytes free

C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS\Application>chrome.exe --reset-variation-state

C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS\Application>
C:\Users\Martin\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome SxS\Application>
```

You have two main options to do so. First, you can open the Windows command line, change the directory to the Chrome directory, and run commands using `chrome.exe` followed by the commands that you want to run. An example would be the following command executed in the Chrome application directory on the system.

```
chrome.exe --reset-variation-state
```

The easiest way to do so is the following way:

- Tap on the Windows-key, type `cmd` and hit enter.
- Use `CD` to change the directory to your Chrome profile directory.
- If you are running Windows XP, it is `%USERPROFILE%\Local Settings\Application Data\Google\Chrome\Application`
- If you are running Windows Vista or newer, it is `%LOCALAPPDATA%\Google\Chrome\Application`

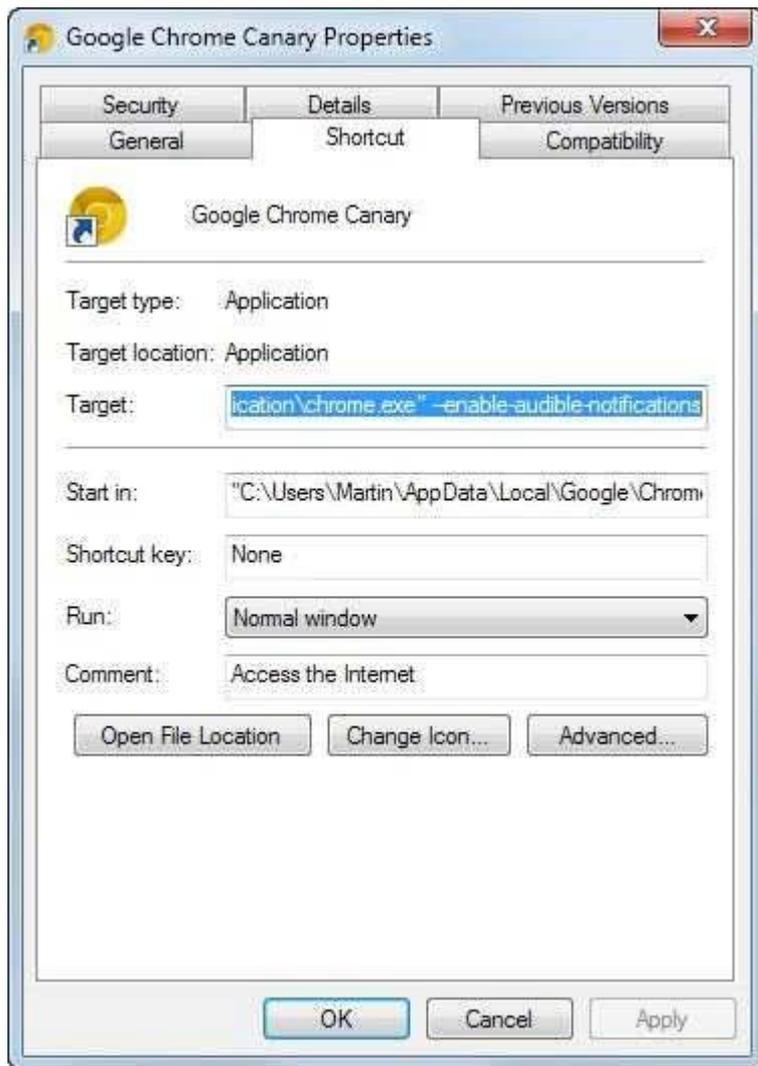
- Type chrome.exe followed by the space-key, and then the command line switches you want to run. Note that they always begin with two dashes.

This is great for testing purposes, but if you like a certain command and want to run it at all times, you may want to make those changes permanent so that they are automatically used whenever you load Chrome.

If you are starting Google Chrome from a shortcut, placed on the desktop, taskbar or start menu, then you can easily add command line switches to it. Just right-click the shortcut, locate Google Chrome there, right-click on it and select Properties.

The Shortcut tab should open up automatically. It displays the load path of the browser in the target field. At the end of the field, after the closing ", add a space, and then the command line switches you want to use.

Add another space between each command line switch if you want to use multiple ones.



Useful Chrome command line switches

Command

Description

--ash-force-desktop	Forces uses of the desktop version of Chrome
--disable-3d-apis	Disables 3D Apis, including WebGL and Pepper 3D
--disable-accelerated-video	Disables GPU accelerated video
--disable-background-mode	Background apps won't continue to run when Chrome exits.
--disable-gpu	Disables hardware acceleration using the GPU
--disable-plugins	Prevents all plugins from running
--disable-plugins-discovery	Disables the discovery of missing plugins
--disable-preconnect	Disables speculative TCP/IP preconnections

<code>--disable-translate</code>	Disables the Google Translate feature
<code>--dns-prefetch-disable</code>	Disable DNS prefetching
<code>--enable-kiosk-mode</code>	Kiosk Mode for Chrome OS
<code>--incognito</code>	Launches Chrome directly in Incognito private browsing mode
<code>--media-cache-size</code>	Disk space used by media cache in bytes
<code>--multi-profiles</code>	Enable multiple profiles in Chrome
<code>--new-profile-management</code>	Enable the new profile management in Chrome
<code>--no-experiments</code>	Run Chrome without experiments set in <code>chrome://flags</code>
<code>--no-pings</code>	No hyperlink auditing pings
<code>--no-referrers</code>	Use Chrome without sending referrers
<code>--purge-memory-button</code>	Add purge memory button to Chrome
<code>--reset-variation-state</code>	Change the field trials that the browser is currently signed up for
<code>--restore-last-session</code>	Restore the last session on run
<code>--ssl-version-min</code>	Specify the minimum SSL version accepted
<code>--start-maximized</code>	Starts the Chrome window maximized.
<code>--window-position</code>	Specify the initial window position using <code>--window-position=x,y</code>
<code>--window-size</code>	Specify the initial window size using <code>--window-size=x,y</code>

For a full list of switches, consult [this page](#).