



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document is a collection of frequently asked questions from Total Commander's Official web site (www.ghisler.com). Some text may contain references to online links that may not be available in the way this file is distributed. Special thanks to Christian Ghisler (the author of Total Commander) for allowing me to reproduce the site's information in this file.

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1. Beginners' Questions

Q: How do I Copy files?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Set the source directory in one panel, and the target in the other
2. Select the files you want to copy, either with Insert or the mouse (Ctrl+Click)
3. Press F5 or click the Copy button
4. You may now change the destination directory
5. Click OK
6. The files will now be copied

Q: How do I delete or undelete files?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Select the files you want to delete, either with Insert or the mouse (Ctrl+Click)
2. Press F8 or Delete, or click the Delete button
3. Click OK
4. To undelete, right click on the Delete button
5. Choose 'Open'
6. Select the files you want to undelete
7. Right click on them
8. Select 'Restore'

Q: How do I pack files with ZIP?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Select the files you want to pack, either with Insert or the mouse (Ctrl+Click)
2. Select Files - Pack from the menu, or press Alt+F5
3. Choose the packer you want to use. ZIP is built in
4. Click OK
5. The final archive file appears in the target pane

Q: How do I unpack files?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Open the archive file with ENTER. If it's a self-extracting EXE, open with Ctrl+PageDown.
2. Select the files you want to unpack, either with Insert or the mouse (Ctrl+Click)
3. Press F5 or click the Copy button
4. Click OK
5. The unpacked files appear in the target pane
6. There is also a second way to unpack files:
7. Place the cursor on an archive. You may also select multiple archives.
8. Chose Files - Unpack
9. You can decide to unpack only specific files, e.g. *.txt
10. Click OK
11. All selected archives will be unpacked to the target directory

Q: How do I view files with the built-in viewer?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Place the cursor on the file you want to view
2. Press F3 or click the View button
3. You may also select multiple files, then switch through them with 'n' and 'p' buttons
4. Use Shift+F3 if you want to view the file under the cursor while other files are selected

Q: How do I edit text files?

A: Follow these steps, or try our [animated tutorial](#)

1. Place the cursor on the file you want to edit
2. Press F4 or click the Edit button
3. The default Windows editor notepad.exe will be launched
4. You may define a different editor in Configuration - Options - Viewer/Editor

Q: How do I change file attributes?

A: Please follow these steps:

1. Select the files whose attributes you want to change
2. Choose Files - Change Attributes from the menu
3. Here you can set the Archive, Read only, Hidden, and System Attributes
4. You can also change the 'last modified' time stamp of the file(s)
5. Click "Recurse subdirectories" to change attributes of files in subdirs too
6. Click OK
7. Warning: Total Commander doesn't show hidden/system files by default, but you can enable them in Configuration - Options - Display - Show Hidden/System files

Q: How do I rename files?

A: Please follow these steps:

1. Select the files you want to rename
2. Press Shift+F6, or Shift+Click on the RenMov button
3. If you selected only one file, you can modify its name directly
4. If you selected multiple files, you can rename them using wildcards. * stands for all remaining characters, ? for a single character. Example: *.bak renames the extension to .bak, and leaves the name unchanged.
5. Press ENTER to rename the file(s).

2. Advanced Users' Questions

Q: How do I compare two files by content?

A: Please follow these steps:

1. Select the two files you want to compare, either in the same window, or one in each window
2. From the menu, choose "Files" - "Compare" by content
3. The differences are shown in blue (text files) or red (binaries)
4. To modify one of the files, switch back to Total Commander without closing the compare tool (Alt+Tab), and load the file in an editor
5. When you save the file and switch back to the compare tool, it offers to recompare the files

Q: How do I associate file types with programs?

A: Please follow these steps:

1. Place the cursor on a file of that specific type
2. From the "Files" menu, choose "Associate With"
3. If the desired program (e.g. Microsoft Word) is already in the list, choose it
4. If it's not in the list, click on "New Type"
5. Browse for the program you want
6. Click OK

Q: How do I search for specific files on my hard disk?

A: Please follow these steps:

1. Go to the directory in which you want to start your search
2. From the "Commands" menu, choose "Search"
3. Enter a file mask for the search. Example: *.doc will search for all Word documents
4. You may search for text contained in the files, using the "Find text" option
5. On the second search page, you can search by size, date, and attributes
6. The function also contains a duplicate file finder
7. Start the search with the "Start search" button
8. You can either go to a search result with the "Go to" button, or work with the whole file list by clicking "Feed to listbox"

Q: How do I rename a lot of files?

A: You can use the multi-rename tool like this:

1. Select the files you want to rename, either with Insert, or the mouse, or with the Plus key on the numeric keypad
2. From the "Files" menu, choose "Multi-Rename tool"
3. Now you can use placeholders in square brackets to build your new name. For example [N] means the name of the file (without the extension), [N1-5] means the first 5 characters of the file name, [C] means a counter, etc.
4. you can use the buttons to insert common placeholders
5. The file list below the buttons show the rename result in real time, without actually renaming the files!
6. With F1 (Help), you get a detailed list of all placeholders
7. When you're satisfied with the results, click "Start!"
8. If you made a mistake, you can click on "Undo". This even works after closing and re-opening the rename tool!

Q: How do I synchronize two directories?

A: Use the "Synchronize dirs" tool like this:

1. Switch to the two directories which you want to compare, one in the left and one in the right window
2. If you only want to synchronize certain subdirectories, select them now
3. From the "Commands" menu, choose "Synchronize Dirs"
4. Click on "Compare"
5. Wait for the comparison to complete
6. Files which are newer in the left window will have a green arrow pointing to the right, those which are newer in the right window a blue arrow pointing to the left. Identical files will have an equal sign, different files with identical date an unequal sign.
7. You can choose which files to show using the buttons in the "Show" box. Singles are those which exist on only one side, duplicates exist on both
8. To synchronize the two sides, click on the "Synchronize" button, then OK

Q: How do I connect to an FTP server?

A: Follow these steps to use the built-in ftp client:

1. Click the URL button or choose "FTP new connection" from the menu
2. Type (or paste) the server address, e.g. <ftp.microsoft.com>
3. If you have an account on the server, uncheck "anonymous connection"
4. Click OK
5. If you have an account on the server, you will be asked for user name and password
6. You are now connected to the server
7. Now you can work on the server almost as on a local hard disk. You can upload and download files easily with F5 (Copy), delete them with F8/Delete, view them with F3 and edit with F4
8. To terminate the connection, click on "Disconnect" in the FTP toolbar
9. You can now save the connection, so you can use it later with the FTP button

Q: How do I connect two machines through the parallel port?

A: Just follow these steps:

1. Get a parallel link cable. These are often sold as "Interlink" cable or "Direct cable connection" cable.
2. Start Total Commander on both machines. You only need 1 licence if you are the only user.
3. On both machines, select 'Net' - 'PORT connection to other PC'.
4. One machine will act as a server, and one as a client. You will be working on the client, while Total Commander cannot be used on the server during the connection.
5. Select 'Server' on one machine, and 'Client' on the other.
6. If your computer has multiple parallel ports, Total Commander will ask for the port which you want to use. Choose the port to which the parallel cable is connected.
7. The connection is now established. It works similar to an FTP connection, i.e. you can now upload, download, delete, rename, view, and edit files, but not execute programs. Furthermore, you can use 'synchronize dirs'.
8. Close the connection on the client (Disconnect) and server (Abort).

3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

i. General

Q: What is Total Commander?

A: Total Commander is a file manager for Windows, a program like Windows Explorer to copy, move or delete files. However, Total Commander can do much more than Explorer, e.g. pack and unpack files, access ftp servers, compare files by content, etc! You can find an overview on our ['features'](#) page.

Q: What happened to Windows Commander?

A: Recently there was a [name change](#) - the new name is "Total Commander".

Q: What's new in the current version?

A: You can find an overview on our ['What's new'](#) page.

Q: Which operating systems are supported?

A: There are 2 versions of Total Commander: 32 bit and 16 bit. The 32 bit version runs on Windows 95, 98, ME, Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, and Windows XP. The 16 bit version runs on Windows 3.1.

Q: Is there a Linux version? Or a version for Windows CE?

A: Unfortunately not. Because of problems with porting of Total Commander to Linux, the Linux version had to be delayed indefinitely. A minimal version for Windows CE and the Pocket PC is [now available](#)!

Q: Can I send suggestions for new functions?

A: Yes, please! If possible, send your suggestions clearly separated and numbered, and as short as possible. Unfortunately our wish list is already very long, so we cannot guarantee if or when your wish will be implemented.

Q: Can we create a link to www.ghisler.com?

A: We would be very pleased - as long as your pages do not contain illegal content or offensive material. However, in most cases we cannot offer a link back to your site. Our links are limited to useful [addons](#) to Total Commander, and general [Shareware links](#).

ii. Order

Q: What is the price of a multi-user-licence?

A: You can see the exact pricing on our order form. You find it in the help of Total Commander and on our homepage in the [order section](#). Here are some examples how you calculate the total amount:

Licence for 5 users: 40.-+4x20.- = CHF 120.-

Licence for 10 users: 40.-+9x20.- = CHF 220.-

Licence for 15 users: 40.-+9x20.-+5x15.- = CHF 295.-

Licence for 25 users: 40.-+9x20.-+15x15.- = CHF 445.-

Licence for 50 users: 40.-+9x20.-+15x15.-+25x12.- = CHF 745.-

Licence for 100 users: 40.-+9x20.-+15x15.-+75x12.- = CHF 1345.-

Licence for 250 users: 40.-+9x20.-+15x15.-+75x12.-+150x8.- = CHF 2545.-

Q: How do I calculate the number of licences I need?

A: We define the number of licences you need like this: No more users than the licence gives the right to may run the program at the same time. In other words: You must try to estimate the average number of users who use Total Commander at the same time. So there may be no need to buy licences for all computers on which you install Total Commander.

Q: What's the price of an update from an older to the current version?

A: As soon as you are registered, (until further notice) all updates are free, provided that you get the latest version yourself by downloading it. This has been the case since version 1.0. Just install the new (Shareware) version over the old one. The only important thing is to keep the file wincmd.key.

Q: Can we resell Total Commander to a customer of us?

A: This is possible, but please note the following points:

1. We need the name AND address of the end-user (for the registration key). Please also indicate the shipping and billing address on your order.
2. Unfortunately we cannot offer a special reseller discount, because our prices were calculated for the end-user. You must bill your customer for your expenses.
3. If you order via Internet (Regsoft.com), please give us all necessary names and addresses BEFORE you order (by e-mail), and tell us when you are going to order online.

Q: Can we pay by COD?

A: We do NOT deliver by COD! Please use one of the following payment methods:

- Online by credit card through Regsoft.com
- Check drawn on a Swiss Bank for CHF 40.- (Personal licence). Personal check drawn on a U.S.Bank in US\$ (US\$ 32, which is about CHF 40).
- MasterCard or VISA. Card number, expiration-date, total amount and signature are required. Credit card orders are not accepted by e-mail! The credit card order must be issued in Swiss Francs - please use the order form.
- Cash (foreign currency: cash exchange rate buy, no coins please), at your own risk!
- Cash transfer from the post office (France: mandat international, Italy: vaglia internazionale, other countries: ask) of CHF 40.-to our address. This works fine from the postal office in most European countries (except for Germany, where you should contact us at sales@ghisler.com about our German account. Please supply your postal address!). Please do not forget to write on the coupon (small part) your name, address and country! Please also send the order form with a note when you transferred the money by mail or e-mail to sales@ghisler.com! All charges must be to your debit!
- Invoice: Only for companies who order with official purchase order. Please fill in our [order form](#) too and add it to your order.

Q: Can we make a wire transfer to your bank account?

A: Please proceed this way: Send us your complete address (including your country) by e-mail to sales@ghisler.com, or the filled order form with the remark 'wire transfer to your account' to our postal address. We will then send you our complete bank details by e-mail or Post/Fax. (Reason for this procedure: We want to avoid payments without any reference or sender address.)

Q: Which credit cards do you accept?

A: We accept VISA and MasterCard. NO other credit cards! However, our online reseller, Regsoft.com, also accepts Amex and Discover.

Q: Can we order by fax?

A: If you order by credit card or against invoice (ONLY for companies), you can fax us the filled order form to: +41-31-9223549 . Please send orders by check/cash only by post (no copy by fax) in order to avoid uncertainties and multiple deliveries.

Q: Can we order by e-mail?

A: Please send your order by fax or post because it is legally binding contrary to e-mails. For your own security: NEVER send your credit card number by e-mail! We aren't even allowed to accept credit card orders by e-mail.

Q: Could you inform us by e-mail about new versions?

A: For this we have created our [mailing-list](#). You don't have to fear Spam: You can unsubscribe whenever you want. In addition we do NOT send any commercials and we do not give your e-mail address to anybody else.

Q: We already have a site-licence (multi-user-licence) of Total Commander and would like to order additional licences. Is this possible and how much does it cost?

A: You can always buy additional licences to an existing licence: The price is the difference between the price of the bigger licence and your existing licence plus CHF 5.- for shipping & handling. Example: 20 additional licences to an existing 5-user licence, giving a 25-user-licence:

- Price 25-user-licence: CHF 445.- (40.-+9x20.-+15x15.-)
- Price 5-user-licence: CHF 120.- (40.-+4x20.-)
- **Difference: CHF 325.- + 5.-S&H = CHF 330.-**

The minimum amount to order additional licences is CHF 40.- Please indicate your existing registration number on your order. You can find this number on the original disk, the licence letter or in the menu "Help" - "About Total Commander".

Q: Do you offer an unlimited site licence?

A: No.

Q: Is there any discount for students or pupils?

A: Yes, provided you send or fax us a copy of your valid student card. The price of a student licence is CHF 30.-. NOTE: The student licence can only be registered to the full name of the student/pupil and not to relatives, companies or institutions.

Q: Is it possible to register to an imaginary name?

A: As licence name we can only accept full names of individuals or companies / institutions. If we receive a strange or insufficient name, we reserve the right to decline or change it.

Q: How can I order online a multi-user-licence for my company?

A: It is only possible to order personal licences online. Because of our discount system for additional licences we have chosen the following solution: If you order online several copies at the same time, we will create [automatically multi user licences](#).

iii. Installation

Q: Our company/our firewall doesn't allow FTP connections, only HTTP. Where can I download the program by HTTP?

A: There are several HTTP links also on our download pages.

Q: How do I unpack the ZIP file downloaded from www.ghisler.com ?

A: If you don't have an unpacker or an older version of Total Commander, you can use the program [minunzip](#) - a very small unpacker available free of charge.

Q: When I try to start the installer, I get an error message!

A: Apparently something went wrong during the download - either it was aborted, or the file was downloaded in text mode, which made it unusable. Please try a new download from a different server, if possible by HTTP.

Q: When I try to install a newer version of Total Commander from within an older version, I get a message that the setup information file could not be found!

A: You need to unpack the complete ZIP archive to an empty directory like c:\install, and then start install.exe from there.

Q: After installing a newer version of Total Commander over an existing registered version, the program is no longer registered!

A: Make sure that you have installed the new version to the same directory as the previous version! To verify this, you can search for the file totalcmd.exe with Total Commander: *Commands - Search*.

Q: Suddenly Total Commander is no longer registered, although I haven't changed the program!

A: You have probably tried to create a shortcut (link file) to Total Commander on the desktop, but by mistake you have copied the program there. Solution: Delete the faulty shortcut, and create a new one by right clicking on the desktop and choosing New - Shortcut.

Q: How can I remove Total Commander from my system?

A: Since version 4.50 the 32 bit version contains a program to remove Total Commander. You can reach it through Control Panel - Add/Remove software, or by going to the Total Commander directory and starting TCUNINST.EXE . If you have used the parallel port connection on Windows NT or 2000, you should run uninstall as an administrator, otherwise the parallel port driver cannot be removed. Older versions can be removed by deleting the Total Commander directory completely (usually c:\wincmd or c:\totalcmd).

iv. User interface

Q: If I run a DOS program or a DOS command from Total Commander's command line, I always land in c:\ (or another fixed directory) instead of the current directory!

A: There is a directory saved in the PIF file associated with the program. If you use Windows 3.1 or Windows NT 3.51, you can use the PIF Editor to change the files _default.pif and dosprmt.pif (or 4dos.pif) in your Windows directory. The line 'Working directory' must be empty! In Windows 95 or later, you can press ALT+ENTER on the PIF file to change it directly.

Q: On Windows 95, why doesn't drag&drop to the desktop work?

A: You are using the 16 bit version. Only the 32 bit version supports drag&drop with the desktop and the Explorer. Please download the 32 bit version from our [download page](#)!

Q: How do I keep Total Commander from re-reading the directories in the file windows each time I switch to Total Commander? With network drives this can take quite some time!

A: Put the following line in the file wincmd.ini below [Configuration]: Noread=HIJ Where HIJ are your network drives. The directory can always be re-read by pressing F2.

Q: How can I quickly switch to an often used directory?

A: Either use the directory hotlist (CTRL+D), or create a button in the button bar or an entry in the start menu. The directory hotlist allows to add/remove the currently active directory. To add a dir to the button bar, select the directory, hold down the SHIFT key, and drag the directory to the button bar. A new icon will appear. You can also create a menu item in the "Start Menu" using the command cd c:\dirname. (Total Commander requires you to specify the whole path).

Q: Is there a simple way to make Total Commander display the disk space used by all directories in the current directory individually?

A: Yes! Simply press ALT+SHIFT+ENTER on a directory. Instead of <DIR> the size of this directory and all its subdirectories will be shown! This will only work in full view (i.e. all file details are shown).

Q: The symbols in the button bar look fuzzy and unclear.

A: Total Commander uses normal 32x32 icons in its button bar. To fit more icons on one line, Total Commander shrinks these icons. The size can be defined in the dialog Configuration - Button bar. If you don't like the fuzzy look, you can set the size to 32 to avoid shrinking the icons. The 32 bit version also uses the 16x16 icons if the program contains them.

Q: In the file lists, Total Commander doesn't display the right icons for files associated with programs! It displays the *.ICO file type icon for all!

A: That occurs in 32-bit versions if you increased or decreased the title-bar height in Windows. If possible, restore the size to 18, which is the default. If you want to keep the customized title-bar height, you need to change each icon (only xxx.ICO files) for each file type by a different one, contained in a DLL or ICL icon-library; you can choose icons in any *.EXE program file too. Then, Total Commander will display the right icons everywhere!

Q: How can I add a program to the button bar?

A: Simply press and hold down the SHIFT key, then drag the program to the desired position.

Q: How can I delete or change a button in the button bar?

A: Click with the right mouse button on the bar and select 'Change' or 'Delete' from the popup menu.

Q: How can I access the context menu from Total Commander? A right click only selects the file.

A: You have to press and hold down the right mouse button for about 1 second to make the menu appear. Alternative: Press Shift+F10 or the menu key on a Windows keyboard.

Q: Can Total Commander use the 'Quick View' file viewers in Windows95?

A: When you press ALT+F3 (external viewer), Total Commander first looks for an internal association specified in the dialog '*Configuration*' - '*Viewer/Editor*'. Afterwards Total Commander checks if the extension is associated with Quick View. If no viewer is found, the default viewer specified in the configuration dialog is used.

Q: Total Commander saves the last 20 command lines, but since I often enter passwords and other confidential information, I would like to disable this function.

A: This can be disabled in *Configuration* - *Options* - *Operation* - *Save on Exit* - *Old command lines*. This must be unchecked.

Q: Why does the frame around the current file disappear if I type something in the command line?

A: Windows doesn't allow the active selection (cursor) to appear in multiple windows simultaneously.

Q: After the execution of a DOS command such as DIR the window is closed so quickly that the output of the program is unreadable!

A: You can start the program with SHIFT+ENTER instead of ENTER. This leaves the window open after the program terminates.

Q: For very big files, the 'size' column is too small to display the number. Can this be changed?

A: Yes, move the column delimiter in the header on the left side of the size field a bit to the right. Afterwards, choose *configuration* - *save position* to permanently save the new width.

Q: Why are only files sorted by date/time, but not directories?

A: This is the default setting in Total Commander. However, it can be changed in *Configuration* - *Options* - *Display* - *Like files (also by time)*. If you need to change this multiple times, you may create a button in the button bar with the command `cm_SwitchDirSort`.

Q: How can I access the Windows desktop?

A: Create a button in the button bar with the command `cm_OpenDesktop`. A corresponding icon can be found in the file `shell32.dll` in the Windows directory (simply type this file name in the field 'icon file' and press ENTER).

Q: Can I display files with special attributes, directories etc. in a different color?

A: Yes, choose *Configuration* - *Options* - *Color* - *Define colors by file type* - *Add*. Now, instead of typing a file type like `*.txt`, press the button "Define". This gives you almost the same options as when searching for files, except for the search for text. You can search for file attributes on the second page of the dialog box.

Q: How can I display images other than BMP in lister (F3) or the Quick View window (Ctrl+Q)?

A: For this you need to install Irfanview or Xnview as a plugin. You can find Irfanview and Xnview on our [addons page](#). After installing it, you need to define it as a plugin. This is done through *Configuration* - *Options* - *Edit/View* - *Configure internal viewer*.

Q: Can the slow scrolling through file lists be accelerated?

A: This so-called 'Smooth scrolling' is a 'feature' of newer Windows versions. It can be disabled with the Microsoft tool TweakUI. Go to www.microsoft.com and search for TweakUI and your operating system. Download and install the tool, and start TweakUI from the control panel. On the page *General*, disable the option *Listbox animation*. In Windows XP, this can now be changed in Control Panel-System-Advanced-Performance (without the need for TweakUI).

You may also increase the keyboard repetition rate (Control panel- Keyboard).

v. File operations

Q: Can certain files be excluded from copying?

A: Yes, there are two lines in the copy dialog, one for the target directory and a name change, and a second line for the files to be copied. Here you can not only specify file types to be copied (e.g. *.doc *.xls), but also those which should not be copied, e.g. *.* | *.bak *.old. File types behind the vertical line will then not be copied. The line (pipe symbol) is used because it's not allowed in normal file names.

Q: Total Commander cannot access files containing certain characters like ALT+255. What can I do?

A: DOS and Windows use different character sets, ASCII and ANSI. Certain characters contained in ASCII such as DOS line drawing characters do not exist in Windows! You must start a DOS box and rename the file by hand with RENAME. A similar problem exists on Windows NT: This system uses Unicode to store file names. If there is a file name from a different language than set in Windows (e.g. Russian or Chinese), Total Commander cannot access it.

Q: Total Commander has problems to write to my CD-RW drive. What could be the reason?

A: To write to a CD-RW drive, a so-called UDF driver is used, e.g. EasyCD from Adaptec. Depending on the used software and its age, the driver may be good or bad - some drivers only seem to be tested with the Explorer. **Solution:** Either use a different driver software (e.g. the above mentioned), or change the Total Commander settings to copy files through the Explorer. To do this, you need to add the following line to the file wincmd.ini under the header [Configuration]

ExplorerForCopy=1

Disadvantage: You lose extended copy capabilities like copying in the background.

Q: Why is the deletion of files so slow on Windows 2000?

A: This happens if you have disabled the recycle bin on the Desktop, but not in Total Commander. **Solution:** Disable the recycle bin also in Total Commander under Configuration - Options - Operation, or change the Total Commander settings to make it delete through the Explorer. To do this, you need to add the following line to the file wincmd.ini, under section [Configuration]

Win95Delete=1

The strange name comes because the recycle bin was first introduced in Windows 95.

Q: There is no longer a PIF editor in Windows 95. How can I change the settings of my DOS programs?

A: Just press ALT+ENTER on the application or its PIF file. This will open a property sheet for this application.

Q: Why can't I change the date of a directory?

A: This is a limitation of DOS. To change the date of a file, DOS must open the file. Since you cannot open directories for reading or writing, you cannot change their dates. Since version 4.03, it's possible to change the date/time of a directory through a DOS function for long filenames. Starting with Total Commander 4.53, you can also change the timestamp of directories on Windows NT and Windows 2000, but only if you login as an administrator, because you need backup privileges to open folders for modification.

Q: How can I easily rename a file? The current name of the file should be given as the default!

A: Select the file and press SHIFT+F6.

Q: How can I format or copy floppy disks using Total Commander?

A: When you right click on the drive letter, it opens a context menu which contains the two commands. Under Windows NT/2000 this only works if the drive isn't the current drive - therefore you have to use the drive button bar (can be enabled through the Configuration

dialog). Alternative: Create a button in the button bar with one of the following commands:
rundll32.exe diskcopy.dll,DiskCopyRunDll
(for copying), or:
rundll32.exe shell32.dll,SHFormatDrive
(for formatting).

Q: Is it possible to use F2 for renaming (as in Explorer)?

A: Yes, you can re-map keyboard shortcuts through *Configuration - Options - Misc - Redefine hotkeys*. The command for renaming is `cm_RenameOnly` .

Q: How can I split a file to a user-defined size?

A: Use Files - Split file, and enter the desired size by hand. Please note: When you enter the size in k or M, please consider that 1k=1024 bytes and 1M=1024k! Normally a CD-R can hold less than 640M.

Q: How do I create a shortcut (lnk file)?

A: There are two possibilities:

1. In the other window by pressing **Ctrl+Shift+F5**
2. In the same window by right clicking on the file for 1 second or by pressing Shift+F10 and selecting the command Create Shortcut.

Q: How can I verify files which I have written to a floppy disk? Why isn't this done automatically?

A: The problem is the disk cache: When writing the files to a floppy disk and reading them back immediately afterwards, they are not read from the disk, but from the disk cache. Unfortunately there seems to be no way to erase the disk cache.

Solution: Remove and re-insert the floppy disk! You can then either select all files and copy them to NUL (with F5), or use the command 'Synchronize dirs' to compare the files by content with the originals on the harddisk.

Q: Although the recycle bin is enabled both in Total Commander and on the Desktop, Total Commander deletes the files directly.

A: This happens if the recycle bin is damaged. To repair it, proceed as follows:

1. Enable the display of hidden/system files in Total Commander (through the Configuration menu).
2. On all drives, delete the directory called \recycled in the root of the drive. Warning: This empties the recycle bin!
3. Delete one file in Explorer. This re-creates the recycle bin.
4. Do not modify the content of the \recycled directories. To access the recycle bin, right click on the F8 button in Total Commander.

Q: How can I print a file list, or import it into a different program?

A: There are several ways to print a directory from Total Commander, although it's not possible directly:

1. Use Files - Print - File list to print the selected file names. Depending on the current display mode, you can print either only the file names, or all file details. Please note that some fonts like Fixedsys may not work with your printer. To print to a file, install the printer Generic - Text only, and connect it to FILE: .
2. Use the command `cm_copynamestoclip` (e.g. add it to button bar) to copy all names via clipboard to other programs
3. Use the diskdir plugin from our [addons page](#) to create a list file, which you can then print from Word or Excel.
4. Use a third party tool like print folder pro from www.no-nonsense-software.com It's specialized on printing folders.

Q: How can I compare one or more pairs of folders by content, e.g. after burning a CD-R?

A: You can use the function *synchronize dirs*: Select the folders which you want to compare, and choose *commands - synchronize dirs* and choose the options *Subdirs*, *by content* and *ignore date*. Then click *compare*. Click the = button to hide/show equal files.

vi. Packing

Q: I cannot unpack some newer RAR archives!

A: Recently, a new version of RAR was released, RAR 3. This version is not compatible with older versions of RAR! Therefore a new unpack library is needed. Commander contains this new library since version 5.1.

Q: I have an archive file of type xyz, but Total Commander cannot unpack it. Is there a way to still unpack it with Total Commander?

A: Total Commander supports packer extensions, so-called plugins. These support a range of additional formats, like GZIP, RPM etc. Furthermore there is a plugin, which can be configured in detail for calling external packers. You can find all available plugins and instructions to write your own on our [add-ons page](#).

Q: Where can I find the external packers supported by Total Commander, for the formats ARJ, LHA, RAR, ACE and UC2?

A: You can find the links to these programs on our [add-ons page](#).

Q: How can I unpack Java archives (*.jar)?

A: Java archives are just normal zip files with a different extension. They can be opened with Ctrl+PageDown. If *.jar isn't associated with a different program (Files->Associate with), you can also open the file with ENTER.

Q: How can I see the contents of self-extracting archives?

A: Select the file, and press CTRL+PageDown. This works with normal and self-extracting archives as well as with directories.

Q: Why doesn't Total Commander support the new JAR packer from the author of ARJ? It creates *.j files.

A: Unfortunately the JAR format is undocumented. Its contents can only be determined by unpacking the file. However, you can unpack JAR files with the Multi-Arc plugin from our [addons page](#). This plugin directly calls the JAR packer.

Q: Where can I find Zip-NT by Info-Zip to pack files with long filenames?

A: You can find Zip-NT at the following WWW address:

<ftp://ftp.uu.net/pub/archiving/zip/WIN32/>

Unfortunately this version does NOT support high ASCII characters like German "Umlauts" and French or Scandinavian accents! You should use the internal ZIP packer which supports all this! You should only use ZIP-NT if you need special command line switches like zip file comments, freshen, or update.

Q: I have downloaded ZIP-NT 2.01, but it just doesn't work!

A: First, you need to copy Zip-NT (only the EXE) to a directory with a short name, e.g. c:\zip. Then, choose Configuration - Packers and click on the >>button behind the Zip packer field. Now switch to the Zip-NT directory and select Zip-NT. You can then click on 'Use Zip-NT' Total Commander will patch ZIP-NT.

Q: I have installed ZIP-NT, but when I use it, Windows 95 tells me that it wants to start in DOS-only mode!

A: In Total Commander, switch to the root of drive c: and press ALT+ENTER on command.com.

This brings up the property sheet of command.com. Click on the 'Program' tab, then on 'Advanced'.

There are 3 square checkboxes: Only the middle of the three must be selected! It reads 'Suggest MS-DOS mode as necessary'.

Q: Zip-NT cannot find any files to pack!

A: This happens if there is a PIF file which contains a startup path. ZIP-NT will always start in that path and therefore will not find any files to pack!

To correct this problem, you must modify either dosprmt.pif, command.pif or 4dos.pif, whichever is present in your Windows directory.

In Windows 3.1 and NT you must use pifedit.exe to modify them. In Windows 95 you can press ALT+ENTER on the PIF files or on command.com/4dos.com directly.

Q: Why doesn't Total Commander open all CAB file types?

A: There are two types of CAB files: The official CAB standard from Microsoft, which is used e.g. by Windows, and the installation files from InstallShield, which also have the extension .cab, but have nothing in common with the CAB standard. Unfortunately Total Commander cannot open those files, because their format isn't documented.

vii. FTP

Q: How can we specify a port number?

A: Enter the port number separated by a colon ':' behind the server name, in the form ftp.server.com:2121 . Standard is 21 for direct ftp connections, 80 for HTTP connections, 8080 for HTTP proxies, and 1080 for socks4/5 proxies.

Q: Total Commander cannot connect at all!

A: You are probably running a personal firewall like ZoneAlarm, Sygate, Norton Internet Security or the Windows XP firewall. Make sure that you allow Total Commander to access the Internet. Warning: With some firewalls, it doesn't help to close the firewall frontend - the actual firewall continues to run in the background.

Q: Although Total Commander can connect to servers inside our company, it can't access servers on the Internet!

A: Your corporate network is separated from the Internet by a Firewall or Proxy server. Therefore you have to configure the firewall or proxy, respectively, through which the connection has to pass. Please ask your network administrator which type of proxy your network uses, and which is its server name and port address. You can enter these in the proxy dialog as follows: *proxy.yourcompany.com:port_number* .

Q: Total Commander connects to the server, but cannot download the directory.

A: Your machine is probably located in a corporate network behind a firewall which doesn't allow connections from the outside. Please try a connection in *passive* mode. You need to configure at least one passive mode connection in Net - FTP Connect. Afterwards, Total Commander will use this mode by default.

Q: Total Commander downloads the directory, but shows incomplete or false file details.

A: Apparently the FTP server returns the directory listing in a format not understood by Total Commander. Unfortunately the directory format for FTP isn't standardized. Total Commander supports the de facto standard Unix, plus a few often used server types, e.g. Windows NT and VMS. However, you can define your own server type. To do this, create a new FTP connection using Net - FTP Connect - New connection, and as server type choose Define new type. now establish the connection. Total Commander now shows you the raw directory listing from the server, and allows you to redefine the server type. Some definitions are included as examples.

Q: Why can't I put a download in the background as when copying?

A: Because an FTP server only supports a single file transfer through one connection, Total Commander needs to create a new connection for every background transfer. Therefore you need to check the option to download in background in the dialog box which appears before the download starts.

Q: Why doesn't Total Commander support resume on uploads?

A: Starting with version 4.53, Total Commander supports (because of popular demand) resuming of uploads, but only if the following conditions are met:

1. The FTP server needs to support resume, otherwise you will get an error.
2. The file is transferred in binary mode (not text mode)
3. The partially uploaded file needs to be visible in the target window, including its size. Attention: If your server shows wrong file sizes, you must NOT use this function, because otherwise the data would be appended in the wrong location!
4. The partial file has a minimum size of 32 kbytes
5. The target machine doesn't use the server WarFTPd. Total Commander doesn't offer the resume option if it detects this server, because it damages files on resume.
6. The connection isn't made over a HTTP proxy.

Warning: Unlike with downloads, it's not possible with uploads to verify that the already present part and the rest of the file belong together, or if one of the parts has been changed in the meantime. When resuming a download, Total Commander downloads an overlapping part of the file and compares it with the end of the already present part. Therefore you should test the target file after resuming an upload!

Q: Why doesn't Total Commander support a connection by SSH?

A: Unfortunately we cannot support any encryption in Total Commander because of the current patent and crypto export situation.

However, there is now a new [file system plugin](#) for Total Commander, which supports SFTP. SFTP is FTP via SSH. It needs SSH2, which is now supported by almost all new Linux and other Unix distributions.

Q: Where does Total Commander store the settings of the FTP client?

A: The FTP settings are stored in the file wcx_ftp.ini in the Windows directory, all other settings in the file wincmd.ini, the button bar in the file default.bar. You can define other locations by using command line parameters (see the help).

Q: How can I change the access rights (permissions) of files?

A: If the FTP server supports the chmod command (unfortunately not supported by all servers), you can either use the function Files - Change attributes, or directly send the command through the command line, e.g. SITE chmod 755 test.cgi

viii. Network

Q: How can I access a server whose name I know, but which doesn't appear in the Network Neighborhood?

A: This can be done with the command `cd \\server` or `cd \\server\share`. You can either enter this command directly on the command line, or you create a button in the button bar, an entry in the start menu, or in the Ctrl+D menu with this command.

Q: Sometimes when I delete or move directories on a Netware server, the network drive is disconnected!

A: This is a bug in the Netware driver. There seems to be a bugfix from Novell for it. You need to get the file [novellnp.exe](#) from [www.novell.com](#), and install it. It contains an updated driver. See document ID 2929518.

Novell writes the following about it:

>>This file contains the NOVELLNP.DLL for the intraNetWare Client 2.20 for Windows 95. It resolves the problem of losing drive mappings/connections when using a MS Office 97 application (see TID 2929518). This fix will be available in the ZENworks Client for 95, which is the next full client release.<<

Q: Files with spaces in their names cannot be opened when they are located on a Novell Network server.

A: This problem can be solved by installing a more recent Novell Netware client software (V. 4.70).

Q: Is there a way to find out which user on a different computer has opened a certain file on this machine?

A: Yes, create a button in the button bar or an entry in the start menu with the following command: `cm_ShowFileUser`. Unfortunately this function only seems to work with Windows servers.

Q: How can I access administrative shares on Windows 95/98, e.g. \\server\c\$? The machine has already been configured for remote administration.

A: Create a button in the button bar or an entry in the start menu with the following command: `cm_AdministerServer`

Now switch to the remote server (through the Network Neighborhood or the command `cd \\server` on the command line) and then press the button created above.

ix. Parallel Port

Q: Which operating systems are supported by the parallel port connection?

A: Total Commander supports connections between any combination of Windows 95, 98, ME, Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, Windows 3.1 (16 bit version), and now also Windows XP (see remark below). Furthermore, there is a parallel port server for DOS available on our [addons page](#), which doesn't support any long file names, though.

Q: I'm getting download error 4 on WinXP! How can I fix this?

A: Windows XP comes with its own parallel port connection. If you have installed this on the same port on which you try to use Total Commander's parallel port connection, the two will interfere and prevent the transfer of some files. **Solution:** Remove Windows XP's own parallel port connection from this port!

Q: What kind of cable do I need for the parallel port connection?

A: You need a parallel port cable with crossed lines, a so-called 4 bit or nibble mode cable. The cable has a 25 pin connector with pins (not holes) on both sides and is most often sold as parallel port cable for Interlink or parallel port cable for direct cable connection. At least the following lines need to be connected:

2 <----> 15
3 <----> 13
4 <----> 12
5 <----> 10
6 <----> 11
10 <----> 5
11 <----> 6
12 <----> 4
13 <----> 3
15 <----> 2
25 <----> 25 (ground)

Q: Why doesn't Total Commander support the USB port?

A: USB is a non-symmetrical bus - this can be seen from the cables, which have two completely different connectors. Therefore for a connection of two machines by USB, a device needs to be put in between, which forwards the data. Unfortunately there is no standard, so every manufacturer of such a cable bundles it with his own software. Good software emulates a small local area network, so you can use any program (including Total Commander) to access the remote computer. If you buy such a cable, make sure you can return it if it doesn't emulate such a local area network. The cable is often labeled as supporting TCP/IP connections or LAN connections.

x. Problems

Q: After installing Windows security update KB824141, quick search no longer works correctly. What can I do?

A: Please update to **Total Commander 6.03a**! If you want to keep version 5.51, you can use a hotfix which contains a workaround to this problem. You can download it [here](#). The hotfix contains just the new program totalcmd.exe and needs to be installed to the same directory as the installed version of Total Commander 5.51. The hotfix is **not needed** for Total Commander 6.0 or later!

Q: When pressing Alt+Enter on some files (mostly EXE), Total Commander becomes unstable and even crashes. Why?

A: This can happen if you have a faulty shell extension installed. If you have WinRAR 3.0 installed, you can download a fixed shell extension [here](#). Please unpack to the WinRAR directory. The replacement DLL was generously provided by the RAR author, Eugene Roshal, and will probably be included in WinRAR 3.1. (For those who are interested, the bug is in the load/unload code of Borland C++ Builder 5.0!) If you don't have RAR 3 installed, you may try to remove some of the shell extensions until the error disappears.

Q: After upgrading from Total Commander 4.0 to 4.5, the start of Total Commander takes one minute instead of 1 second! What can I do?

A: This problem is probably caused by your virus scanner. Totalcmd.exe is packed with the EXE packer [ASPack](#). Certain virus scanners seem to observe the startup of each program in single step mode, which is of course terribly slow. Solution: Exclude totalcmd.exe from the scan operation - Total Commander contains a built-in virus protection. We also offer (by [support e-mail](#)) an unpacked version of Total Commander to registered users if you cannot disable the scan of totalcmd.exe in your company.

Q: When I start Total Commander, I get a warning within the first few seconds that totalcmd.exe is defective, probably caused by an unknown virus. However, my virus scanner doesn't find a virus!

A: Total Commander contains a checksum function, which checks at every program start whether the program has been modified. If you receive the above message, the checksum function has detected a modification. This may have several reasons:

1. In most cases this is caused by a new virus which is unknown to your scanner. You should immediately get the latest antiviral data for your scanner, and/or a second scanner.
2. Total Commander is located on a (network) drive in a directory to which you only have execute rights, but no read rights. Total Commander needs read rights too.
3. If the error only occurs from time to time, and you also have some inexplicable crashes, the reason is most probably a defective memory module (RAM).
4. After the installation of a new version of Total Commander, it can happen that parts of the old program are still in cache, which can cause this error. After a reboot, the error should disappear.

Q: McAfee Antivirus 4.5 claims to find an unknown virus, but only when Total Commander is started through the startup group!

A: McAfee antivirus isn't fast enough to scan the file and aborts the scan with a (false) error message. Solution from McAfee:

In the registry (through Regedit.exe) under the key:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Network Associates\
TVD\Shared Components\On Access Scanner\McShield\Configuration]
create or change the following DWORD value:
ScanArchiveTimeout=128

Q: Why does it take so long to launch the 32-bit version on my 486?

A: Total Commander needs to load the OLE2 libraries to do drag&drop from and to explorer, and to show context menus and property sheets. These libraries are very big, and take a lot of time and space to load. You may prefer to use the 16-bit version on a 386 or 486, since it doesn't need the OLE2 libraries. However, it also doesn't support drag and drop from and to explorer, and does show its own simplified context menus.

Q: The button bar background looks very strange (see image). What's the reason?

A: This is a bug in certain Nvidia display drivers. You need to install a new driver (version 23.11 or newer) to fix the problem.

Q: When I close the Multi-Rename-Tool with the 'X' button, Total Commander freezes.

A: This is a bug in Total Commander 4.50, which has been fixed in newer versions.

Q: Every time I start Total Commander, I'm getting the error message "out of system resources". After that, Total Commander runs normally!

A: This is a bug in certain display drivers. It was affecting cards of type NVIDIA TNT2.

Solution: Get a newer driver from the homepage of the manufacturer of your card.

Q: Sometimes when I delete or move directories on a Netware server, the network drive is disconnected!

A: This is a bug in the Netware driver. There seems to be a bugfix from Novell for it. You need to get the file **novellnp.exe** from **www.novell.com**, and install it. It contains an updated driver. See document ID 2929518.

Novell writes the following about it:

>>This file contains the NOVELLNP.DLL for the intraNetWare Client 2.20 for Windows 95. It resolves the problem of losing drive mappings/connections when using a MS Office 97 application (see TID 2929518). This fix will be available in the ZENworks Client for 95, which is the next full client release.<<

Q: If I run a DOS program or a DOS command from Total Commander's command line, I always land in c:\ (or another fixed directory) instead of the current directory!

A: There is a directory saved in the PIF file associated with the program. If you use Windows 3.1 or Windows NT, you can use the PIF Editor to change the files _default.pif and dosprmt.pif (or 4dos.pif) in your Windows directory. The line 'Working directory' must be empty! In Windows 95 (or NT with the new shell) you can press ALT+ENTER on the PIF file to change it directly.

Q: The symbols in the button bar look fuzzy and unclear.

A: Total Commander uses normal 32x32 icons in its button bar. To fit more icons on one line, Total Commander shrinks these icons. The size can be defined in the dialog Configuration - Button bar. If you don't like the fuzzy look, you can set the size to 32 to avoid shrinking the icons. Total Commander 32 bit also uses 16x16 icons if present.

Q: From time to time we'll experience an error where the screen looks distorted, the mouse cursor freezes, etc. The error may be referred as an Access Violation under Windows NT, or expressed as a GP Fault or Illegal Operation under Windows 95/98. What can we do?

A: Often the bug isn't in Total Commander, but the video driver. This is a component of Windows supplied by the manufacturer of the video card. First you should see if the same problems occur with the standard VGA driver. If not, you should ask your vendor for a new driver, or look on CompuServe or on the Internet for an updated driver. If you experience the same problems with the VGA card and no other Programs are running when the error occurs, you should send me a bug report with the version of Total Commander and Windows you use, the exact error address and the name of the module where the error occurs. A DrWatson report would also be helpful.

Q: When I run Total Commander I get a message that the file ctl3dv2.dll isn't installed correctly, but it's there in Total Commander's directory!

A: The file ctl3dv2.dll only works if it is either in your Windows- or Windows\system directory! Please copy it there and delete all other copies of ctl3dv2.dll, especially the one in your Total Commander directory! This will affect only the 16-bit version. The 32-bit version uses ctl3d32.dll.

Q: If I use the wheel on a Logitech mouse, Total Commander crashes!

A: This is a bug in certain versions of the mouse driver. Solution: Deactivate the handling of the mouse wheel in Total Commander - it will still continue to work because the driver converts wheel movements to arrow key presses. Please add the following line to the file wincmd.ini (in the Windows directory) under section [Configuration]
IgnoreWheel=1

Q: Suddenly the program can no longer be started. After the double click on the icon the startup screen appears, but then it freezes.

A: Apparently you had a network drive displayed in one of the two file panels when you closed Total Commander, and the drive is no longer accessible, e.g. because the server has been turned off. Some network drivers seem to wait several minutes until they stop trying and report an error. Solution: open the file wincmd.ini in the Windows directory and look for sections [left] and [right]. If there is a network directory saved in one of these sections, change it to c:\

Q: While working with Total Commander, the keyboard layout suddenly changes from my language to English!

A: Some versions of Windows allow to switch between multiple keyboard layouts with LeftAlt+Shift. So if you use a shortcut like LeftAlt+Shift+Enter, Windows can change the layout of the keyboard. To prevent this, open Control panel, *Keyboard* and open the page *Input locales*. Then remove the hotkey for input locales using *Change key sequence*.