



Intro

This is a useful one liner to help free up some space on multi-user systems.

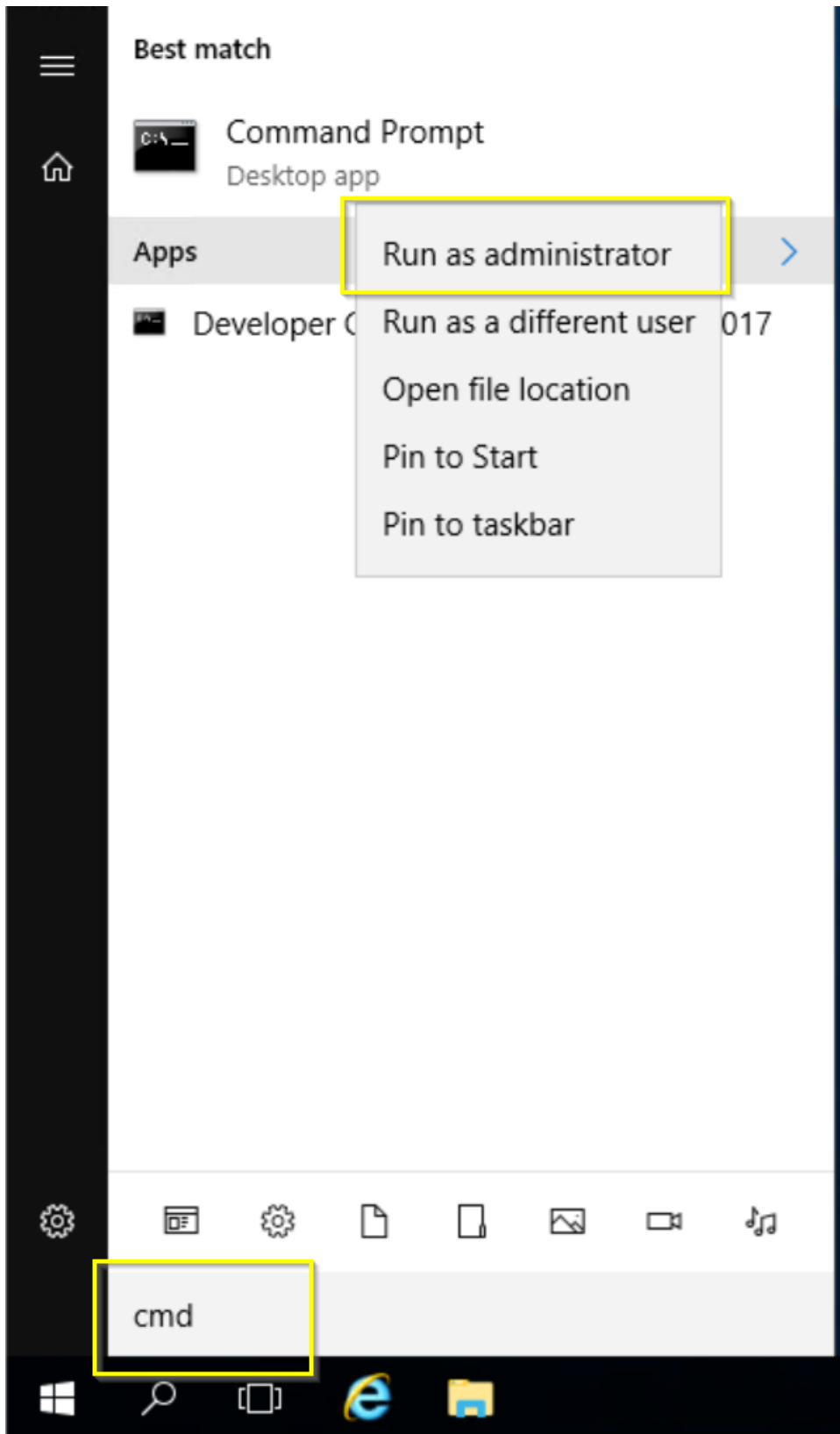
If a user is not aware of [shift + delete] to bypass the recycle bin (free tip if you weren't aware) they will likely not think to empty the recycle bin and not actually free up any space as a result.

Multiply this by multiple users and it can soon start adding up.

If you need to free up space quickly or just generally tidying up the following can be a quick and easy way to claw back some space.

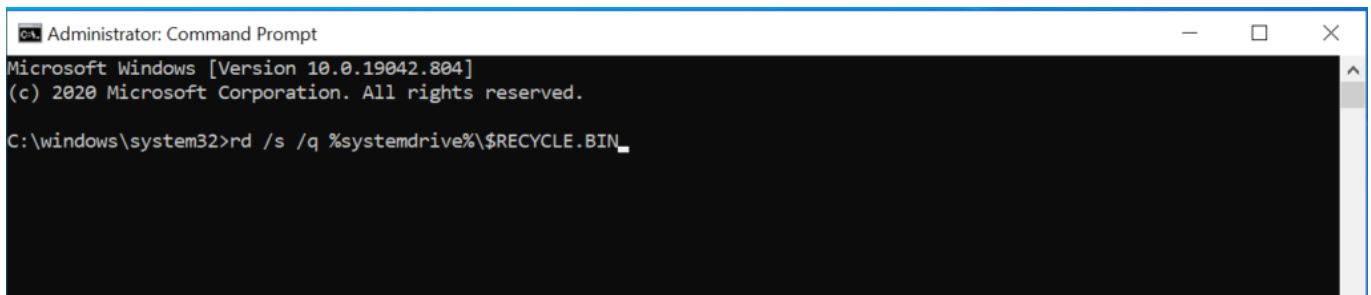
Instructions

1. Open up a command prompt window as an administrator.



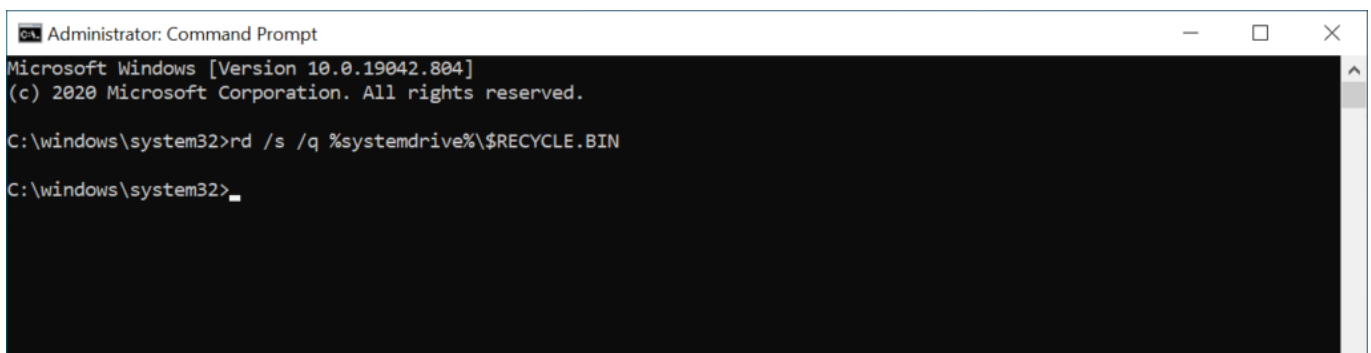
2. Type in or copy/paste the following line and hit return.

```
rd /s /q %systemdrive%\$RECYCLE.BIN
```



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19042.804]
(c) 2020 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\windows\system32>rd /s /q %systemdrive%\$RECYCLE.BIN_
```

If the no errors are returned then the command executed successfully and all user recycle bins should now be empty.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19042.804]
(c) 2020 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\windows\system32>rd /s /q %systemdrive%\$RECYCLE.BIN
C:\windows\system32>
```

Explanation

The following is a quick explanation of what the different parts of the command mean.

rd	(Command) Deletes a directory.
/s	(Switch/Option/Flag) Deletes the specified directory as well as subdirectories and all contents.
/q	(Switch/Option/Flag) Quiet mode. Will not prompt for confirmation so will carry out command without any interaction
%systemdrive%\\$RECYCLE.BIN	The path to the directory to delete in this case "%systemdrive%" is a variable for the drive letter that Windows is installed on. "\$RECYCLE.BIN" is the location of where all user recycle bins are held.

Command Documentation: [rd | Microsoft Docs](#)