

# What is the command line length limit?

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031210-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031210-00)

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It depends on whom you ask. The maximum command line length for the `CreateProcess` function is 32767 characters. This limitation comes from the `UNICODE_STRING` structure. `CreateProcess` is the core function for creating processes, so if you are talking directly to Win32, then that's the only limit you have to worry about. But if you are reaching `CreateProcess` by some other means, then the path you travel through may have other limits. If you are using the `CMD.EXE` command processor, then you are also subject to the 8192 character command line length limit imposed by `CMD.EXE`. If you are using the `ShellExecute/Ex` function, then you become subject to the `INTERNET_MAX_URL_LENGTH` (around 2048) command line length limit imposed by the `ShellExecute/Ex` functions. (If you are running on Windows 95, then the limit is only `MAX_PATH`.) While I'm here, I may as well mention another limit: The maximum size of your environment is 32767 characters. The size of the environment includes the all the variable names plus all the values.

Okay, but what if you want to pass more than 32767 characters of information to a process? You'll have to find something other than the command line. [We'll discuss some options tomorrow.](#)

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