# Getting a list of logical and physical drives from the command line

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It’s often useful to know what logical and physical drives are available to Windows, and sometimes this needs to be done from the command line.

#### Logical drives

Here’s a handy command to return a list of logical drives in Windows.

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***wmic logicaldisk get caption,description,drivetype,providername,volumename***

The Win32_LogicalDiskâ€‚WMI class represents a data source that resolves to an actual local storage device on a computer system running Windows. While Caption, Description, DriveType, ProviderName, and VolumeName are useful in most cases, more properties are available, and a complete list is available at http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa394173(v=vs.85).aspx. The output will be formatted as a table, the properties will be the column headings, and they will be placed into alphabetical order.

*Caption* is the drive letter of the logical disk. The Name property also returns the drive letter.

*Description* is the type of disk. For example: Local Fixed Disk, CD-

ROM Disc, or Removable Disk.

*DriveType* is returned as an integer that corresponds to the type of disk drive the logical disk represents (and this matches the Description, making DriveType sort of superfluous).

**0 = Unknown**
**1 = No Root Directory**
**2 = Removable Disk**
**3 = Local Disk**
**4 = Network Drive**
**5 = Compact Disc**
**6 = RAM Disk**

***ProviderName*** is the network path to the logical device.

***VolumeName*** is the volume name of the logical disk.
Physical drives

And here is a command to return a list of physical drives.

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***wmic diskdrive list brief /format:list***

The Win32_DiskDrive WMI class represents a physical disk drive as seen by a computer running Windows. Like the Win32_LogicalDiskâ€‚WMI class, it has lots of properties, as listed at http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa394132(v=vs.85).aspx.

For simplicity, though, and ease of reading in command window, **wmic diskdrive list brief /format:list** does the trick, particularly in combination with **wmic logicaldisk**.

Online URL: https://kb.naturalnetworks.com/article.php?id=148