

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

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

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\_LogicalDisk 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](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&#128;&#130;WMI class, it has lots of properties, as listed at [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa394132\(v=vs.85\).aspx](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>