

# TightVNC for Windows: Server Command-Line Options

TightVNC Version 2.7

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TightVNC Server can be fully configured, started or stopped purely via the command line.

All settings found in the user interface can be changed via CLI options listed below. Besides that, the command line interface makes it possible to share only a specific window or display, rather than showing the whole desktop.

## ***How To Execute Command via Command-Line Interface***

Command-line options are accepted by the `tvnserver.exe` file. The default path to this file is “`C:\Program Files\TightVNC\tnserver.exe`”.

Program options specified on the command line follow these general rules:

- The server receives only one command at a time.
- A command name begins with a dash, e.g. **-help**.
- If any, command parameters are separated from a command by whitespace.
- Parameters that contain spaces must be quoted.
- Command names and parameters are case insensitive.

## ***Command Description***

Below the following command formatting is used:

- Options in curly braces “{}” and separated by a vertical line “|” represent a set of choices for a user. Choose one and run the command.

For example, `tvnserver.exe { -controlservice | -controlapp }` can be run as:

- `tvnserver.exe -controlservice`
- `tvnserver.exe -controlapp`
- Optional arguments are specified in brackets “[]”.

For example, `tvnserver.exe -install [ -silent ]` can be run as:

- `tvnserver.exe -install`
- `tvnserver.exe -install -silent`

## ***Command Usage***

```
tvnserver.exe -help
tvnserver.exe [ -run ]
tvnserver.exe { -install | -reinstall | -remove | -start | -stop }
                [ -silent ]
tvnserver.exe { -controlservice | -controlapp }
tvnserver.exe { -controlservice | -controlapp }
                { -connect HOST | -disconnectall | -reload | -shutdown |
                -sharefull | -shareprimary |
                -sharedisplay DISPLAY_NUMBER |
```

```

    -sharerect WIDTHxHEIGHT+LEFT+TOP |
    -sharewindow CAPTION |
    -shareapp PROCESS_ID }
    [ -passfile FILE ]
tvnserver.exe { -configservice | -configapp }

```

## Command-Line Options

### tvnserver.exe -help

Displays TightVNC Server help message with available command-line options.

### tvnserver.exe [ -run ]

Runs TightVNC Server in application mode.

### tvnserver.exe { -install | -reinstall | -remove | -start | -stop } [ -silent ]

Manages launching TightVNC Server in service mode. If you don't want TightVNC Server to show any message, add **-silent** option.

Command	Parameters	Description
-install		Registers TightVNC Server as a system service.
-reinstall		Unregisters TightVNC Server as a system service and then registers it again.
-remove		Unregisters TightVNC Server as a system service.
-start		Starts TightVNC Server as a system service.
-stop		Stops TightVNC Server as a system service.

### tvnserver.exe { -controlservice | -controlapp }

Opens configuration window of the *running* TightVNC Server. Changes in the server configuration take effect immediately after approval.


Command	Parameters	Description
-controlservice		Opens TightVNC Server configuration window (service mode).
-controlapp		Opens TightVNC Server configuration window (application mode).

### tvnserver.exe { -controlservice | -controlapp } COMMAND [ -passfile FILE ]

Executes a command on the *running* TightVNC Server. Since you may launch TightVNC Server as an application and as a service simultaneously, you have to clarify what server should execute the command. Use **-controlservice**, if you send a command to TightVNC Server running in service mode, and **-controlapp** option, if you send a command to TightVNC Server running as application. Also notice that the server doesn't report the status of the operations it executes.

If the server is protected by an administrative password, and `tvnserver.exe` can not access the Windows registry where this password is stored, you need to add **-passfile** option. As a parameter, this option takes a path to a file with the required password. The password stored in this file should be in ASCII (7-bit) characters.

Command	Parameters	Description
-connect	HOST[:PORT]	Connects to a viewer started in the "listening" mode (so-called "reversed connection").  If port is not specified, the server automatically connects to <i>host</i> on 5500 port.  Note: there is no notification, if connection can not be established.
-disconnectall		Disconnects all viewers from the server.
-reload		Updates settings of running TightVNC Server from the Windows registry.
-shutdown		Quits the server.
-sharefull		Shares virtual desktop, which consists of all physical displays of the machine where TightVNC Server runs. Shared screen area updates automatically, if the configuration of virtual desktop has been modified.  Note: this is the default behavior of TightVNC Server when it is started.
-shareprimary		Shares primary display (display 1).
-sharedisplay	DISPLAY_NUMBER	Shares display with the specified number. If the display with given number does not exist, a screen with zero dimensions will be sent.

Command	Parameters	Description
-sharerect	WIDTHxHEIGHT+LEFT+TOP	<p>Shares a rectangular region of the desktop with given parameters. If a region overhangs the virtual desktop, the shared area will be limited by the bounds of the virtual desktop.</p> <p>The point (0, 0) is the top left corner of the primary display. Therefore, if a region is placed on the left or above the origin, you need to use negative values.</p> <p>For example, if you have the following display configuration:</p>  <p>and you want to share the second display with 1280x1024 resolution, use “1280x1024+-1280+0” string as a parameter.</p> <p>Shared screen area updates automatically, if the configuration of virtual desktop has been modified.</p>
-sharewindow	CAPTION	<p>Shares the first window with the caption that matches or partially matches the specified value. Other windows placed above shared one also become visible to a viewer.</p> <p>If the window with this caption does not exist or has been minimized, a viewer will receive a screen with zero dimensions. And conversely, if the window with specified caption appears on the desktop, it will be shared automatically.</p>
-shareapp	PROCESS_ID	<p>Shares all windows of the application with the specified process ID (PID). The size of the shared screen area is equal to the size of virtual desktop. Nevertheless, all regions that are not relevant to the application, including the windows placed above shared ones and the taskbar, will be darkened.</p> <p>If the application with the given PID does not exist or has been closed, a viewer will receive a darkened virtual desktop screen. If an application with the given PID appears in the system again, it won't be shared.</p>

**-reload, -sharefull, -shareprimary, -sharedisplay, -sharewindow, -shareapp** commands have no

analogues in graphical user interface. They can be executed only by using command-line interface.

**tvnserver.exe { -configservice | -configapp }**

Opens offline TightVNC Server configuration. It makes no difference whether the server is running, since the changes are written directly to the Windows registry, bypassing TightVNC Server. The server updates its configuration on start up or by the **-reload** command.

Command	Parameters	Description
-configservice		Opens TightVNC Server offline configuration window (service mode). This operation requires administrator privilege.
-configapp		Opens TightVNC Server offline configuration window (application mode).