

# AddArgs

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## **Hardware and software requirements**

**AddArgs** runs under Windows XP, Server 2003, Vista, 7 and later.

## **Other free programs by the same author**

To get the last version of **AddArgs** and of all my free programs contact the Author.

## **Introduction**

**AddArgs** is a utility for power users who want to run some programs with some predefined parameters in the command line.

Let us say you want to be able to drop some files or directories over a shortcut (in the desktop or in a folder) use the **Send to** menu to send them to a shortcut you created in the SendTo folder. The trouble is that the program the shortcut points to might take advantage of some switches or parameters included in the command line when it is invoked. Unfortunately, it seems that you cannot specify those parameters in a shortcut; but you can use **AddArgs** to do that.

The program might also be useful to create a shortcut that runs a program in a less common state (such as in a hidden window or in a normal window which does not receive the focus when started).

## Installing AddArgs

Just unzip the distribution file (version ? . ??) `addrg???.exe` to any folder of your choice. No setup is necessary.

## Uninstalling AddArgs

Delete the `addargs.exe` and `argexe.pdf` files from the installation directories and any copies you may have made, as well as the corresponding option files.

## Using AddArgs

To use **AddArgs**:

1. Make a copy of `addargs.exe` to any folder of your choice and rename it in a way meaningful to you, say `myargs.exe`.
2. Create in the same folder a text file with the same name but extension `.txt`, in the example just mentioned `myargs.txt`. This **option file** —which can be created with notepad, for instance— may be in ANSI or Unicode format (only UTF-8 or UTF-16 in the latter case) and must contain from 2 to 4 lines:
  - a. The first line is the program you want to execute, with its full path if necessary.
  - b. The second line contains the switches and parameters you want to put at the beginning of the command line. Files and directories dropped over (the shortcut to) the copy of **AddArgs** will be appended to the command line. It may be a blank line; but I can only think of one possible useful reason: you want to launch the program in an unusual way.
  - c. The optional third line contains the directory in which the program will be launched. It may be blank.
  - d. The optional fourth line lets you specify the state of the window in which the program starts. (See below **Show options**.)

A comment may be added at the end of each line by prefixing it with `#`. If you need that character in your options prefix it with a backslash: `\#`. A line containing only spaces (after removing the comment starting with `#`, if any) will be ignored.

3. Optionally create a shortcut to your copy (`myargs.exe`) in any place you may find useful: desktop, `SendTo` folder, etc.
4. Now, you can drop files and/or directories over the program or the shortcut: they will be added to the end of the command line you want to run. The program will be started (in the directory you specified in the third line, if any, and in the state you specified in the fourth line) with the full command line containing the parameters in your **option file** and the files and/directories you dropped.

## Show options

In the fourth line of the **Option file** you may optionally specify one of the following show modes, which are described, for instance, in <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb762153.aspx> (the documentation for the `ShellExecute` function used by **AddArgs**):

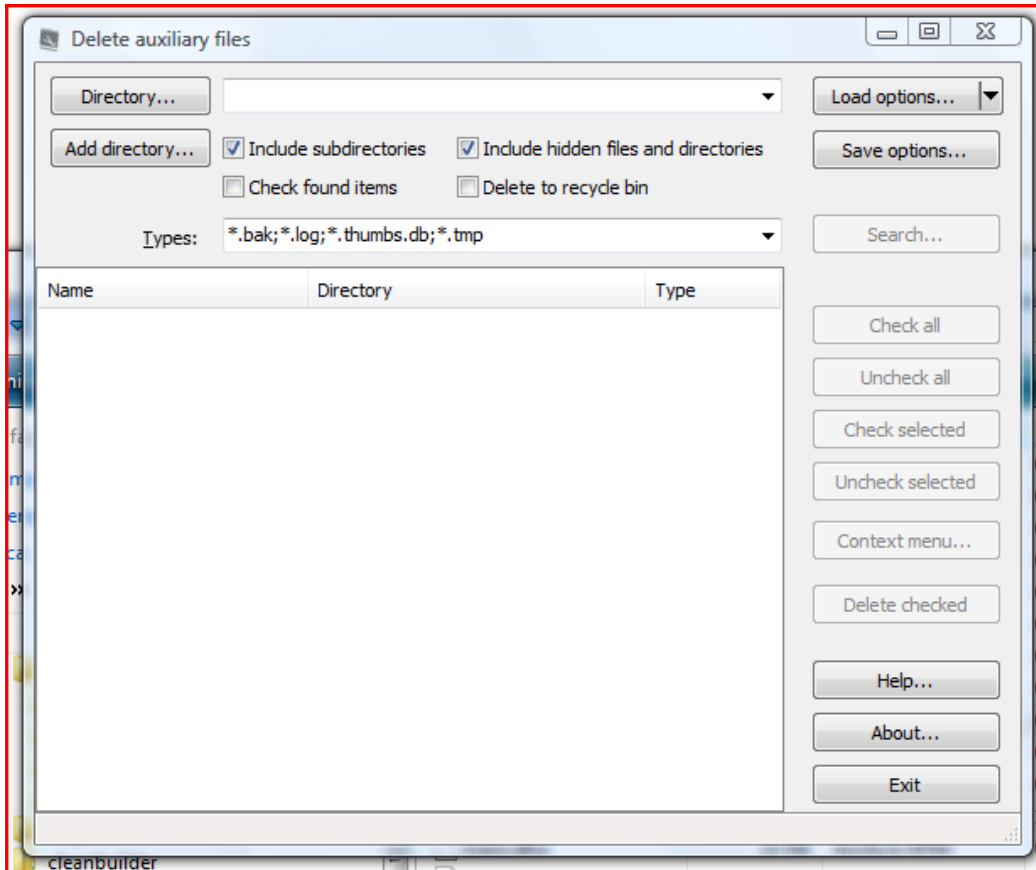
Option
SW_HIDE
SW_MAXIMIZE
SW_MINIMIZE
SW_RESTORE
SW_SHOW
SW_SHOWDEFAULT
SW_SHOWMAXIMIZED
SW_SHOWMINIMIZED
SW_SHOWMINNOACTIVE
SW_SHOWNA
SW_SHOWNOACTIVATE
SW_SHOWNORMAL

The prefix `SW_` is optional and case will be ignored.

## An example

Say you want to create a shortcut which will search for temporary files in the directories you drop on it (or send to it, if you put the shortcut in the SendTo folder). You may use the free program **DeleteAux** by the same author.

1. Open **DeleteAux** and select the files types you want to find ( \*.bak, \*.log, \*.thumbs.db and \*.tmp in the example) and other options (include hidden files and directories, for instance):



2. Save the options to c:\my utils\deltemp.dau, for instance.
3. Copy **addargs.exe** to c:\my utils\deltemp.exe.
4. Create c:\my utils\deltemp.txt with the following four lines:

```
c:\program files\Juan M. Aguirregabiria\deleteaux\deletaux.exe # Program
/s "c:\my utils\deltemp.dau" # Initial parameters
# Directory (none in this case)
Maximize # Show mode
```

The switch /s is used to automatically perform a search when **DeleteAux** is launched, which will be started maximized. Quotes for parameters with spaces are only necessary in the second line. No initial directory is used in this case.

5. You create a shortcut to in the right place(s). You can then drop directories over it.

## Error messages

**AddArgs** will run silently unless an error happens:

1. If the option file (deltemp.txt in the example) cannot be found or cannot be open a system generated error message will explain the reason.
2. If the option file is empty you will get “No lines in options file”.
3. If the option file has only one line “Too few lines in options file” is issued.

4. If the program in the first line cannot be started the error message generated by the system will be shown.

### ***Suggestions, bugs and help***

The Author would highly appreciate receiving information about any bug or problem found in the program. Suggestions to improve **AddArgs** in future versions are also welcome.