

# Getting Started with PingThemAll

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*This document applies to both the Pro and Free versions.*

It's easy to get started with PingThemAll (PTA)! Even if you're not a computer expert, we will have you up and running in minutes. No matter if you have downloaded the free version of PTA or if you have purchased (thank you!) PingThemAll Pro, the setup is the same.

You need to be on a Windows computer, preferably running Windows 10. You can run another version of Windows if you want, but we can't guarantee PTA will work properly on it. Give it a shot if you'd like... the worst thing that will happen is PTA won't work correctly. We would love any feedback you can give us on other Windows versions.

Before we get started, know that we assume you can see file extensions in Windows. If you cannot, and even if you have no idea what we are talking about, you may want to look at this before you continue...

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/show-file-extensions-in-windows>

Okay, back to PingThemAll... here we go.

## **Step #1 – Extract the ZIP file**

- The file you downloaded, either from our website or from your e-mail, is a ZIP file. A ZIP file is simply a bunch of individual files and folders compressed into a single file, which makes it easy to download. Our PTA zip file is less than 2MB, which is quite small in the computer world.
- To extract your ZIP file, in Windows, right-click on the file and choose "Extract All." This will pop up a window asking you to select a destination. Choose where you want the files to go, then click the Extract button.
- Once the files are extracted, move to step #2.

## **Step #2 – Edit the pingthese.txt file**

- We suggest you make a copy of the pingthese.txt file before you modify it, just in case you need to reference what it looked like before you started.
- Open the pingthese.txt file in Notepad or another plain text editor (the file must remain in plain text format.) You will notice that there are three fields on every line, separated by a comma...
  - Name Of Device to Ping
  - IP Address of that Device
  - email or noemail

```
Example: Router 1           ,192.168.1.1,noemail
         Router 2           ,192.168.1.2,noemail
```

- The commas between the fields is crucial. That commas must be in place on every line in order for PTA to function properly, and there can only be two commas per line. There is a separate Support document which goes into detail about the pingthese.txt file, but if you follow the format of the sample pingthese.txt file included with PTA, you should be okay.
- If you are using the free version of PTA, please know that you are limited to 10 devices. You can put more in your pingthese.txt file, but PTA will only ping the first 10. When you buy PTA, you can ping as many devices for which you are licensed. *We have ran PTA with as many as 10,000 monitored devices!*
- Save the pingthese.txt file once you are done making your changes.

### **Step #3 – Launch PingThemAll Pro**

- Double-click on pingthemall.exe and the program will start.
- A black “command prompt” box should open. This is the “engine” of PTA... where the magic really happens. You will see what version you are running and license information, then you will see the message:

```
----- Start of devices in pingthese.txt file -----
```

- From this point, you will begin seeing the information that you put into the pingthese.txt file. PTA will attempt the ping the devices you specified, one-by-one, line-by-line. If the device responds, you will see “Ping successful” in green. If the device does not respond, you will see “Ping failed” in red. You will also see a message when a device recovers from a previously-failed state.
- Once the end of pingthese.txt is reached, you will see the message similar to this one:

```
----- Starting over in 5 seconds (press X now to exit)-----
```

- If you wish to stop PTA, press **X** now. If not, the program will start over again at the top of the pingthese.txt file. PTA will run indefinitely this way... over and over again, continually monitoring the devices you specified.
- Know that you can modify pingthese.txt file while PTA is running. There is no need to stop the program to make those changes. The changes will take effect the next time PTA starts a new ping-cycle.
- That’s it! You should now have PingThemAll up and running. There are several options to “tune” PingThemAll to your liking, enable e-mail reports, etc.  
*Be sure to check out the support document on Configuring Options (config.ini)*
- Next, we suggest you review support document on Viewing and Sharing PTA Results .

### **Optional – Move/Rename the PingThemAll folder**

- You can rename the PingThemAll folder if you’d like, and you can move it wherever you want. However, the files and folders contained within, including the **data**, **logs** and **ptaresults** folders, must not be renamed, deleted or moved, or PTA may not function correctly.