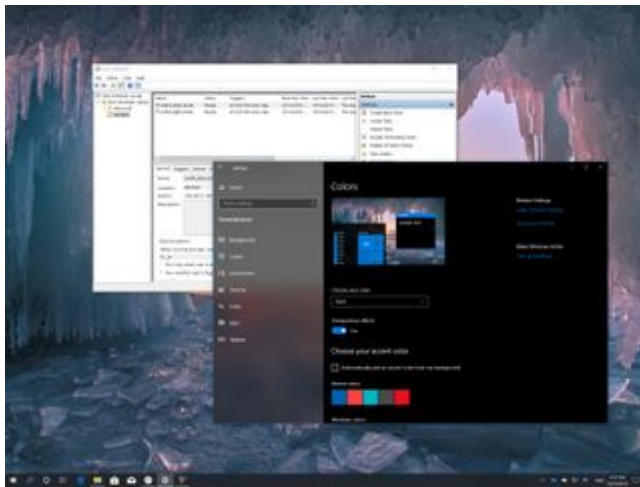


How to switch between Windows 10 light and dark modes on schedule automatically

Mauro Huculak

7–9 minutes



Alongside the slew of personalization settings, [Windows 10](#) ships with two color modes, including the "light" color mode, which applies a lighter color scheme across apps and desktop elements, such as Start menu, taskbar, and action center, and it's a mode that works well during daytime. Then there's the "dark" color mode that allows you to set a darker set of colors across the desktop and apps, and it's more suited for low-light environments.

Whether you like the lighter or darker colors on your device, Windows 10 makes it easy to change modes using the Settings app. However, it doesn't offer an option to switch between the two color modes depending on the time of day automatically, similar to other OSes, including Xbox One.

If switching between dark and light (and vice versa) is an option you would like to have on your device, you can create an automated process using the Task Scheduler and a few simple PowerShell commands to modify the Registry to switch to light mode during the day and dark mode at night, automatically.

In this Windows 10 guide, we walk you through the steps to configure your device to switch between the light and dark system modes depending on the time of day, using a few PowerShell

commands and Task Scheduler.

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS FOR YOU...



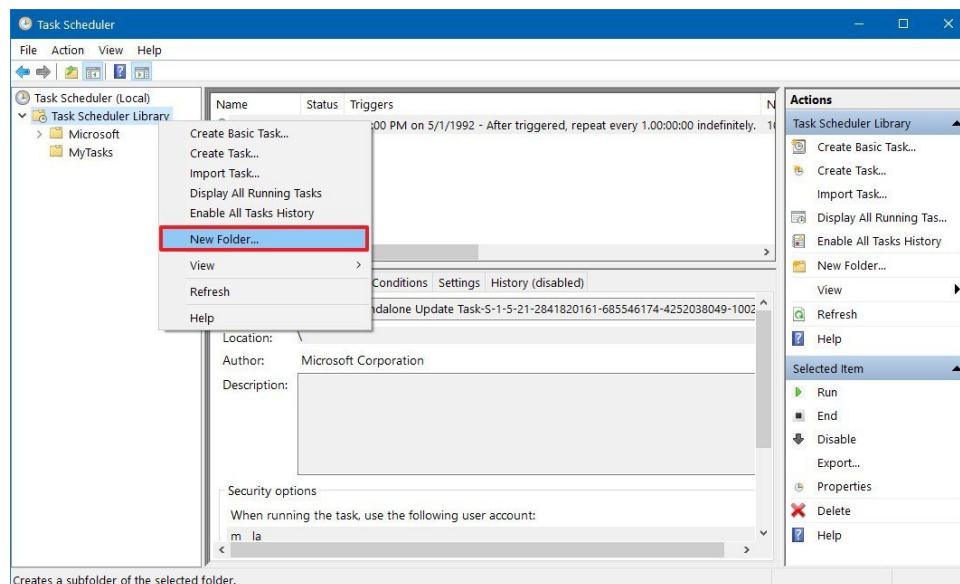
- [How to switch from dark to light system mode on Windows 10](#)
- [How to switch from light to dark system mode on Windows 10](#)

(**Warning:** This is a friendly reminder that editing the Registry is risky, and it can cause irreversible damage to your installation if you don't do it correctly. We recommend making a temporary full backup of your PC before proceeding.)

How to switch from dark to light system mode on Windows 10

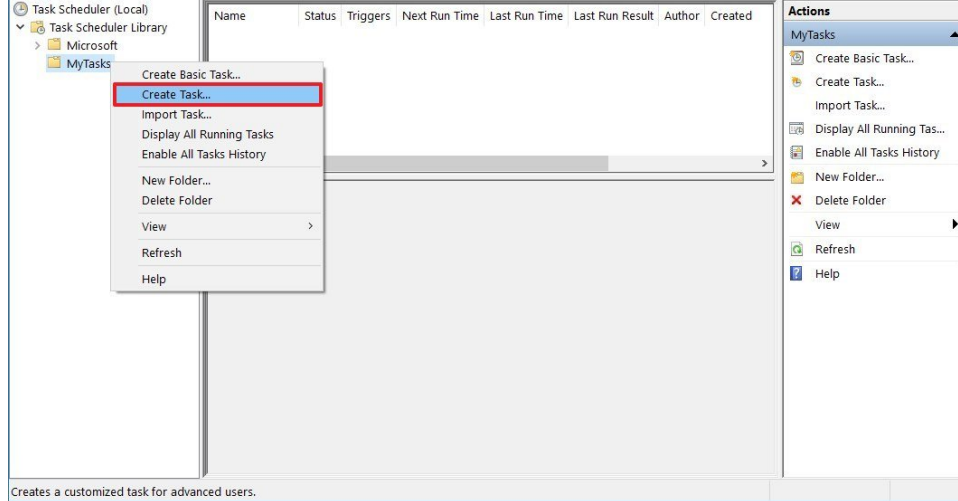
To switch from the dark to light system mode automatically on Windows 10, use these steps:

1. Open **Start**.
2. Search for **Task Scheduler** and click the top result to open the app.
3. Expand the **Task Scheduler Library** folder.
4. Right-click the "Task Scheduler Library," and select the **New Folder** option.

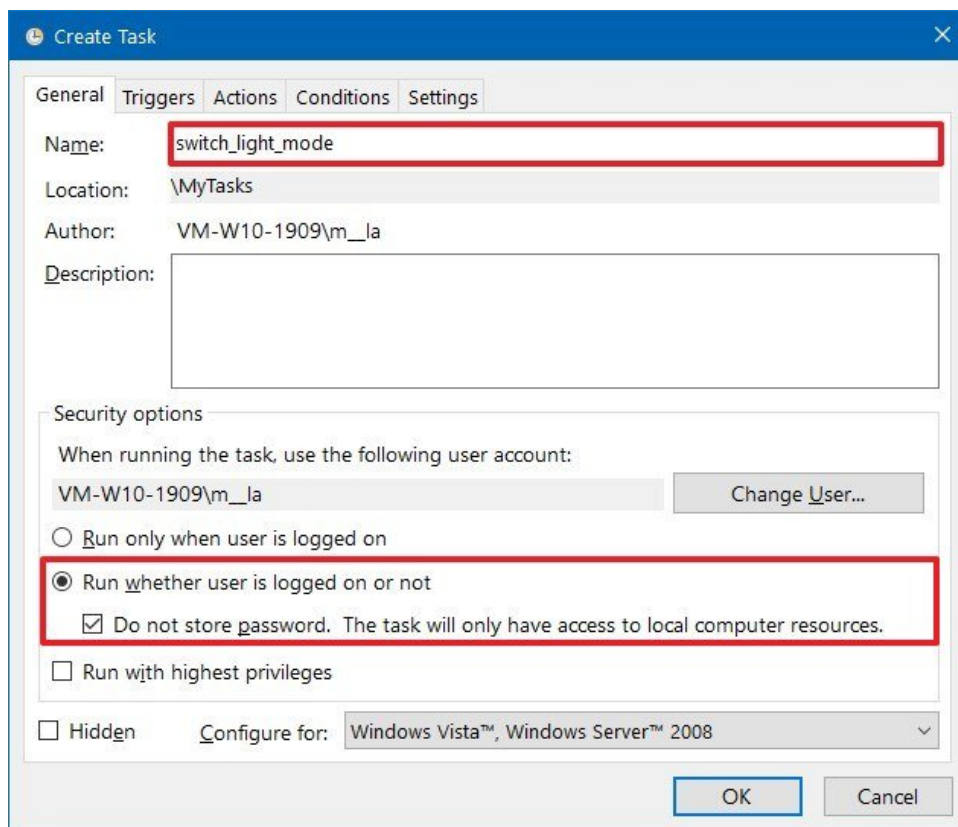


5. Type a name for the folder (for example, MyTasks), and click the **OK** button. (**Quick note:** We're creating a new folder to keep your tasks and system tasks separate, which makes it easier to manage tasks.)
6. Right-click the "MyTasks" folder (if applicable), and select the **Create Task** option.

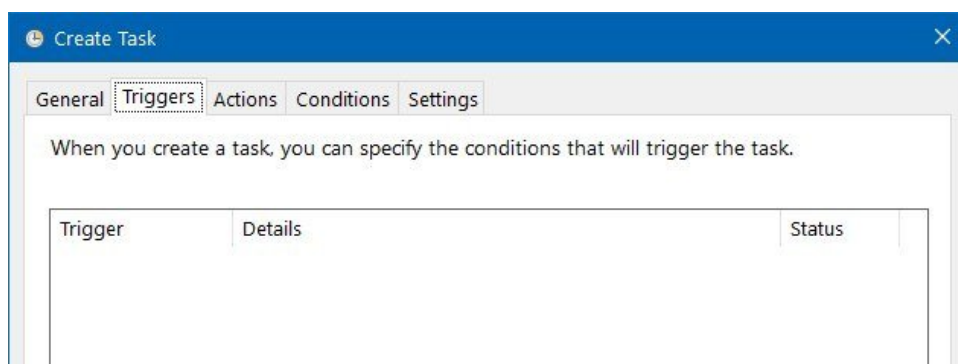


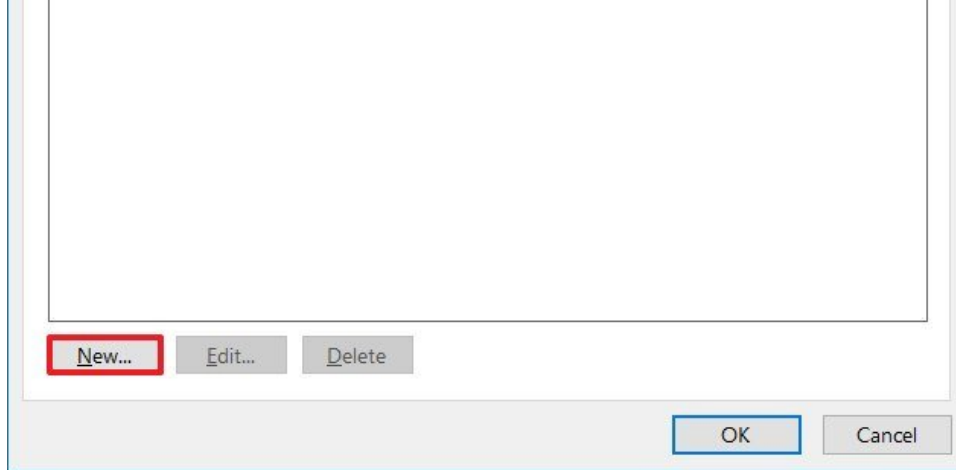


7. Click on the "General" tab.
8. Under the "Name" field, enter a descriptive name for the task. (For example, switch_light_mode).
9. Under the "Security options" section, select the option **Run whether user is logged on or not** option.
10. Check the **Do not store password** option.

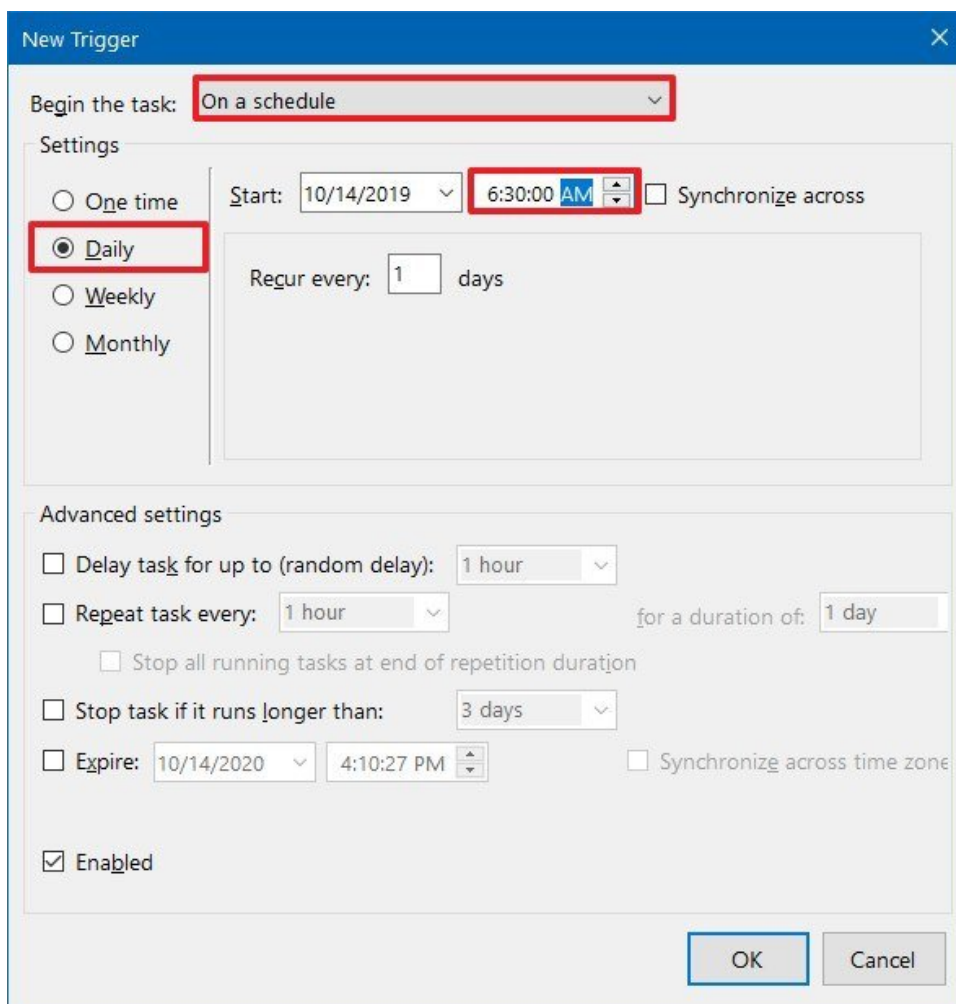


11. Click on the **Triggers** tab.
12. Click the **New** button.



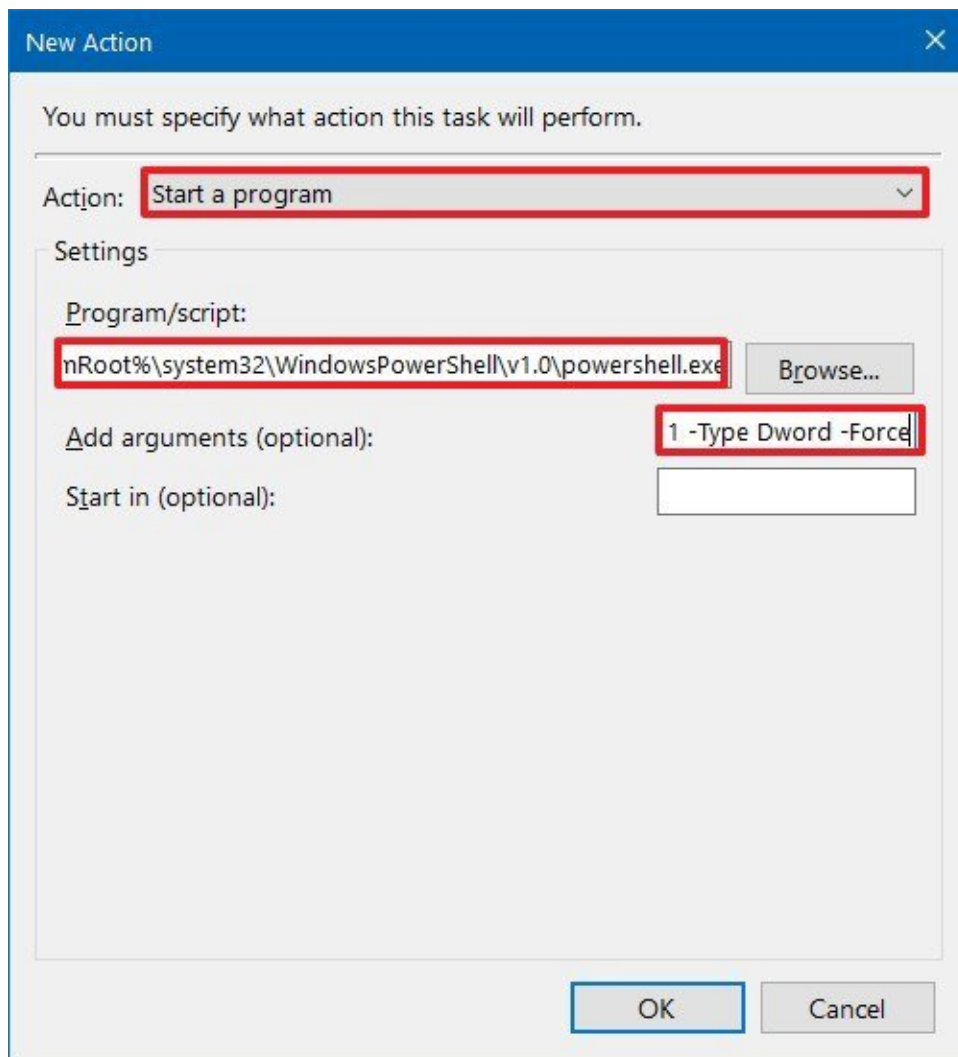


13. Under "Begin the task," select the **On a schedule** option. (You can configure any trigger you want.)
14. Under the "Settings" section, select the **Daily** option.
15. Set the time you want Windows 10 to switch automatically to the light mode. (For example, 6:30 a.m.)

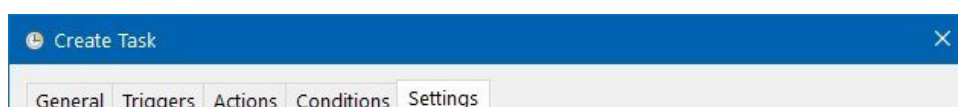


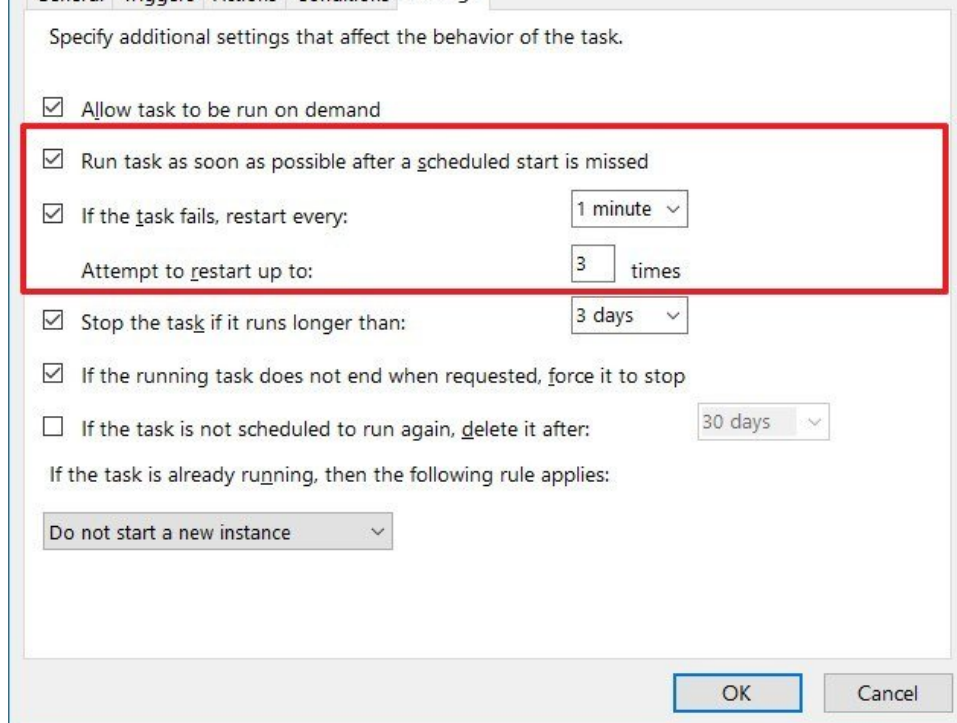
16. Click the **OK** button.
17. Click on the **Actions** tab.
18. Click the **New** button.
19. Using the "Start a program" action, under the "Settings" section, copy and paste the following path: %SystemRoot%\system32\nWindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe

20. Under the "Add arguments (optional)" field, copy and paste the following PowerShell command: `New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Themes\Personalize -Name SystemUsesLightTheme -Value 1 -Type Dword -Force; New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Themes\Personalize -Name AppsUseLightTheme -Value 1 -Type Dword -Force`. The above command will try to create a **SystemUsesLightTheme** and **AppsUseLightTheme** DWORD in the Registry and set their values to **1**, which disables the dark and enables the light color mode across apps and desktop.



21. Click the **OK** button.
22. Click on the **Settings** tab.
23. Check the **Run task as soon as possible after a scheduled start is missed** option, which should help to run the command if Task Scheduler misses the schedule because your computer was asleep.
24. Check the **If the task fails, restart every** option, and make sure it's set to **1 minute** and only **3** restart attempts.





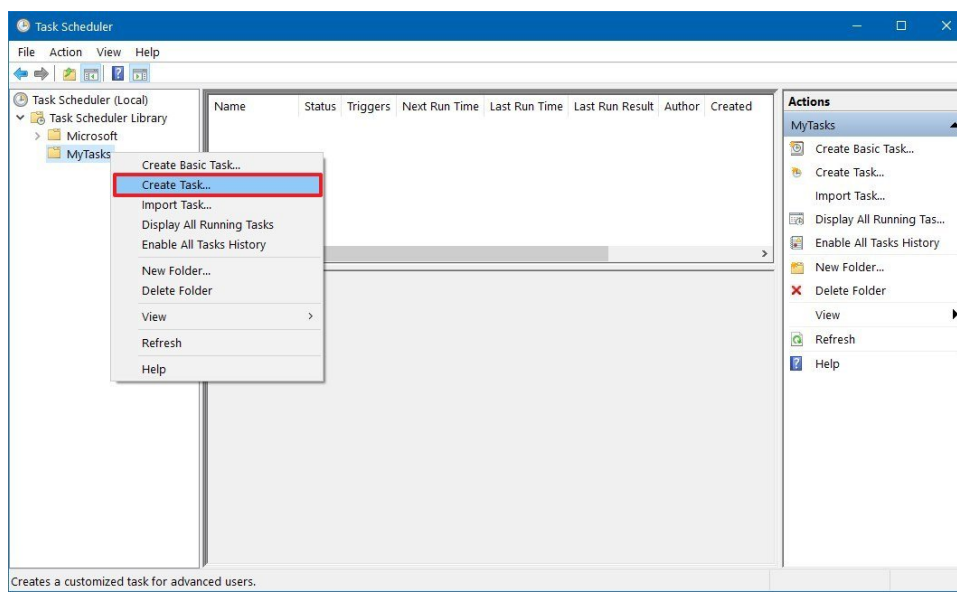
25. Click the **OK** button.

Once you complete these steps, every day at the time you specified Windows 10 will switch to the light mode for apps and the desktop environment automatically.

How to switch from light to dark system mode on Windows 10

To switch from the light to dark system mode on schedule automatically, use these steps:

1. Open **Start**.
2. Search for **Task Scheduler**, and click the top result to open the app.
3. Expand the **Task Scheduler Library** folder.
4. Right-click the "MyTasks" folder (if applicable), and select the **Create Task** option.



5. Click on the **General** tab.
6. Under the "Name" field, enter a descriptive name for the task. (For example, switch_dark_mode.)
7. Under the "Security options" section, select the option **Run whether user is logged on or not** option.
8. Check the **Do not store password** option.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Task' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The 'Name' field is highlighted with a red rectangle and contains the text 'switch_dark_mode'. The 'Location' field is set to '\MyTasks'. The 'Author' field is set to 'VM-W10-1909\m_la'. The 'Description' field is empty. In the 'Security options' section, the 'Run whether user is logged on or not' radio button is selected and highlighted with a red rectangle. Below it, the 'Do not store password. The task will only have access to local computer resources.' checkbox is checked. The 'Run only when user is logged on' radio button is unselected. The 'Run with highest privileges' checkbox is unselected. The 'Hidden' checkbox is unselected. The 'Configure for' dropdown is set to 'Windows Vista™, Windows Server™ 2008'. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom right.

9. Click on the **Triggers** tab.
10. Click the **New** button.

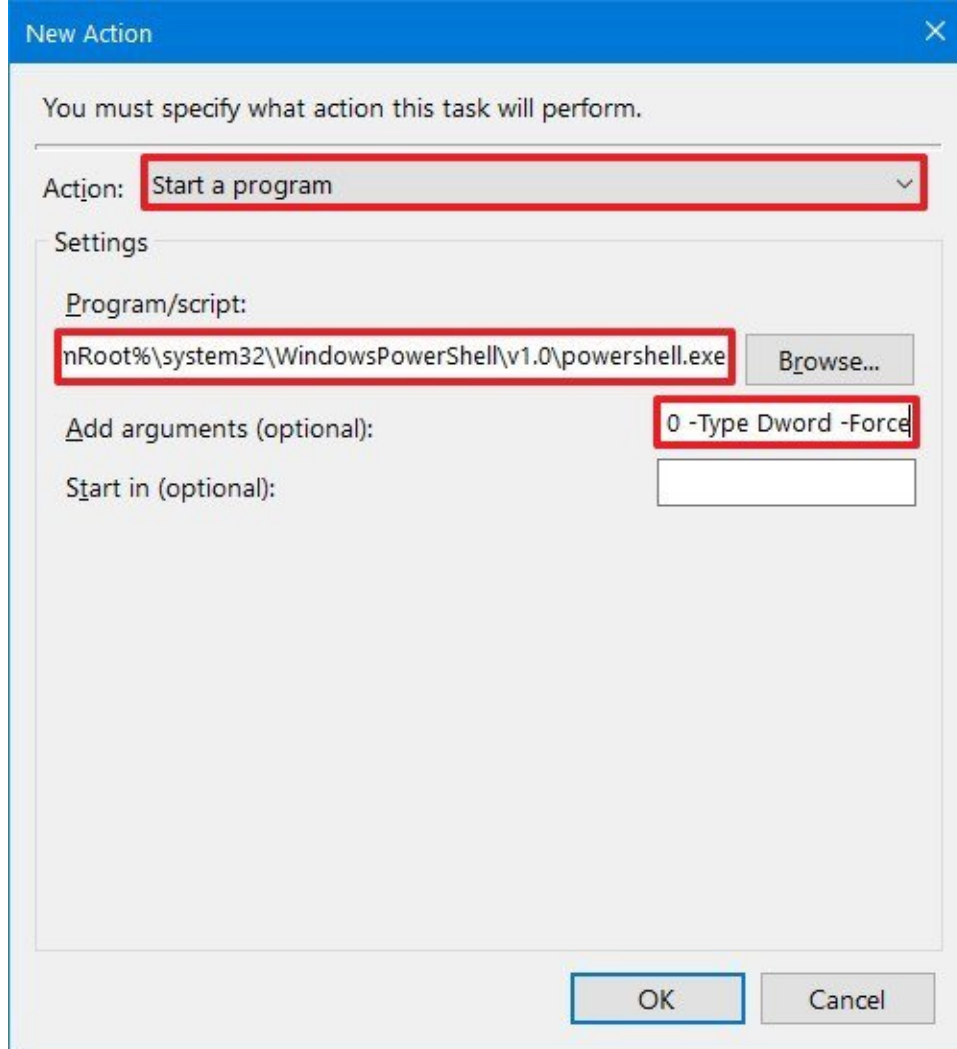
The screenshot shows the 'Create Task' dialog box with the 'Triggers' tab selected. The 'General' tab is also visible. The 'Triggers' section contains a table with columns 'Trigger', 'Details', and 'Status'. The table is empty. At the bottom left, the 'New...' button is highlighted with a red rectangle. The 'Edit...' and 'Delete' buttons are also visible. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom right.

11. Under "Begin the task," select the **On a schedule** option. (You can configure any trigger you want.)
12. Under the "Settings" section, select the **Daily** option.
13. Set the time you want Windows 10 to switch automatically to the dark mode. (For example, 6:30 p.m.)

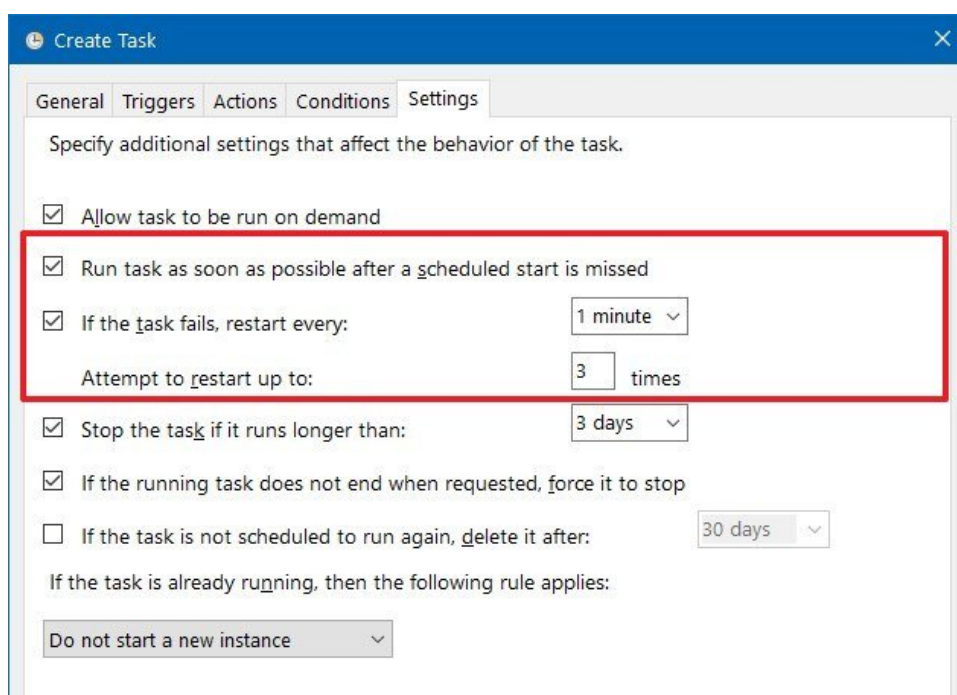
The screenshot shows the 'New Trigger' dialog box with the following configuration:

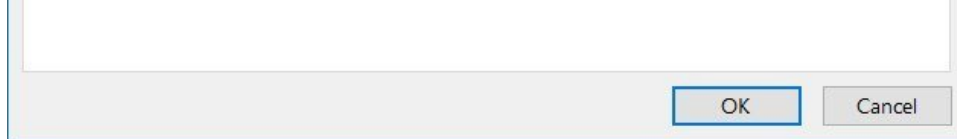
- Begin the task:** On a schedule
- Settings:**
 - ☐ One time
 - ☒ **Daily**
 - ☐ Weekly
 - ☐ Monthly
- Start:** 10/14/2019, 6:30:00 PM
- Repeat every:** 1 days
- Advanced settings:**
 - ☐ Delay task for up to (random delay): 1 hour
 - ☐ Repeat task every: 1 hour for a duration of: 1 day
 - ☐ Stop all running tasks at end of repetition duration
 - ☐ Stop task if it runs longer than: 3 days
 - ☐ Expire: 10/14/2020, 4:26:42 PM
 - ☐ Synchronize across time zone
- ☒ Enabled

14. Click the **OK** button.
15. Click on the **Actions** tab.
16. Click the **New** button.
17. Using the "Start a program" action, under the "Settings" section, copy and paste the following path: %SystemRoot%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
18. Under the "Add arguments (optional)" field, copy and paste the following PowerShell command: New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Themes\Personalize -Name SystemUsesLightTheme -Value 0 -Type Dword -Force; New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Themes\Personalize -Name AppsUseLightTheme -Value 0 -Type Dword -Force
The above command will try to create a **SystemUsesLightTheme** and **AppsUseLightTheme** DWORD in the Registry and set their values to **0**, which disables the light and enables the dark mode.



19. Click the **OK** button.
20. Click on the **Settings** tab.
21. Check the **Run task as soon as possible after a scheduled start is missed** option, which should help to run the command if Task Scheduler misses the schedule because your computer was asleep.
22. Check the **If the task fails, restart every** option, and make sure it's set to **1 minute** and only **3** restart attempts.





23. Click the **OK** button.

After you completing the steps, every day at the time you specified Windows 10 will switch to the dark mode for apps and the desktop environment automatically.

If you want to make sure the task is working, you can always right-click the tasks, and select the **Run** option.

When you no longer need this feature, you can open the Task Scheduler folder with the tasks you created, and then right-click and delete each task. Then you can continue to use the Settings app to switch modes from the "Personalization" page.

All the latest news, reviews, and guides for Windows and Xbox diehards.

Mauro Huculak is technical writer for WindowsCentral.com. His primary focus is to write comprehensive how-tos to help users get the most out of Windows 10 and its many related technologies. He has an IT background with professional certifications from Microsoft, Cisco, and CompTIA, and he's a recognized member of the Microsoft MVP community.