



## Lab – File System Commands

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### Introduction

In this lab, you will use CLI commands to manage files and folders in Windows.

### Recommended Equipment

- A computer running Windows

### Instructions

#### Step 1: Access the Windows command prompt.

- a. Log on to a Windows computer. The account **ITEUser** is used as the example user account throughout this lab.
- b. To access the Windows command prompt, click **Start** and enter **cmd**. Select **Command Prompt** or **cmd.exe** to continue.

#### Step 2: Create and change directories.

In this step, you will use the change directory (**cd**), make directory (**md**), and directory (**dir**) commands.

**Note:** A directory is another word for folder. Directory and folder are used interchangeably throughout this lab.

- a. Type **cd** at the command prompt.

Question:

What is the current directory?

**C:\Users\Nat**

- b. Type **dir** at the command prompt to list the files and folders that are in the current folder.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser> dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 9055-35E9

Directory of C:\Users\ITEUser

04/27/2019  09:21 AM    <DIR>      .
04/27/2019  09:21 AM    <DIR>      ..
04/25/2019  11:39 AM    <DIR>      3D Objects
04/25/2019  11:39 AM    <DIR>      Contacts
04/26/2019  10:29 AM    <DIR>      Desktop
04/25/2019  11:39 AM    <DIR>      Documents
04/25/2019  11:39 AM    <DIR>      Downloads
<some output omitted>
          0 File(s)              0 bytes
       15 Dir(s)   32,671,969,280 bytes free
```

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- c. In the current directory, use the **md** command to create three new folders: **ITEfolder1**, **ITEfolder2**, and **ITEfolder3**. Type **md ITEfolder1** and press **Enter**. Create **ITEfolder2** and **ITEfolder3**. (Note: The command **mkdir** performs the same function as the command **md**.)

```
C:\Users\ITEUser> md ITEfolder1  
C:\Users\ITEUser> md ITEfolder2 ITEfolder3
```

- d. Type **dir** to verify that the folders have been created.

- e. Type **cd ITEfolder3** at the command prompt and press **Enter**.

Question:

Which folder are you in now?

**ITEfolder3**

- f. Create **ITEfolder4** in the current directory. Within the **ITEfolder4** folder, create a folder named **ITEfolder5**. Use the **dir** command to verify the folder creation.

Question:

What command or commands did you use to create the nested folders?

*Inside ITEfolde3 I did md ITEfolder4 then changed to it using cd ITEfolder4 then created another folder name by using md ITEfolder5.*

- g. Change directory as necessary until you are in **ITEfolder5**.

- h. Type **cd ..** to change the current directory. Each **..** is a shortcut to move up one level in the directory tree.

Question:

After issuing the **cd ..** command, what is your directory now?

**ITfolder4**

What would be the current directory if you issue this command at  
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder3\ITEFolder4?

**ITEfolder3**

### Step 3: Create text files.

- a. Navigate to the **C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1** directory. Type **cd ..\ITEfolder1** at the prompt.
- b. Type **echo This is doc1.txt > doc1.txt** at the command prompt. The **echo** command is used to display a message at the command prompt. The **>** is used to redirect the message from the screen to a file. For example, in the first line, the message **This is doc1.txt** is redirected into a new file named **doc1.txt**. Use the **echo** command and **>** redirect to create these files: **doc2.txt**, **file1.txt**, and **file2.txt**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> echo This is doc1.txt > doc1.txt  
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> echo This is doc2.txt > doc2.txt  
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> echo This is file1.txt > file1.txt  
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> echo This is file2.txt > file2.txt
```

- c. Use the **dir** command to verify the files are in the **ITEfolder1** folder.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEFolder1> dir  
<some output omitted>  
04/29/2019  08:05 AM           19 doc1.txt  
04/29/2019  08:06 AM           19 doc2.txt  
04/29/2019  08:08 AM          20 file1.txt  
04/29/2019  08:08 AM          20 file2.txt  
                           4 File(s)           78 bytes
```

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```
2 Dir(s) 32,625,397,760 bytes free
```

- d. Use the **more** or **type** command to view the content of the newly created text files.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> more doc1.txt  
This is doc1.txt
```

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> type doc2.txt  
This is doc2.txt
```

### Step 4: Copy, delete, and move files.

- a. At the command prompt, type **move doc2.txt C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2** to move the file **doc2.txt** to the **C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2** directory.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> move doc2.txt C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2  
1 file(s) moved.
```

- b. Type **dir** at the prompt to verify that **doc2.txt** is no longer in the current directory.

- c. Navigate to **C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2** to change the directory to **ITEfolder2**. Type **dir** at the prompt to verify **doc2.txt** has been moved.

- d. Type **copy doc2.txt doc2\_copy.txt** to create a copy of **doc2.txt**. Type **dir** at the prompt to verify a copy of the file has been created.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2> dir  
<some output omitted>  
Directory of C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2  
  
04/30/2019 09:07 AM           19 doc2.txt  
04/30/2019 09:07 AM           19 doc2_copy.txt  
                2 File(s)          38 bytes  
                2 Dir(s) 31,753,068,544 bytes free
```

- e. Use the **move** command to move **doc2\_copy.txt** to **ITEfolder1**. Type **move doc2\_copy.txt ..\ITEfolder1**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2> move doc2_copy.txt ..\ITEfolder1  
1 file(s) moved.
```

- f. A copy of the file **doc2.txt** can be created in a new location using the **copy** command. At the prompt, enter the **copy doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2\_new.txt**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2> copy doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2_new.txt  
1 file(s) copied.
```

- g. The file **doc2.txt** can also be moved to a new location with a new filename using the **move** command. Type **move doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2\_new.txt** at the prompt.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2> move doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2_move.txt  
1 file(s) moved.
```

- h. Type **dir ..\ITEfolder1** to view the content in **ITEfolder1** without leaving the current directory.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder2> dir ..\ITEfolder1  
<some output omitted>  
Directory of C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1
```

```
04/29/2019 12:08 PM <DIR> .
```

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```
04/29/2019 12:08 PM <DIR> ..
04/29/2019 08:05 AM 19 doc1.txt
04/29/2019 08:06 AM 19 doc2_copy.txt
04/29/2019 08:06 AM 19 doc2_move.txt
04/29/2019 08:06 AM 19 doc2_new.txt
04/29/2019 08:08 AM 20 file1.txt
04/29/2019 08:08 AM 20 file2.txt
       6 File(s)    116 bytes
      2 Dir(s) 31,467,700,224 bytes free
```

- i. Change the current directory to **ITEfolder1**. Type **cd ..\ITEfolder1** at the prompt.
- j. Move **file1.txt** and **file2.txt** into **ITEfolder3**. To move all the files that contain the word **file** into **ITEfolder3** with one command, use a **wildcard** (\*) character to represent one or more characters. Type **move file\* ..\ITEfolder3**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> move file* ..\ITEfolder3
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1\file1.txt
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1\file2.txt
      2 file(s) moved.
```

- k. To view the content of the file **doc2\_new.txt**, use the **type** or **more** command at the prompt.  

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> type doc2_new.txt
This is doc2.txt
```
- l. Use the **ren** command to rename **doc2\_new.txt** to **doc3.txt**. Use the **dir** command to display the content in the directory.  

```
c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> ren doc2_new.txt file.log
```

- m. Use the **type** or **more** command to view the content of the newly rename file **file.log**.  

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> more file.log
This is doc2.txt
```

- n. To delete a file or multiple files, use the **del** command with the file names at the prompt.

Question:

What single command would you use to delete all the files with **doc2** in the filename? Use the command to remove the files with **doc2** in the filename.

```
del ITEfolder1\*doc2*
```

What command would you use to delete all the files in the directory? Use the command to remove the files.

```
del ITEfolder1\*.*
```

## Step 5: Use the **xcopy** and **robocopy** commands.

In this step, the **xcopy** and **robocopy** commands are used to copy the content in a directory.

- a. View the content of **ITEfolder3**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> dir ..\ITEfolder3
<some output omitted>
Directory of c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder3

04/29/2019 03:11 PM <DIR> .
04/29/2019 03:11 PM <DIR> ..
```

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```
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file1.txt
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file2.txt
04/29/2019 03:01 PM    <DIR>      ITEfolder4
                         2 File(s)        40 bytes
                         3 Dir(s)   31,492,157,440 bytes free
```

- b. Type **xcopy ..\ITEfolder3** . at the prompt to copy the content of **ITEfolder3** to **ITEfolder1**. Note the . at the end of the command. It is a shortcut for the current directory.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> xcopy ..\ITEfolder3 .
..\ITEfolder3\file1.txt
..\ITEfolder3\file2.txt
2 File(s) copied
```

- c. At the prompt, type **dir** to display the content of **ITEfolder1**. Only the files in the **ITEfolder3** were copied into **ITEfolder1**. The directory **ITEfolder4** was not copied into **ITEfolder3**.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> dir
<some output omitted>
Directory of C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1
04/29/2019 03:16 PM    <DIR>      .
04/29/2019 03:16 PM    <DIR>      ..
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file1.txt
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file2.txt
                         2 File(s)        40 bytes
                         2 Dir(s)   31,491,321,856 bytes free
```

- d. Use **help xcopy** or **xcopy /?** to determine which switch would allow the **xcopy** command to copy **all** the files and directories.

Question:

What option allows you to copy all the files and directories, including the empty directories?

**/E**

- e. Because **ITEfolder4** is a subfolder and **ITEfolder5** is both a subfolder and an empty folder, **/E** is needed to copy all the contents of **ITEfolder3** and the empty subfolder.

Type **xcopy /E ..\ITEfolder3** . at the prompt to copy the files. When prompted, type **a** to allow overwriting the existing files.

```
c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> xcopy /E ..\ITEfolder3
Overwrite C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1\file1.txt (Yes/No/All)? a
..\ITEfolder3\file1.txt
..\ITEfolder3\file2.txt
2 File(s) copied
```

- f. Verify that the **ITEfolder4** and **ITEfolder5** were also copied in **ITEfolder1**.

```
c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> dir
<some output omitted>
Directory of c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1

04/29/2019 04:41 PM    <DIR>      .
04/29/2019 04:41 PM    <DIR>      ..
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file1.txt
04/29/2019 03:05 PM          20 file2.txt
04/29/2019 04:41 PM    <DIR>      ITEfolder4
```

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```
2 File(s)          40 bytes
3 Dir(s) 31,493,193,728 bytes free

c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> dir ITEfolder4
<some output omitted>
Directory of c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1\ITEfolder4

04/29/2019  04:41 PM    <DIR>      .
04/29/2019  04:41 PM    <DIR>      ..
04/29/2019  03:00 PM    <DIR>      ITEfolder5
0 File(s)           0 bytes
3 Dir(s) 31,493,193,728 bytes free
```

- g. The robocopy command can also be used to copy the content of a directory to a new destination. The robocopy command has more capabilities than the built-in Windows copy and xcopy command, such as resume copying after a network interruption, skip files that appear to be identical to the files in the destination folders, and mirror a directory by keeping the destination directory in sync with the source directory.

Copy the ITEfolder4 content to ITEUser folder using the robocopy command.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder1> robocopy /E
C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4\ C:\Users\ITEUser
```

Note the information provided by the command during the copying process.

- h. Navigate to **C:\Users\ITEUser** to verify that the folder ITEfolder5 is copied.

### Step 6: Delete directories.

In this step, you will delete an empty and a non-empty directory using the **rd** command.

- a. Use the **rd ITEfolder2** to delete the empty directory and verify that the directory was deleted.

```
C:\Users\ITEUser> rd ITEfolder2
```

- b. Navigate to the **C:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder3** directory.

- c. Use the **rd ITEfolder1** to delete the directory. Verify the directory removal using the **dir** command.

Were you able to delete the directory? Explain.

*No, because I think it will only work if the folder is empty*

- d. Use **rd /?** command to determine the switch that allows the deletion of a non-empty directory.

```
c:\Users\ITEUser\ITEfolder3> rd /S ITEfolder1
ITEfolder4, Are you sure (Y/N)? y
```

- e. Use the appropriate commands to delete all the text files and folders that you have created in this lab. Type **exit** to close the command prompt window.

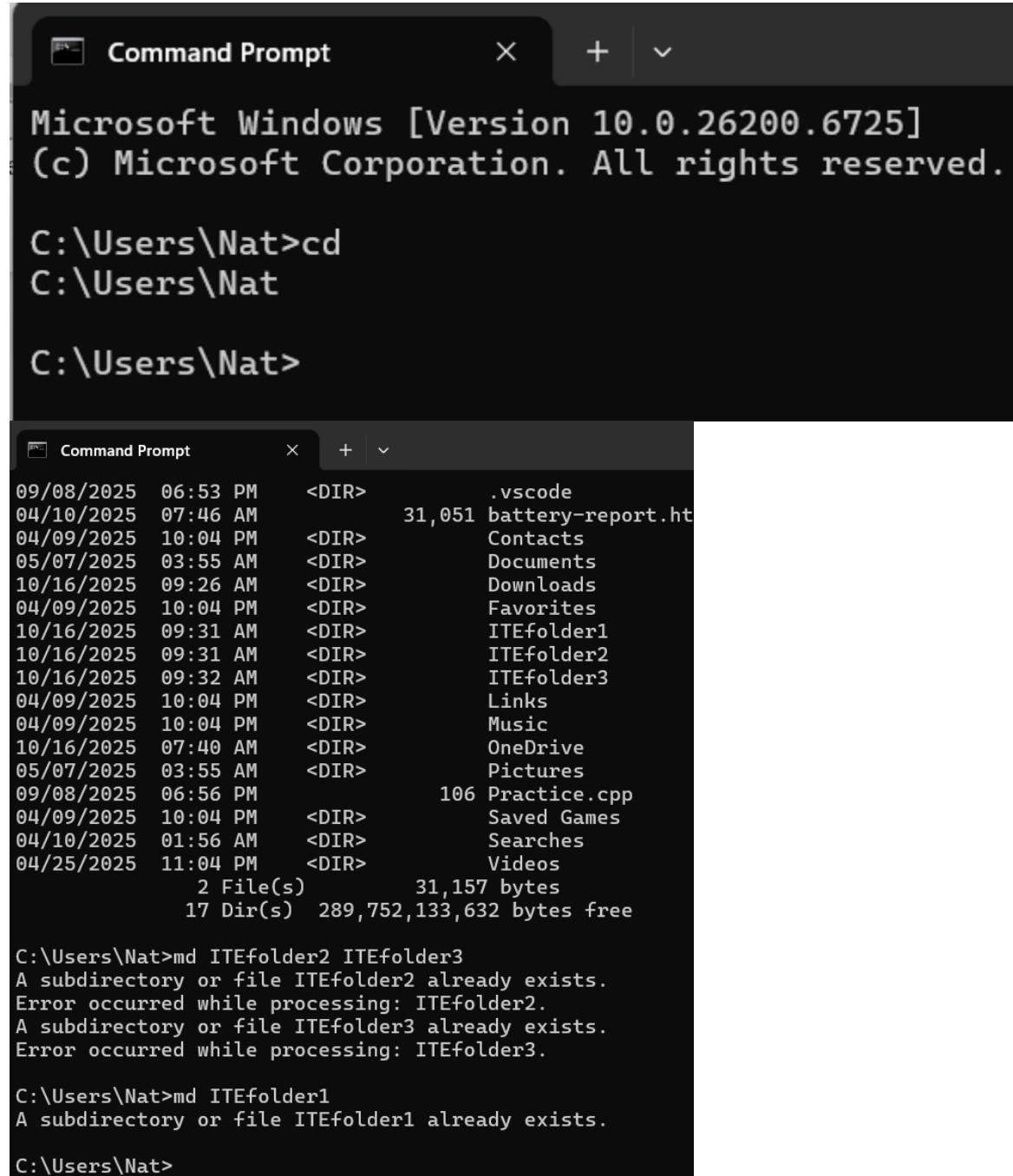
### Reflection Question

What are the advantages of using CLI vs. GUI?

*For me as a starter, using CLI or Command-Line Interface is harder for me but during this activity I can say that it would be faster and efficient for those who have been using this or those who are experts in this field as they can easily execute it easily, and since this is only more on text lines commands I would say it is consumes less memory and additionally this doesn't consume graphics at all. Now, with the usage of GUI or Graphical User Interface, during the activity in PLD (Programming Logic and Design) we were suggested to explore this for our project. Then, I found out it is much user*

friendly as I see the menus easier to learn and for usage which will be very efficient for learning for me as a beginner. Additionally, with the use of visual representation it will be much easier for me as a student to explore things out as I can see actions and its types visually and not just by text so that it would reduce errors in mistyping such commands. And, since with the help of visual representation I can perform multitasking as it is easier to open programs and multiple windows.

### Documentation:



The image shows two side-by-side Command Prompt windows. The top window displays the current directory as C:\Users\Nat and the command cd, followed by a prompt C:\Users\Nat>. The bottom window shows a detailed file listing of the user's desktop, including files like .vscode, battery-report.htm, Contacts, Documents, Downloads, Favorites, ITEfolder1, ITEfolder2, ITEfolder3, Links, Music, OneDrive, Pictures, Practice.cpp, Saved Games, Searches, and Videos. It also shows statistics for 2 File(s) totaling 31,157 bytes and 17 Dir(s) totaling 289,752,133,632 bytes free. The bottom window then attempts to create subdirectories ITEfolder2 and ITEfolder3, both of which already exist, resulting in error messages. Finally, it tries to create a directory ITEfolder1, which also already exists, leading to another error message.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26200.6725]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Nat>cd
C:\Users\Nat

C:\Users\Nat>

09/08/2025  06:53 PM    <DIR>          .vscode
04/10/2025  07:46 AM    <DIR>          31,051 battery-report.htm
04/09/2025  10:04 PM    <DIR>          Contacts
05/07/2025  03:55 AM    <DIR>          Documents
10/16/2025  09:26 AM    <DIR>          Downloads
04/09/2025  10:04 PM    <DIR>          Favorites
10/16/2025  09:31 AM    <DIR>          ITEfolder1
10/16/2025  09:31 AM    <DIR>          ITEfolder2
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>          ITEfolder3
04/09/2025  10:04 PM    <DIR>          Links
04/09/2025  10:04 PM    <DIR>          Music
10/16/2025  07:40 AM    <DIR>          OneDrive
05/07/2025  03:55 AM    <DIR>          Pictures
09/08/2025  06:56 PM    106 Practice.cpp
04/09/2025  10:04 PM    <DIR>          Saved Games
04/10/2025  01:56 AM    <DIR>          Searches
04/25/2025  11:04 PM    <DIR>          Videos
                2 File(s)      31,157 bytes
                17 Dir(s)   289,752,133,632 bytes free

C:\Users\Nat>md ITEfolder2 ITEfolder3
A subdirectory or file ITEfolder2 already exists.
Error occurred while processing: ITEfolder2.
A subdirectory or file ITEfolder3 already exists.
Error occurred while processing: ITEfolder3.

C:\Users\Nat>md ITEfolder1
A subdirectory or file ITEfolder1 already exists.

C:\Users\Nat>
```

```
C:\Users\Nat>cd ITEfolder3
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3>
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3>md ITEfolder4
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3>cd ITEfolder4
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4>md ITEfolder5
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03
```

```
Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4
```

```
10/16/2025  09:36 AM    <DIR>      .
10/16/2025  09:35 AM    <DIR>      ..
10/16/2025  09:36 AM    <DIR>      ITEfolder5
          0 File(s)       0 bytes
          3 Dir(s)  289,748,836,352 bytes free
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4>
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3\ITEfolder4>cd ..
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder3>
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>cd ..\ITEfolder1
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>echo This is doc1.txt > doc1.txt
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>echo This is doc2.txt > doc2.txt
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>echo This is file1.txt > file1.txt
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>echo This is file2.txt > file2.txt
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03

Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1

10/16/2025  09:42 AM    <DIR>      .
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>      ..
10/16/2025  09:41 AM           19 doc1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM           19 doc2.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM           20 file1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM           20 file2.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM
          4 File(s)       78 bytes
          2 Dir(s)  289,512,919,040 bytes free
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>more doc1.txt
This is doc1.txt
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>type doc2.txt
This is doc2.txt
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>copy doc2.txt doc2_copy.txt
1 file(s) copied.

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03

Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2

10/16/2025  09:46 AM    <DIR>        .
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>        ..
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_copy.txt
                2 File(s)       38 bytes
                2 Dir(s)  289,509,421,056 bytes free
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>move doc2_copy.txt ..\ITEfolder1
1 file(s) moved.

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>copy doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2_new.txt
1 file(s) copied.

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>move doc2.txt ..\ITEfolder1\doc2_move.txt
1 file(s) moved.

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>dir ..\ITEfolder1
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03

Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1

10/16/2025  09:49 AM    <DIR>        .
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>        ..
10/16/2025  09:41 AM            19 doc1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_copy.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_move.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_new.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            20 file1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            20 file2.txt
10/16/2025
                6 File(s)       116 bytes
                2 Dir(s)  289,505,447,936 bytes free
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```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>dir ..\ITEfolder1
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03

Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1

10/16/2025  09:49 AM    <DIR>      .
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>      ..
10/16/2025  09:41 AM            19 doc1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_copy.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_move.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_new.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            20 file1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            20 file2.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM          6 File(s)        116 bytes
                           2 Dir(s)  289,505,447,936 bytes free

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder2>cd ..\ITEfolder1

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>move file* ..\ITEfolder3.
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1\file1.txt
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1\file2.txt
      2 file(s) moved.
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>type doc2_new.txt
This is doc2.txt
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>dir
Volume in drive C is Windows
Volume Serial Number is 221D-DB03

Directory of C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1

10/16/2025  09:52 AM    <DIR>      .
10/16/2025  09:32 AM    <DIR>      ..
10/16/2025  09:41 AM            19 doc1.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_copy.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 doc2_move.txt
10/16/2025  09:42 AM            19 file.log
                           4 File(s)        76 bytes
                           2 Dir(s)  289,388,793,856 bytes free

C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>ren doc2_new.txt file.log
```

```
C:\Users\Nat\ITEfolder1>more file.log
This is doc2.txt
```