

What is Command Prompt?

The Command Prompt program allows you to work in an environment that looks more like a traditional operating system as opposed to the icon based Windows environment. In Command Prompt, you will use your keyboard. You won't use your mouse at all. Command Prompt works at a lower level than Windows. This means that you will have more control over the machine. The disadvantage is that it is less user-friendly.

Command Prompt provides a gradual transition to Unix and Linux systems, which are prevalent in science, engineering, and industry.

To launch Command Prompt select *Start -> Run* and type `cmd` in the box and press enter

alternatively

To launch Command Prompt in more recent versions of windows

Start -> and type `cmd` in the box and press enter

The Command Prompt shows up as a black terminal window. The *command prompt* should look something like:

```
C:\>
```

This is where you type commands. The boldface type below (that follows the command prompt) is what you should type as you work through this tutorial. Windows does not care if you use upper or lower case. That means that command `cd` is the same as `CD`.

Working with Files and Directories

You can also use Command Prompt commands to organize files into a directory hierarchy. These commands are equivalent to corresponding commands that you access via the Windows point-and-click interface. It is useful to be familiar with both interfaces for managing files.

- **dir:** To view the contents of a directory, type `dir`. This command will list all the files and directories within the current directory. It is analogous to clicking on a Windows folder to see what's inside.
- C:\> **dir**
- Volume in drive C has no label.
- Volume Serial Number is C8C7-BDCD
-
- Directory of C:\
-
- 10/26/2004 01:36 PM 0 AUTOEXEC.BAT
- 10/26/2004 01:36 PM 0 CONFIG.SYS
- 02/10/2005 01:36 PM 126 HelloWorld.java
- 12/09/2004 12:11 AM DIR Documents and Settings
- 02/10/2005 08:59 PM DIR introcs
- 11/02/2004 08:31 PM DIR j2sdk1.4.2_06
- 12/29/2004 07:15 PM DIR Program Files

- 01/13/2005 07:33 AM DIR WINDOWS
- 3 File(s) 126 bytes
- 5 Dir(s) 32,551,940,096 bytes free

There are 7 items in this directory. Some of them are files, like `HelloWorld.java`. Others are directories, like `intros`.

- **cd:** It is frequently useful to know in which directory you are currently working. In order to find out, type `cd` at the command prompt.
- `C:\> cd`
`C:\`

To change directories, use the `cd` command with the name of a directory.

```
C:\> cd intros
```

Now, the command prompt will be:

```
C:\intros>
```

To see what is in this directory type:

```
C:\intros> dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is C8C7-BDCD

Directory of C:\intros

02/10/2005  08:59 PM    DIR                .
02/10/2005  08:59 PM    DIR                ..
02/03/2005  11:53 PM                126 HelloWorld.java
01/17/2005  01:16 AM                256 readme.txt
                2 File(s)                382 bytes
                2 Dir(s)
```

To return to the previous directory, use the `cd` command, but this time followed by a space and two periods.

```
C:\intros> cd ..
C:\>
```

- **mkdir:** To create a new directory, use the command `mkdir`. The following command creates a directory named `hello`, which you can use to store all of your files associated with the Hello World assignment.

```
C:\intros> mkdir hello
```

To see that it actually worked, use the `dir` command.

```
C:\intros> dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is C8C7-BDCD
```

```
02/10/2005  08:59 PM      DIR                .
02/10/2005  08:59 PM      DIR                ..
02/11/2005  02:53 PM      DIR                hello
02/03/2005  11:53 PM              126 HelloWorld.java
01/17/2005  01:16 AM              256 readme.txt
                2 File(s)                382 bytes
                3 Dir(s)
```

- **move:** Now, move the two files HelloWorld.java and readme.txt into the hello directory using the move command.
- C:\introcs> **move HelloWorld.java hello**
- C:\introcs> **move readme.txt hello**
- C:\introcs> **dir**
- Volume in drive C has no label.
- Volume Serial Number is C8C7-BDCD
-
- Directory of C:\introcs
-
- 02/10/2005 08:59 PM DIR .
- 02/10/2005 08:59 PM DIR ..
- 02/11/2005 02:53 PM DIR hello
- 0 File(s) 0 bytes
- 3 Dir(s)

The two files are no longer visible from the current directory.

To access the two files, change directories with the `cd` command. Then use the `dir` command to see what is in this new directory.

```
C:\introc> cd hello
C:\introc\hello> dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is C8C7-BDCD

Directory of C:\introc\hello

02/10/2005  08:59 PM    DIR                .
02/10/2005  08:59 PM    DIR                ..
02/03/2005  11:53 PM                126 HelloWorld.java
01/17/2005  01:16 AM                256 readme.txt
                2 File(s)
                382 bytes
                2 Dir(s)
```