Command Prompt - How to add a set path only for that batch file executing?

Basically, I know I can go through my control panel and modify the path variable. But, I'm wondering if there is a way to through batch programming have a temporary path included? That way it is only used during that batch file execution. I don't want to have people go in and modify their path variables just to use my batch file.

path   batch-file   command   command-prompt

asked Jul 26 '11 at 15:24

michael
5,090   18   67   137

3 Answers

Just like any other environment variable, with `SET` :

```
SET PATH=%PATH%;c:\whatever\else
```

If you want to have a little safety check built in first, check to see if the new path exists first:

```
IF EXIST c:\whatever\else SET PATH=%PATH%;c:\whatever\else
```

If you want that to be local to that batch file, use `setlocal` :

```
setlocal
set PATH=...
set OTHERTHING=...

@REM Rest of your script
```

Read the docs carefully for `setlocal` / `endlocal` , and have a look at the other references on that site - Functions is pretty interesting too and the syntax is tricky.

The Syntax page should get you started with the basics.

edited Dec 10 '14 at 17:31   answered Jul 26 '11 at 15:28

fejese   Mat
3,723   4   19   31   **146k**   25   262   300

Will that only be for that batch session or is it permanent? – michael Jul 26 '11 at 15:59

3   If you add a `setlocal` to your batch file, the path is only visible in the file – jeb Jul 26 '11 at 16:50

hw do you add "setlocal"? Is that in place of "SET"? – michael   Jul 26 '11 at 21:04

1   Life saver. I needed to add an EV on a server that couldn't be restarted and this allows me to do what I need
    without having to schedule a restart! – dav_i Aug 30 '13 at 14:15

4   Even without `SETLOCAL` it's, at most, only going to be for that individual command prompt session -- if
    you're doing this from more than one batch file, and using `EXIT /B %N%` , then `SETLOCAL` is basically just
    going to dump your changes when the script exits. :-/ – BrainSlugs83 Apr 3 '14 at 18:29

That's right, but it doesn't change it permanently, but just for current command prompt, if you

wanna to change it permanently you have to use for example this:

```
setx ENV_VAR_NAME "DESIRED_PATH" /m
```

This will change it permanently and yes you can overwrite it by another batch script.

answered Oct 16 '13 at 6:40

dumbak
180   1   8

Maybe `/m` needs to be after `setx` ? – suzanshakya Mar 3 '14 at 9:01

Works the same for me, but this Win Batch Scripting is little unfinished business from MS. In my company where we have all the same laptops with same system there is not a universal script for PATH setting and we are maintaining 2 or 3 of them, so whatever works for you :) – dumbak Mar 4 '14 at 9:40

Thanks for the update. In Windows Server 2012, when I put `/m` at the end, the `DESIRED_PATH` was added with /m at the end for current user only. – suzanshakya Mar 5 '14 at 5:52

3 A word of caution. Using setx on a path, trying to add more to it, and the string is > 1024 long, I discovered that the result (my environment PATH) was truncated permanently. (A good thing that I had could copy the %PATH% I had ECHOed out before the change, and put it back using the Environment variables windows tool.) – Andreas Jansson May 29 '15 at 10:23

There is an important detail:

```
set PATH="C:\linutils;C:\wingit\bin;%PATH%"
```

does not work, while

```
set PATH=C:\linutils;C:\wingit\bin;%PATH%
```

works. The difference is the quotes!

answered Jul 3 at 12:37

18446744073709551615
9,604   1   51   72

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protected by Community ♦ Oct 4 '16 at 20:38

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