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## Having XCopy copy a file and not overwrite the previous one if it exists (without prompting)

I'm sending a commands to a remote computer in order to have it copy a file. I want the file to be copied, but not to overwrite the previous file with the same name (if it exists). I also need the command to run without any prompts (xcopy likes to prompt whether the target name I've specified is file or directory, and it will also prompt about overwriting a file).

xcopy


edited Dec 14 '16 at 16:45



Luke Girvin

10.2k64874

asked Mar 1 '11 at 9:49



Vic

10.7k65582

### 6 Answers

No way to make it NOT overwrite as far as I know. but /Y will make it overwrite. and /I will get rid of the file/dict prompt. See `xcopy /?` for all options

answered Mar 1 '11 at 9:56



Cine

2,8301537

Thanks.. Eventually I had to make it in two stages - first check for existence and then act accordingly. – Vic Mar 2 '11 at 13:59

I have good results with `xcopy /d .`

It will copy NEWER files, and since we can assume that existing files have same time-stamp, you will copy only files that don't exist.

answered Mar 18 '13 at 7:31



Daniel Mošmondor

13.2k104283

4 I use `xcopy source dest /d /y /s` – Paul Gregoire Sep 30 '13 at 1:31

new thing I discovered recently, regarding `xcopy /s /d /y` ... while copying directory structure, it will CREATE and then DELETE destination folders if no files match the mask that is given. very strange, and sometimes very odd. – Daniel Mošmondor Dec 8 '14 at 21:22

just in case anyone else finds this: `robocopy x:\sourcefolder Y:\destfolder /s /e /r:0 /z`

much better than xcopy, even gives you a table at the end informing of any failed or skipped files. Doesn't prompt to not overwrite.

answered Jan 7 '15 at 10:29



wellsspokenman

15139

you sir are a gentleman and a scholar, at first didn't think it "wasn't overwriting" but then I started getting "100% New File ....." – Captinwalker1 Jun 30 '15 at 11:10

You can also use the replace command. It has two modes: to add files that don't exist there or replace files that do exist. You want the previous mode:

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/5152835/having-xcopy-copy-a-file-and-not-overwrite-the-previous-one-if-it-exists-withou

1/2

```
replace <path1> <path2> /A
```

answered Aug 11 '11 at 16:06



potes  
31 1

- 2 An OK option, however you cannot use this with /S to include sub-directories. – Merkidemis Jun 19 '13 at 20:36

I really like this option, but be warned that it fails with "Path not found" if the destination folder does not exist, and there does not appear to be an option to force creation of the destination folder if it is not present.  
– Jay Michaud Mar 24 '16 at 13:56

I had to copy AND rename files, so I got the prompt about creating a file or a directory.

This is the, rather "hackish" way I did it:

```
ECHO F | XCOPY /D "C:\install\dummy\dummy.pdf" "C:\Archive\fffc810e-f01a-47e8-a000-5903fc56f0ec.pdf"
```

XCOPY will use the "F" to indicate it should create the target as a file:

```
C:\install>ECHO F | XCOPY /D "C:\install\dummy\dummy.html" "C:\Archive\aa77cd6e-1d19-4eb4-b2a8-3f8fe60daf00.html"
Does C:\Archive\aa77cd6e-1d19-4eb4-b2a8-3f8fe60daf00.html specify a file name or directory
name on the target

(F = file, D = directory)? F
C:\install\dummy\dummy.html
1 File(s) copied
```

I've also verified this command leaves existing files alone. (You should too :-)

answered Mar 31 '14 at 15:10



Erk  
321 4 4

Well, there's a certain remedy! It has helped me with saving much of my effort and time on Win10 while writing a setup for our product demo.

Just try to use piping:

**@ECHO N|COPY I-Y SourceFiles Destination**

As an example I used his piece of code so that I would have a clean gentle quiet and safe copy!

```
@FOR /D %%F in ("FooPath") DO @(
  @ECHO N|COPY /-Y ^"%~npdxF\*.^^" ^"GooPath^" 3>NUL 2>NUL >NUL
)
```

where obviously **FooPath** is the source and **GooPath** is the destination.

Enjoy!

(main source: <https://ss64.com/nt/copy.html>)

edited Aug 3 at 9:25

answered Aug 2 at 8:57



Sina  
1 2