

!! What is Batch file? !!

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Batch files are a list of command line instructions that are "batched" together in one file.  
Most of the command lines can be executed within the command prompt, but batch files make the work load much easier.

Batch files can be opened, copied, and edited using notepad.

They are used for simple routines and low-level machine instruction. On Windows, many batch files can be seen within the c:\\Windows directory.

Batch files, more or less, make up the backbone of the Windows Operating System. The operating system must have access to these files and be able to add and delete instructions from them. Delete them, and you have effectively disabled the OS.

Basic Batch File Utilities and Commands

Note: Any DOS command can be used within a batch file, below are a list of commands used to support the structure and flow of the batch file

@

Place @ in front of commands that you don't want echoed within the process.

CLS

Clears the screen of any previous data.

CALL

Calls another batch file. Once other batch file is finished, control is returned to the first (i.e. CALL c:\\Windows\\Newbat.bat).

BREAK ON/OFF

When turned on within the batch file, the user has an option of stopping the batch file by pressing Ctrl Break.

GOTO - This command is used to go to another section of the batch file. Sections can be added by adding a colon in front of a name

(i.e. :FIRSTSECTION, :SECONDSECTION):

Quote::FIRSTSECTION

REM Welcome to the first section

```
GOTO :SECONDSECTION
Quote: :SECONDSECTION
REM Welcome to the second section
GOTO :END
:END
```

It is possible to loop with the GOTO command:

```
Quote::START
REM NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IT'S LOOPING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
GOTO :START
PAUSE
```

The pause command halts a process until a key is hit by the user. Displays the message, \"Press any key to continue...\"

REM  
Allows a remark to be placed within the code, displaying a message to the user (i.e. REM HELLO!).

ECHO ON  
Command process is shown to user; @ is usually placed before (@ECHO ON).

ECHO OFF  
Command process is not shown to the user; @ is usually placed before (@ECHO OFF).

end  
Ends the process.

Simple Batch Programming to show Hello message is :

```
@echo off
echo \"hello world\"
```

Type this code into notepad and save it with .bat extension(For eg: hello.bat)

By double clicking the batch file,you can run the file. Above batch file will show the hello world but we can't see it. because the window will open and closed within a second.

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