*move*

**Overview:**

Moves one or more files from one directory to another directory.

**help move**

Moves files and renames files and directories.

To move one or more files:

MOVE [/Y | /-Y] [drive:][path]filename1[,...] destination

To rename a directory:

MOVE [/Y | /-Y] [drive:][path]dirname1 dirname2

[drive:][path]filename1 Specifies the location and name of the file

or files you want to move.

destination Specifies the new location of the file. Destination

can consist of a drive letter and colon, a

directory name, or a combination. If you are moving

only one file, you can also include a filename if

you want to rename the file when you move it.

[drive:][path]dirname1 Specifies the directory you want to rename.

dirname2 Specifies the new name of the directory.

/Y Suppresses prompting to confirm you want to

overwrite an existing destination file.

/-Y Causes prompting to confirm you want to overwrite

an existing destination file.

The switch /Y may be present in the COPYCMD environment variable.

This may be overridden with /-Y on the command line. Default is

to prompt on overwrites unless MOVE command is being executed from

within a batch script.

# *rd (rmdir)*

## Overview:

Removes a directory.

The command rmdir is the same as the rd command; they do the same thing. You can use either the rmdir command or use the rd command which takes fewer characters to type.

## help rd

Removes (deletes) a directory.

RMDIR [/S] [/Q] [drive:]path

RD [/S] [/Q] [drive:]path

/S Removes all directories and files in the specified directory

in addition to the directory itself. Used to remove a directory

tree.

/Q Quiet mode, do not ask if ok to remove a directory tree with /S

# *rem*

## Overview:

Used in a batch program file to identify comments.

## help rem

Records comments (remarks) in a batch file or CONFIG.SYS.

REM [comment]

# *ren (rename)*

## Overview:

Renames a file or files.

## help ren

Renames a file or files.

RENAME [drive:][path]filename1 filename2.

REN [drive:][path]filename1 filename2.

Note that you cannot specify a new drive or path for your destination file.

# *sort*

## Overview:

Sorts input.

## help sort

SORT [/R] [/+n] [/M kilobytes] [/L locale] [/REC recordbytes]

[[drive1:][path1]filename1] [/T [drive2:][path2]]

[/O [drive3:][path3]filename3]

/+n Specifies the character number, n, to

begin each comparison. /+3 indicates that

each comparison should begin at the 3rd

character in each line. Lines with fewer

than n characters collate before other lines.

By default comparisons start at the first

character in each line.

/L[OCALE] locale Overrides the system default locale with

the specified one. The ""C"" locale yields

the fastest collating sequence and is

currently the only alternative. The sort

is always case insensitive.

/M[EMORY] kilobytes Specifies amount of main memory to use for

the sort, in kilobytes. The memory size is

always constrained to be a minimum of 160

kilobytes. If the memory size is specified

the exact amount will be used for the sort,

regardless of how much main memory is

available.

The best performance is usually achieved by

not specifying a memory size. By default the

sort will be done with one pass (no temporary

file) if it fits in the default maximum

memory size, otherwise the sort will be done

in two passes (with the partially sorted data

being stored in a temporary file) such that

the amounts of memory used for both the sort

and merge passes are equal. The default

maximum memory size is 90% of available main

memory if both the input and output are

files, and 45% of main memory otherwise.

/REC[ORD\_MAXIMUM] characters Specifies the maximum number of characters

in a record (default 4096, maximum 65535).

/R[EVERSE] Reverses the sort order; that is,

sorts Z to A, then 9 to 0.

[drive1:][path1]filename1 Specifies the file to be sorted. If not

specified, the standard input is sorted.

Specifying the input file is faster than

redirecting the same file as standard input.

/T[EMPORARY]

[drive2:][path2] Specifies the path of the directory to hold

the sort's working storage, in case the data

does not fit in main memory. The default is

to use the system temporary directory.

/O[UTPUT]

[drive3:][path3]filename3 Specifies the file where the sorted input is

to be stored. If not specified, the data is

written to the standard output. Specifying

the output file is faster than redirecting

standard output to the same file.

# *start*

## Overview:

Starts a new window to run a specified program or command.

## Command Variations:

start *directory*  
start "*directory name with spaces*"  
start .

Start a new window in Windows Explorer that shows the specified directory. For example: start c:\users opens the c:\users users directory in a window.

If the directory name *directory* contains spaces, then enclose it in quotation marks (e.g.: start "c:\users\john\documents\budget estimates").

If you use . as the *directory* (i.e.: start .), then the current directory will be opened in a Windows Explorer window.

start *drive*:

Opens the specified drive in a Windows Explorer Window. For example, start c: opens the c: drive, and start d: opens the d: drive (typically the DVD or CD-ROM drive).

start *file*  
start "*filename with spaces*"  
start *directory*/*file*  
start "*directory*/*file*"

The specified *file* file will be opened using the application that is associated with the file's [extension](https://www.c3scripts.com/tutorials/msdos/extensions.html). For example, start letterhead.doc would open the file letterhead.doc (located in the current directory); and since .doc files are associated with Microsoft Word, the file will be opened using Microsoft Word.

If the *file* filename contains spaces (e.g.: Q4 Budget.doc) then enclose the filename in quotation marks (e.g.: start "Q4 Budget.doc").

You can also specify a *directory* along with the filename. For example: start "c:\users\john\documents\q4 budget.doc"

## help start

Starts a separate window to run a specified program or command.

START ["title"] [/Dpath] [/I] [/MIN] [/MAX] [/SEPARATE | /SHARED]

[/LOW | /NORMAL | /HIGH | /REALTIME | /ABOVENORMAL | /BELOWNORMAL]

[/WAIT] [/B] [command/program]

[parameters]

"title" Title to display in window title bar.

path Starting directory

B Start application without creating a new window. The

application has ^C handling ignored. Unless the application

enables ^C processing, ^Break is the only way to interrupt

the application

I The new environment will be the original environment passed

to the cmd.exe and not the current environment.

MIN Start window minimized

MAX Start window maximized

SEPARATE Start 16-bit Windows program in separate memory space

SHARED Start 16-bit Windows program in shared memory space

LOW Start application in the IDLE priority class

NORMAL Start application in the NORMAL priority class

HIGH Start application in the HIGH priority class

REALTIME Start application in the REALTIME priority class

ABOVENORMAL Start application in the ABOVENORMAL priority class

BELOWNORMAL Start application in the BELOWNORMAL priority class

WAIT Start application and wait for it to terminate

command/program

If it is an internal cmd command or a batch file then

the command processor is run with the /K switch to cmd.exe.

This means that the window will remain after the command

has been run.

If it is not an internal cmd command or batch file then

it is a program and will run as either a windowed application

or a console application.

parameters These are the parameters passed to the command/program

If Command Extensions are enabled, external command invocation

through the command line or the START command changes as follows:

non-executable files may be invoked through their file association just

by typing the name of the file as a command. (e.g. WORD.DOC would

launch the application associated with the .DOC file extension).

See the ASSOC and FTYPE commands for how to create these

associations from within a command script.

When executing an application that is a 32-bit GUI application, CMD.EXE

does not wait for the application to terminate before returning to

the command prompt. This new behavior does NOT occur if executing

within a command script.

When executing a command line whose first token is the string "CMD "

without an extension or path qualifier, then "CMD" is replaced with

the value of the COMSPEC variable. This prevents picking up CMD.EXE

from the current directory.

When executing a command line whose first token does NOT contain an

extension, then CMD.EXE uses the value of the PATHEXT

environment variable to determine which extensions to look for

and in what order. The default value for the PATHEXT variable

is:

.COM;.EXE;.BAT;.CMD

Notice the syntax is the same as the PATH variable, with

semicolons separating the different elements.

When searching for an executable, if there is no match on any extension,

then looks to see if the name matches a directory name. If it does, the

START command launches the Explorer on that path. If done from the

command line, it is the equivalent to doing a CD /D to that path.

# *time*

## Overview:

Displays or sets the computer's time. See also: [date](https://www.c3scripts.com/tutorials/msdos/date.html)

**Tip:** If you want to set your computer's internal clock, it is recommended that you do that task via the Date and Time Control Panel (Start > Settings > Control Panel > Date and Time).

## help time

Displays or sets the system time.

TIME [/T | time]

Type TIME with no parameters to display the current time setting and a prompt

for a new one. Press ENTER to keep the same time.

If Command Extensions are enabled the TIME command supports

the /T switch which tells the command to just output the

current time, without prompting for a new time.

# *tree*

## Overview:

Graphically displays the directory structure of a drive or directory.

**Tip:** You can save the directory tree listing to a file by using tree > *filename* such as tree > mytree.txt

**Tip:** You can use the [clip](https://www.c3scripts.com/tutorials/msdos/clip.html) command to save the directory tree listing to the Windows clipboard, such as: tree | clip

## help tree

Graphically displays the folder structure of a drive or path.

TREE [drive:][path] [/F] [/A]

/F Display the names of the files in each folder.

/A Use ASCII instead of extended characters.

# *xcopy*

## Overview:

**Warning:** This command is for advanced users only!

Copies files and directory trees. See also: [copy](https://www.c3scripts.com/tutorials/msdos/copy.html)

**Tip:** If you're writing a batch file and want it to copy a directory tree then you would use the xcopy command. Otherwise, it is recommended that you do that task by copying and pasting the folder in Windows Explorer rather than using MS-DOS.

## help xcopy

Copies files and directory trees.

XCOPY source [destination] [/A | /M] [/D[:date]] [/P] [/S [/E]] [/V] [/W]

[/C] [/I] [/Q] [/F] [/L] [/G] [/H] [/R] [/T] [/U]

[/K] [/N] [/O] [/X] [/Y] [/-Y] [/Z]

[/EXCLUDE:file1[+file2][+file3]...]

source Specifies the file(s) to copy.

destination Specifies the location and/or name of new files.

/A Copies only files with the archive attribute set,

doesn't change the attribute.

/M Copies only files with the archive attribute set,

turns off the archive attribute.

/D:m-d-y Copies files changed on or after the specified date.

If no date is given, copies only those files whose

source time is newer than the destination time.

/EXCLUDE:file1[+file2][+file3]...

Specifies a list of files containing strings. Each string

should be in a separate line in the files. When any of the

strings match any part of the absolute path of the file to be

copied, that file will be excluded from being copied. For

example, specifying a string like \obj\ or .obj will exclude

all files underneath the directory obj or all files with the

.obj extension respectively.

/P Prompts you before creating each destination file.

/S Copies directories and subdirectories except empty ones.

/E Copies directories and subdirectories, including empty ones.

Same as /S /E. May be used to modify /T.

/V Verifies each new file.

/W Prompts you to press a key before copying.

/C Continues copying even if errors occur.

/I If destination does not exist and copying more than one file,

assumes that destination must be a directory.

/Q Does not display file names while copying.

/F Displays full source and destination file names while copying.

/L Displays files that would be copied.

/G Allows the copying of encrypted files to destination that does

not support encryption.

/H Copies hidden and system files also.

/R Overwrites read-only files.

/T Creates directory structure, but does not copy files. Does not

include empty directories or subdirectories. /T /E includes

empty directories and subdirectories.

/U Copies only files that already exist in destination.

/K Copies attributes. Normal Xcopy will reset read-only attributes.

/N Copies using the generated short names.

/O Copies file ownership and ACL information.

/X Copies file audit settings (implies /O).

/Y Suppresses prompting to confirm you want to overwrite an

existing destination file.

/-Y Causes prompting to confirm you want to overwrite an

existing destination file.

/Z Copies networked files in restartable mode.

The switch /Y may be preset in the COPYCMD environment variable.

This may be overridden with /-Y on the command line.