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mode

Article • 02/03/2023 • [9 contributors](#) •

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Displays system status, changes system settings, or reconfigures ports or devices. If used without parameters, **mode** displays all the controllable attributes of the console and the available COM devices.

Serial port

Configures a serial communications port and sets the output handshake.

Syntax

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```
mode com<m>[: ] [baud=<b>] [parity=<p>] [data=<d>] [stop=<s>] [to={on|off}] [xon=
```

Parameters

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Parameter	Description
com<m>[:]	Specifies the number of the async Prncnfg.vbshronous communications port.
baud=	Specifies the transmission rate in bits per second. The valid values include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">11 - 110 baud15 - 150 baud30 - 300 baud60 - 600 baud12 - 1200 baud24 - 2400 baud48 - 4800 baud96 - 9600 baud19 - 19,200 baud
parity=<p>	Specifies how the system uses the parity bit to check for transmission errors. The valid values include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">n - nonee - even (default value)o - odd

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">m - marks - space <p>Not all devices support using the m or s parameters.</p>
<code>data=<d></code>	Specifies the number of data bits in a character. Valid values range from 5 through 8 . The default value is 7 . Not all devices support the values 5 and 6 .
<code>stop=<s></code>	Specifies the number of stop bits that define the end of a character: 1 , 1.5 , or 2 . If the baud rate is 110 , the default value is 2 . Otherwise, the default value is 1 . Not all devices support the value 1.5 .
<code>to={on off}</code>	Specifies whether the device uses infinite time out processing. The default value is off . Turning this option on means that the device will never stop waiting to receive a response from a host or client computer.
<code>xon={on off}</code>	Specifies whether the system allows the XON/XOFF protocol. This protocol provides flow control for serial communications, enhancing reliability, but reducing performance.
<code>odsr={on off}</code>	Specifies whether the system turns on the Data Set Ready (DSR) output handshake.
<code>octs={on off}</code>	Specifies whether the system turns on the Clear to Send (CTS) output handshake.
<code>dtr={on off hs}</code>	Specifies whether the system turns on the Data Terminal Ready (DTR) output handshake. Setting this value to on mode, provides a constant signal to show the terminal is ready to send data. Setting this value to hs mode provides a handshake signal between the two terminals.
<code>rts={on off hs tg}</code>	Specifies whether the system turns on the Request to Send (RTS) output handshake. Setting this value to on mode, provides a constant signal to show the terminal is ready to send data. Setting this value to hs mode provides a handshake signal between the two terminals. Setting this value to tg mode provides a way to toggle between ready and not ready states.
<code>idsr={on off}</code>	Specifies whether the system turns on the DSR sensitivity. You must turn this option on to use DSR handshaking.
<code>/?</code>	Displays help at the command prompt.

Device status


Displays the status of a specified device. If used without parameters, **mode** displays the status of all devices installed on your system.

Syntax

 Copy

```
mode [<device>] [/status]
```


Parameters

 Expand table

Parameter	Description
<code><device></code>	Specifies the name of the device for which you want to display the status. Standard names include, LPT1: through LPT3:, COM1: through COM9:, and CON.
<code>/status</code>	Requests the status of any redirected parallel printers. You can also use /sta as an abbreviated version of this command.
<code>/?</code>	Displays help at the command prompt.

Redirect printing

Redirects printer output. You must be a member of the Administrators group to redirect printing.

 **Note**


To set up your system so that it sends parallel printer output to a serial printer, you must use the **mode** command twice. The first time, you must use **mode** to configure the serial port. The second time, you must use **mode** to redirect parallel printer output to the serial port you specified in the first **mode** command.

Syntax

Copy

```
mode LPT<n>[:]=COM<m>[:]
```

Parameters

 Expand table

Parameter	Description
LPT<n>[:]	Specifies the number of the LPT to configure. Typically, this means providing a value from LTP1: through LTP3 ; unless your system includes special parallel port support. This parameter is required.
COM<m>[:]	Specifies the COM port to configure. Typically, this means providing a value from COM1: through COM9 ; unless your system has special hardware for additional COM ports. This parameter is required.
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Examples

To redirect a serial printer that operates at 4800 baud with even parity, and is connected to the COM1 port (the first serial connection on your computer), type:

Copy

```
mode com1 48,e,,b
mode lpt1=com1
```

To redirect parallel printer output from LPT1 to COM1, and then to print a file using LPT1, type the following command before you print the file:

Copy

```
mode lpt1
```

This command prevents the redirection the file from LPT1 to COM1.

Select code page

Configures or queries the code page info for a selected device.

Syntax

Copy

```
mode <device> codepage select=<yyy>
mode <device> codepage [/status]
```

Parameters

Expand table

Parameter	Description
<device>	Specifies the device for which you want to select a code page. CON is the only valid name for a device. This parameter is required.
codepage	Specifies which code page to use with the specified device. You can also use cp as an abbreviated version of this command. This parameter is required.
select= <yyy>	<div>Specifies the number of the code page to use with the device. The supported code pages, by country/region or language, include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">437: United States850: Multilingual (Latin I)852: Slavic (Latin II)855: Cyrillic (Russian)857: Turkish860: Portuguese861: Icelandic863: Canadian-French865: Nordic866: Russian869: Modern Greek <div>This parameter is required.</div>
/status	Displays the numbers of the current code pages selected for the specified device. You can also use /sta as an abbreviated version of this command. Regardless whether you specify /status , the mode codepage command will display the numbers of the code pages that are selected for the specified device.
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Display mode

Changes the size of the command prompt screen buffer

Syntax

Copy

```
mode con[:] [cols=<c>] [lines=<n>]
```

Parameters


Expand table

Parameter	Description
con[:]	Indicates that the change applies to the Command Prompt window. This parameter is required.
cols= <c>	Specifies the number of columns in the command prompt screen buffer. The default setting is 80 columns, but you can set this to any value. If you don't use the default, typical values are 40 and 135 columns. Using non-standard values can result in the command prompt app problems.

lines= <code><n></code>	Specifies the number of lines in the command prompt screen buffer. The default value is 25, but you can set this to any value. If you don't use the default, the other typical value is 50 lines.
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.


Typematic rate

Sets the keyboard typematic rate. The typematic rate is the speed at which Windows can repeat a character when you press the key on a keyboard.

 **Note**

Some keyboards don't recognize this command.

Syntax

 Copy

```
mode con[:] [rate=<r> delay=<d>]
```

Parameters

 Expand table

Parameter	Description
con[:]	Specifies the keyboard. This parameter is required.
rate= <code><r></code>	Specifies the rate at which a character is repeated on the screen when you hold down a key. The default value is 20 characters per second for IBM AT-compatible keyboards, and 21 for IBM PS/2-compatible keyboards, but you can use any value from 1 through 32. If you set this parameter, you must also set the delay parameter.
delay= <code><d></code>	Specifies the amount of time that will elapse after you press and hold down a key before the character output repeats. The default value is 2 (.50 seconds), but you can also use 1 (.25 seconds), 3 (.75 seconds), or 4 (1 second). If you set this parameter, you must also set the rate parameter.
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Related links

- [Command-Line Syntax Key](#)

Feedback

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