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In this article

Syntax

Related links

Deletes one or more files. If you use erase to delete a file from your disk, you can't retrieve it.

① Note

This command is the same as the <u>del command</u>.

Syntax

erase [/p] [/f] [/s] [/q] [/a[:]<attributes>] <names>

del [/p] [/f] [/s] [/q] [/a[:]<attributes>] <names>

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Parameters

Expand table

Parameter	Description
<names></names>	Specifies a list of one or more files or directories. Wildcards may be used to delete multiple files. If a directory is specified, all files within the directory will be deleted.
/p	Prompts for confirmation before deleting the specified file.
/f	Forces deletion of read-only files.
/s	Deletes specified files from the current directory and all subdirectories. Displays the names of the files as they are being deleted.

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/q	Specifies quiet mode. You are not prompted for delete confirmation.
/a[:]	Deletes files based on the following file attributes:
(attributes)	r Read-only filesh Hidden files
	i Not content indexed files a System files
	s System filesa Files ready for archiving
	I Reparse points
	Used as a prefix meaning 'not'
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Remarks

• If you use the erase /p command, you'll see the following message:

```
FileName, Delete (Y/N)?
```

To confirm the deletion, press **Y**. To cancel the deletion and to display the next file name (if you specified a group of files), press **N**. To stop the **erase** command, press CTRL+C.

- If you disable command extension, the /s parameter will display the names of any files that weren't found ,instead of displaying the names of files that are being deleted.
- If you specify specific folders in the <names> parameter, all of the included files will also be deleted. For example, if you want to delete all of the files in the \work folder, type:

```
erase \work
```

• You can use wildcards (* and ?) to delete more than one file at a time. However, to avoid deleting files unintentionally, you should use wildcards cautiously. For example, if you type the following command:

```
erase *.*
```

The **erase** command displays the following prompt:

```
Are you sure (Y/N)?
```

To delete all of the files in the current directory, press **Y** and then press ENTER. To cancel the deletion, press **N** and then press ENTER.

① Note

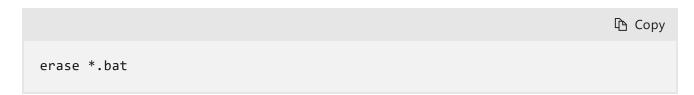
Before you use wildcard characters with the **erase** command, use the same wildcard characters with the **dir** command to list all the files that will be deleted.

Examples

To delete all the files in a folder named Test on drive C, type either of the following:

```
erase c:\test
erase c:\test\*.*
```

To delete all files with the .bat file name extension from the current directory, type:



To delete all read-only files in the current directory, type:



Related links

- Command-Line Syntax Key
- del command

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