

Purpose

PathUtil is a utility which can add and remove paths to the environment variable 'PATH'. The utility is a 32bit executable with a simple command line interface.

Compatibility

PathUtil can add, and remove paths on Windows NT 3.51, NT4, 2000 and XP systems (all versions) providing write access to the appropriate registry hive/keys is available.

At present PathUtil can also amend autoexec.bat to add paths on Windows 95, 98 and ME but is not able to automatically remove them. As no user-level security exists on these non-NT based operating systems the only requirement will be that the autoexec.bat file is not marked 'read only'.

PathUtil is written in VB6.0 and has dependencies on the standard VB6 runtime DLL's. These DLL's should be available on the target system prior to execution.

Syntax

General: Pathutil -x:"<path>"

Where '**x**' is the command type and **<path>** is the path to add or remove from the environment variable 'PATH'

Commands:

Command	Purpose
-a:"<path>"	Adds specified path to the PATH variable if it is not already present
-r:"<path>"	Removes the specified path from the PATH variable

Optional Switches:

The following optional switches may be used to modify the operation of PathUtil

Switch	Purpose
-silent	Prevents PathUtil from displaying any messages. This includes confirmations and error messages as well as status messages.
-debug	Displays a debug window which will contain detailed information on progress including the exact contents of the PATH variable during changes. When debug is displayed the process will not terminate until the user closes the debug window.

Examples

```
Pathutil -a:"c:\imagemagick\" -debug
```

Launches PathUtil to add the path 'c:\imagemagick\' to the PATH environment variable, full debug diagnostics will be displayed.

```
Pathutil -r:"c:\imagemagick\" -silent
```

Launches PathUtil to remove the path 'c:\imagemagick\' from the PATH environment variable and display nothing in the progress whether it succeeds or not.

Notes

- Only a single **-r** **or** **-a** command will be processed per execution (where multiple commands are provided the first one will be processed).
- All paths are converted to lower case prior to appending to the PATH environment variable, this is to ensure that differences in case between original path specified in add command and later specified in remove command do not prevent the remove command from operating successfully.

TODO

1. Add confirmation prior to updating either autoexec.bat or registry.
2. Test access writes on registry for NT platform operating systems and sensibly report error.
3. Add removal ability for non-NT platform operating systems.

Support & Contact

PathUtil is provided free of charge and may be used for any purpose.

Please exercise care when modifying autoexec.bat or your computers registry as no liability can be accepted from any damage arising from the use of this software.

Luke Bailey,
luke@notts.flexeprint.com