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Forfiles

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Applies To: Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista

Selects and executes a command on a file or set of files. This command is useful for batch processing.

For examples of how to use this command, see Examples.

Syntax

```
forfiles [/p <Path>] [/m <SearchMask>] [/s] [/c "<Command>"] [/d [{+|-}][{<Date>|<Days>}]]
```

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Parameters

Parameter	Description

Parameter	Description
/p <Path>	Specifies the path from which to start the search. By default, searching starts in the current working directory.
/m <SearchMask>	Searches files according to the specified search mask. The default search mask is ***.***.
/s	Instructs the **forfiles** command to search into subdirectories recursively.
/c "<Command>"	Runs the specified command on each file. Command strings should be enclosed in quotation marks. The default command is **"cmd /c echo @file"**.
/d [{+|-}][{<Date>|<Days>}]	Selects files with a last modified date within the specified time frame. - Selects files with a last modified date later than or equal to (**+**) or earlier than or equal to (**-**) the specified date, where *Date* is in the format MM/DD/YYYY. - Selects files with a last modified date later than or equal to (**+**) the current date plus the number of days specified, or earlier than or equal to (**-**) the current date minus the number of days specified. - Valid values for *Days* include any number in the range 0–32,768. If no sign is specified, **+** is used by default.
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Remarks

- **Forfiles** is most commonly used in batch files.

- **Forfiles /s** is similar to **dir /s.**

- You can use the following variables in the command string as specified by the **/c** command-line option.

Variable	Description
@FILE	File name.
@FNAME	File name without extension.
@EXT	File name extension.
@PATH	Full path of the file.
@RELPATH	Relative path of the file.
@ISDIR	Evaluates to TRUE if a file type is a directory. Otherwise, this variable evaluates to FALSE.
@FSIZE	File size, in bytes.
@FDATE	Last modified date stamp on the file.
@FTIME	Last modified time stamp on the file.

- With **forfiles**, you can run a command on or pass arguments to multiple files. For example, you could run the **type** command on all files in a tree with the .txt file name extension. Or you could execute every batch file (*.bat) on drive C, with the file name "Myinput.txt" as the first argument.

- With **forfiles**, you can do any of the following:

  ○ Select files by an absolute date or a relative date by using the **/d** parameter.

  ○ Build an archive tree of files by using variables such as @FSIZEand @FDATE.

- Differentiate files from directories by using the @ISDIRvariable.

- Include special characters in the command line by using the hexadecimal code for the character, in 0x*HH* format (for example, 0x09 for a tab).

- **Forfiles** works by implementing the **recurse subdirectories** flag on tools that are designed to process only a single file.

Examples

To list all of the batch files on drive C, type:

```
forfiles /p c:\ /s /m *.bat /c "cmd /c echo @file is a batch file"
```

To list all of the directories on drive C, type:

```
forfiles /p c:\ /s /m *.* /c "cmd /c if @isdir==true echo @file is a directory"
```

To list all of the files in the current directory that are at least one year old, type:

```
forfiles /s /m *.* /d -365 /c "cmd /c echo @file is at least one year old."
```

To display the text "*File* is outdated" for each of the files in the current directory that are older than January 1, 2007, type:

```
forfiles /s /m *.* /d -01/01/2007 /c "cmd /c echo @file is outdated."
```
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To list the file name extensions of all the files in the current directory in column format, and add a tab before the extension, type:

```
forfiles /s /m *.* /c "cmd /c echo The extension of @file is 0x09@ext"
```
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Additional references

[Command-Line Syntax Key](#)