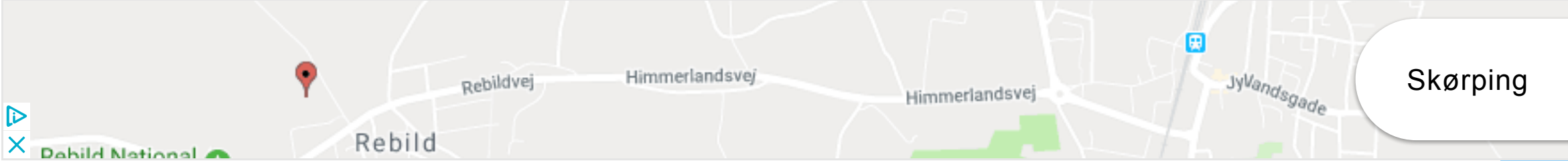


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## Windows 7: Batch Files - Create a Menu to Execute Commands

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### Batch Files - Create a Menu to Execute Commands

*How to Use a Batch File to Create a Command Prompt Menu to Execute Commands*  
Published by **not so gray matter**  
13 Apr 2010

## How to Use a Batch File to Create a Command Prompt Menu to Execute Commands

Published



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ma**



SEV

#### **Information**

This tutorial shows the process one goes through when creating a batch file that opens a command prompt menu allowing you to launch commands, programs and more.

I will only be executing programs in this tutorial, but you can use this to execute any DOS command that is available in command prompt.

#### **Tip**

Lines typed in the Courier New font should be added to the document.

### Opening Notepad

First Open Notepad and Create a New Text Document

### Clearing the Command Window

The next thing we'll do is tell the batch file not to show the second command we input. This uses the ECHO OFF command. As men ECHO OFF only hides the next command, if you wish to hide all commands you must use @ECHO OFF.

```
ECHO OFF
```

Once we've turned off display of the next line, we'll issue another command. This command is CLS. CLS clears the current comman to only show a prompt.

```
CLS
```

### Creating the First Anchor

An anchor is simply a marker which shows the command prompt what to execute when directed to that specific point in the batch first anchor we'll use will be called MENU because when executed it will show the menu of choices. To make MENU an anchor we'll before it.

## Creating the Menu

Now we'll actually create the menu. This will be the text that the user sees when he/she opens the batch file and it will also be rev after executing a command other than exit. The menu will be comprised of ECHO commands. Not only can an ECHO command turn of commands, but it can also display whatever you type after it. If you place a space after the ECHO command, it will print whatever onto the command window. If you place a . (period) after the ECHO command it will skip a line.

```
ECHO.  
ECHO .....  
ECHO PRESS 1, 2 OR 3 to select your task, or 4 to EXIT.  
ECHO .....  
ECHO.  
ECHO 1 - Open Notepad  
ECHO 2 - Open Calculator  
ECHO 3 - Open Notepad AND Calculator  
ECHO 4 - EXIT  
ECHO.
```

## Creating the Input Area

Now that we've created the visual menu, we also need to create the place where the user can input his or her choice and execute this we will use the SET command. This command simply lets the user change one variable or string to another. In other words it w an input of "1" into an input of GOTO NOTE which will direct the batch file to execute whatever is in the NOTE section. In our SET c we'll give the user 4 choices, one directs the batch file to the NOTE section, another to the CALC section, another to the BOTH sect last directs the batch file to exit the Window.

```
SET /P M=Type 1, 2, 3, or 4 then press ENTER:  
IF %M%==1 GOTO NOTE  
IF %M%==2 GOTO CALC  
IF %M%==3 GOTO BOTH  
IF %M%==4 GOTO EOF
```

## Creating the Command Sections

Now we'll create the sections of the batch file that are executed by 1, 2, 3 or 4. These sections will be marked by an anchor so tha file knows where to start. The sections that execute programs or commands will also be directed to the MENU at the end. If you w the command prompt instead of falling back on the menu, you could simply place an EXIT command at the end of the section. We using the CD command. This command changes the directory of the command prompt. While not strictly neccesary in this batch fi neccesary if you execute programs outside of the system32 directory. The START command will be used as well. It simply starts th executable. The GOTO command is the last in each section. It tells the batch file to go to a specific anchor. All of the GOTO comma anchored to the MENU.

```
:NOTE  
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe  
start notepad.exe  
GOTO MENU  
:CALC  
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe  
start calc.exe  
GOTO MENU  
:BOTH  
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe  
start notepad.exe  
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe  
start calc.exe  
GOTO MENU
```


## Saving & Creating the Shortcut

Now that we've finished the batch file, we need to save it. You should save the file as ALL FILES and with a .bat extension. It can b anything you want. Once you've saved it, you should create a shortcut. This shortcut will allow you to execute the batch file and al change the icon. To change the shortcut's icon simply go to Properties and Change Icon.

## Review

In this tutorial we created a batch file which shows a command prompt menu through which you can choose to execute programs. one of many uses for batch files. Files can be copied, DOS commands executed, and more. If you wish to use a batch file to create which will allow you to do more, read through tutorials on DOS commands and using batch files. Below is the entire Document.

```
CLS
:MENU
ECHO.
ECHO .....
ECHO PRESS 1, 2 OR 3 to select your task, or 4 to EXIT.
ECHO .....
ECHO.
ECHO 1 - Open Notepad
ECHO 2 - Open Calculator
ECHO 3 - Open Notepad AND Calculator
ECHO 4 - EXIT
ECHO.
SET /P M=Type 1, 2, 3, or 4 then press ENTER:
IF %M%==1 GOTO NOTE
IF %M%==2 GOTO CALC
IF %M%==3 GOTO BOTH
IF %M%==4 GOTO EOF
:NOTE
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe
start notepad.exe
GOTO MENU
:CALC
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe
start calc.exe
GOTO MENU
:BOTH
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe
start notepad.exe
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe
start calc.exe
GOTO MENU
```

 **Tip**

For more about Batch files, read this tutorial:  
[Microsoft - Batch Files](#)

For more DOS commands, read this tutorial:  
[MS-DOS help and commands](#)

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- [How to Use a Batch File to Run Multiple Programs](#)

17 Jun 2011

ahmedsheraz

Nice Sharing buddy

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32bit  
1 posts

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30 Nov 2011

cheebase

The crucial shortcoming of this batch routine is the use of the enter key to complete the command. This avoided by using either the CHOICE or DEBUG utility up until and including any 32 bit environment. The not included anymore in windows 7 and they can not be used in any 64 bit environment.

XP 32  
2 posts

Do you have a solution to this dilemma?

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30 Nov 2011

richnrockville

Windows 7 Pro x64 SP1

1,800 posts

Rockville, Maryland USA

Quote: Originally Posted by cheebase

The crucial shortcoming of this batch routine is the use of the enter key to complete the command. easily avoided by using either the CHOICE or DEBUG utility up until and including any 32 bit environ These utilities are not included anymore in windows 7 and they can not be used in any 64 bit enviro

Do you have a solution to this dilemma?

but it does work in the x64 environment and pressing enter is most likely easier for most people to unde accomplish. The batch file is great..

Rich

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30 Nov 2011

cheebase

XP 32

2 posts

richnrockville: I referred to the inability to run GETKEY or CHOICE in a 64 bit environment. The batch w there.

No, I disagree. A single key answer in any menu is the preferred way, forget the enter key... So the que is there a way to accomplish that feat.

My System Specs

30 Nov 2011

richnrockville

Windows 7 Pro x64 SP1

1,800 posts

Rockville, Maryland USA

Quote: Originally Posted by cheebase

richnrockville: I referred to the inability to run GETKEY or CHOICE in a 64 bit environment. The batc fine there.

No, I disagree. A single key answer in any menu is the preferred way, forget the enter key... So the remains: is there a way to accomplish that feat.

Cheebase, most likely not without a third party program which would have to be installed that the batch run. I think that for brevities sake and the ease by which many people could modify the batch file and m this simple batch file method is most likely the cleanest and easiest to understand.

I could write the program in compiled basic with an onkey but I think that this batch file will work for th users.

After all anyone with windows and notepad can make changes and get it done.

Rich

My System Specs

20 Dec 2011

Cuholvke

Windows 7 Ultimate x64

1 posts

I found a turnaround to make the "single key feat". Instead of just using SET or CHOICE, I used both to works on x64:

```
ECHO OFF
CLS
:MENU
ECHO.
ECHO .....
ECHO PRESS 1, 2 OR 3 to select your task, or 4 to EXIT.
ECHO .....
ECHO.
ECHO 1 - Open Notepad
ECHO 2 - Open Calculator
ECHO 3 - Open Notepad AND Calculator
```

My System Specs

```
ECHO 4 - EXIT
ECHO.
CHOICE /C:1234
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 SET M=1
IF ERRORLEVEL 2 SET M=2
IF ERRORLEVEL 3 SET M=3
IF ERRORLEVEL 4 SET M=4
IF %M%==1 GOTO NOTE
IF %M%==2 GOTO CALC
IF %M%==3 GOTO BOTH
IF %M%==4 GOTO EOF
:NOTE
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe
start notepad.exe
GOTO MENU
:CALC
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe
start calc.exe
GOTO MENU
:BOTH
cd %windir%\system32\notepad.exe
start notepad.exe
cd %windir%\system32\calc.exe
start calc.exe
GOTO MENU
```

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18 Sep 2012

## Fuzzyc00kie

64 bit Windows 7  
home premium

1 posts

When I try to make a menu open another batch program, it works fine, However, when I try to make another batch program open another program, like notepad, it says  
The system cannot find the batch label specified -"Label name here".  
Any help on the matter?

My System Specs▼

15 Aug 2014

## tweakradje

win7

31 posts

Build a dynamic menu like this:

Code:

```
@echo off

REM
REM Tweakradje 2014, V2
REM
REM Find all Packages and remove the ones indicated
REM
REM Good info: http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh825265.aspx
REM
REM DISM /online /Get-Packages /Format=Table
REM DISM /online /Get-Drivers /Format=Table
REM DISM /online /Get-Features /Format=Table to enable/disable/remove
REM

Title Remove Windows Packages from local store
Color 17
Setlocal ENABLEDELAYEDEXPANSION

:BUILDMENU
Echo.
Echo Getting package list...
Echo.
SET /A MAXITEM=0
REM ### Get the output lines from the command and store them in Environment variable
REM ### We want the output of Findstr.exe, Not DISM.exe, hence the ^ symbol
For /f "skip=3 delims=" %%M in ("DISM /online /Get-Packages /Format=Table"^|FindS
```

My System Specs▼



```
:selectfile
SETLOCAL ENABLEDELAYEDEXPANSION << DELAYED EXPANSION on for counter in For loop
SET /A MAXITEM=0
Echo.
For %%F in (folder1/*.TXT) do (
SET /A MAXITEM+=1
SET MENUITEM!MAXITEM!=%%F << Fill n local env vars, one for each file, called MENUITEM1...n
Echo !MAXITEM!. %%F
)
Echo.
If !MAXITEM!==0 Echo No TXT in "folder1" folder & call :delay & Goto start << No apk files then go back
SET /P CHOICE=Select TXT to work on:
SET MENUITEM=!MENUITEM%CHOICE%! << Get the stored filename from MENUITEMx
SETLOCAL DISABLEDELAYEDEXPANSION << Very important for next ENDLOCAL that doesn't like the
delayedexpansion var
ENDLOCAL & SET selectedtxtfile=%MENUITEM% << put the local MENUITEM var into the global var selectedtxtfile
Goto start

:delay
SETLOCAL
REM %1 like call :delay 5
SET N=%1
If Not Defined N Set N=2
Ping -n %N% -w 1000 127.255.255.255 > nul
ENDLOCAL
Exit /b
```

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