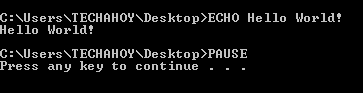
**BATCH FILE PROGRAMMING**

There is always a stage in which you might want the computer to carry out repetitive tasks on its own without you spending the time on it. That is where these scripting languages come into account.

Batch files are script files in DOS, OS/2 and windows based operating systems which are nothing but text files consisting of a series of commands to be executed by the command interpreter   
(cmd.exe or command.com). Batch files hold the extension “.bat” in context with the windows batch files. The command interpreter executes the script line by line and gives the output to the user.

A sample batch script:

C:\Users\TECHAHOY\Desktop\5.PNG  
Result in the command interpreter:



Here, the script is executed line by line and the output is given for every line soon after its execution as seen in the figure.

Like in normal programming languages, even batch files have if clauses, conditional statements, etc. Most importantly, it can also interact with networks. All the commands which can be used in the command prompt like cd, dir, copy can also be used in batch file programming.

Batch files may prove either useful or in some cases even harm your computer. Attackers often use batch files to run their script which has viruses. This is what happens:

1. The removable drives/cd contains a batch file along with a file named autorun.inf  
   As soon as the removable drive is inserted, autorun.inf is executed and it runs the batch file inside the same drive without the user’s knowledge.
2. Now, the batch file may contain scripts which might harm your computer or cause unwanted tasks like deletion, opening up unwanted windows and executing other executables located in the pc. The list is endless.

So, use of batch files becomes a problem in these ways. But, the security features has been strengthened in operating systems like Vista, Win7, etc. where the system alerts you before executing a file provided security features are appropriately set in the control panel. Even various anti-virus programs have come up with solutions.

Even though use of batch files might be risky, it still proves a lot of use like creating Wi-Fi Hotspots, timing shutdowns, log generation of system activities, etc. A better alternative to batch files in Linux are shell scripts which is too deep to explore. We can say that use of batch files has surely changed the way we use computers.