

Del

By Archiveddocs

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Applies To: Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012, Windows 8

Deletes one or more files. This command is the same as the **erase** command.

For examples of how to use this command, see [Examples](#).

Syntax

```
del [/p] [/f] [/s] [/q] [/a[:<Attributes>] <Names>  
erase [/p] [/f] [/s] [/q] [/a[:<Attributes>] <Names>
```

Parameters

Parameter	Description
<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.
/q	Specifies quiet mode. You are not prompted for delete confirmation.

Parameter	Description
/a[:] <Attributes>	<p>Deletes files based on the following file attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> r Read-only files h Hidden files i Not content indexed files s System files a Files ready for archiving l Reparse points <p>- Prefix meaning 'not'</p>
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Warning

If you use **del** to delete a file from your disk, you cannot retrieve it.

- If you use **/p**, **del** displays the name of a file and sends the following message:

FileName, Delete (Y/N)?

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

- If you disable command extensions, **/s** displays the names of any files that were not found instead of displaying the names of files that are being deleted (that is, the behavior is reversed).
- If you specify a folder in *Names*, all of the files in the folder are deleted. For example, the following command deletes all of the files in the \Work folder:

```
del \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 with the **del** command. For example, if you type the following command:

```
del *.*
```

The **del** 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.

Note

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

- The **del** command, with different parameters, is available from the Recovery Console.

Examples

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

```
del c:\test
del c:\test\*.*
```

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

```
del *.bak
```

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

```
del /a:r *.*
```

Additional references

[Command-Line Syntax Key](#)