

# ***Windows XP Command Line***

Section #2  
Files, Directories, Paths

# DOS Filenames

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- All files in a directory must have a unique name.
- All file name must be less than 256 characters
- File extensions are usually 3 characters long (.html is an exception)
- The following characters cannot be used in filenames:
  - \ / : \* ? " < > |

## DOS Filenames continued

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- Older versions of DOS do not support long filenames (LFN). The maximum length of a filename was 8 characters with a 3 character extension.
- To support the older versions each LFN has a 8.3 version. To see the 8.3 versions we use the /X parameter
  - `DIR /X`

## Directories

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- Syntax is the rule for creating a command. The syntax for the DIR command is:
  - DIR [drive:] [path] [filename] [/A[[:]attributes]] [/B] [/C] [/D] ...
  - Anything not in [ ] is required. DIR is required
  - Anything in [ ] is optional. These are called parameters.

## DIR Command

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- The **DIR** command is used to get a listing of the files in a directory or to find out information about a file.
- The **DIR /P** will display a listing of the files in a directory one page at a time.
- The **DIR /W** command will display a wide listing of the files in the directory.

## DIR Command

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- The DIR command can be used to find out information about a file. In this case the filename is supplied as a parameter to the command.
  - `DIR E:\Windows\System32\DiskCopy.com`

# Drives

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- A device is a place to send information or a place from which information is retrieved.
- Disk drives have assign Device names. The floppy disk is the **A:** device. The hard disk partitions are devices **C:** **E:** and **F:**. The CD-ROM drive is **D:**
- To change to another device simply type the device name at the prompt.
- **D:**

## Drives continued

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- To get a directory listing for a device type DIR followed by the device
  - DIR A:
- To get a listing for a file on another device you type DIR with the path on the other device
  - DIR A:HELLO.TXT
  - DIR A:\HELLO.TXT



# Path's

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- The path is the location of the file relative to the current directory or to the root of the file.
- C:\DEMO\DOS&WIN\SAMPLES\SAMPLE.TXT
- C:\ - \ is the root of the drive
  - DEMO\ subdirectory of root
    - DOS&WIN\ subdirectory of demo
      - SAMPLES\ subdirectory of DOS&WIN
        - SAMPLE.TXT the actual file

## Path's

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- The path can be included as part of the DIR command.
- `DIR C:\DEMO\DOS&WIN\SAMPLES\SAMPLE.TXT`

# Changing Directories

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- The CD command is used to change directories.
- There are 2 special directories
  - `.` Represents the current directory
  - `..` Represents the parent of the current directory
- CD `C:\WINDOWS` change to this directory from the root. This is called an **absolute path**.
- An **absolute path** spells out the full path and always include the `\`
- If the current directory is `C:\Windows` and we say
  - `CD System32`
  - we are changing to the `System32` directory of the current directory. `System32` is called a **relative path** because it does not start with `\`.
- See page 133, figure 4-2

## Wild Cards

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- If you want to specify a group of files in one command you can use wildcards in the file name.
- The 2 wildcard characters are \* and ?.
- \* matches any group of characters
- ? Matches any single character.

## Wildcard cont'd

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- If we have a directory containing the files:  
A.txt, B.txt, C.txt, A1.c, B1.c, C1.c
- `Dir A*.*` gives a listing of all files beginning with A because `*.*` matches any following characters and any extension.
- `DIR ?1.c` gives a listing of all files that have 1 character before the ending `1.c` because `?` Matches a single character.