

WinCLI Help Index

The Index contains a list of all Help topics available for WinCLI. For information on how to use the Help system, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu.

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Help system

The help system is a program that is part of Windows. It is designed to provide the user with information on the program they are using. To learn how to use the Help system, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu.

WIN.INI

The WIN.INI file contains setup and configuration information for WinCLI and for Windows. For more information on WIN.INI and how to modify and add sections, please refer to the manual included with Windows and WININI.TXT.

PATH (Environment variable)

PATH is an environment variable that tells MS-DOS which user specified directories to search through if a program or batch file is not found on the current directory.

Wildcards

A wildcard is either ? or *. ? matches any one character in the file name. * matches any number of characters in a file name. Check your MS-DOS manual for more information on how to use wildcards.

Command.com

Command.com is the program that acts as the primary DOS shell. You use Command.com everytime you start a program, ask for a directory, or copy a file. Check your MS-DOS manual for more information.

Hidden files

A hidden file is normally invisible to commands such as DIR. However, with WinCLI you can use the ATTRIB command to view hidden files. Check your MS-DOS manual for more information on finding and removing hidden files.

Associations

Windows lets you associate a document with an application. When you select the document, the associated application is run and the document loaded. Check your Windows manual for more information on [associating documents with applications](#).

SUBSTitute drives

The DOS command SUBST let's you associate a path with a drive letter. The drive letter assigned represents a virtual drive because it doesn't really exist. For more information on SUBSTitute drives check the SUBST command in your DOS manual.

Control Panel

The Control Panel is a program that allows you to modify and configure Windows' default settings. Check your Windows manual for more information on where to find, and how to use, the Control Panel.

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Introduction

What is WinCLI and why should I use it?

WinCLI is a command line interpreter for Windows 3. It performs most of the functions that the standard DOS prompt, Command.com, does. Then why do you need WinCLI? Many reasons...

- 1) With WinCLI you are able to run Windows programs by typing their name instead of looking for an icon. So if you like the functionality of the DOS prompt to start programs, you can now use WinCLI to start Windows applications.
- 2) A DOS prompt in enhanced mode wastes over 640 Kb all the time. Even when if you are not running a program. That means that you are wasting precious memory that Windows could otherwise use. Even if you create a special PIF that uses only enough memory to allow simple file operations (you will not be able to run programs because it does not have enough memory), you are still wasting over 256 Kb. WinCLI requires less than 50 KBytes when fully loaded.
- 3) WinCLI works equally well on all Windows modes. You do not need a 386 to take advantage of WinCLI. You can now have a complete command line, in a window, even in standard or real mode.
- 4) WinCLI is a Windows application so it does not have to be manually closed when you quit your Windows session. You do not even have to type exit (although you can), the close menu works just fine!
- 5) WinCLI is very configurable. It supports a scrollable window with an adjustable height and width. You can place as many lines as you need to see. For example if you want to show a directory listing and then do a group of individual deletes, you just scroll up with the cursor keys to see the listing, even if it is off the visible portion of the screen! The prompt, font, and colors are also adjustable.
- 6) WinCLI comes with command line history, cursor key line editing and aliases built-in. No need to use memory wasting TSRs.
- 7) WinCLI is easy to use and includes a complete online Help system. In order to obtain help on a WinCLI command just type Help [Command] (where [Command] is the WinCLI command you want help on. Ex: Help Dir) at the WinCLI command line or select one of the menus.
- 8) Of course you also have all the normal features of a standard DOS shell. You can show directories, create subdirectories, rename files, delete files, and much, much more!

Quick tips

Although WinCLI works a lot like the standard DOS prompt, it is not an exact replacement. We strongly recommend that you be familiar with the operation of the DOS prompt before you attempt to use WinCLI.

You can run Windows or DOS programs from WinCLI just like you would at the standard DOS prompt. If you do not specify a complete path, the current directory is searched first, then the standard path. WinCLI provides a method to request that a program be run in normal, maximized, or minimized mode.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| D:> Label | Runs the built-in label command. |
| D:> @Label | Runs the REAL Label command in normal mode. This is useful if you want to run a command that has the same name as an internal command. Think of it as an override. |
| D:> Notepad | Runs Notepad in normal mode. |
| D:> +Notepad | Runs Notepad in maximized mode. |
| D:> =Notepad | Runs Notepad in minimized and active mode. |
| D:> -Notepad | Runs Notepad in minimized and inactive mode. |

WinCLI also allows you to run programs through their associated files. For example, using the default Windows settings in the WIN.INI, typing...

```
C:\WINDOWS> Winini.txt
```

...would cause Notepad to be run and the file Winini.txt loaded. This is a very convenient way of starting programs when you know what file you want to load. For more information on associations and file extensions look in your Windows manual and in the WinIni.txt file.

You can interrupt an internal command by pressing the ESC, CTRL-C, or CTRL-Break keys. You can also pause a program's display by pressing PAUSE. Any other key will restart the display.

WinCLI let's you change the directories quickly by typing their name in without needing the ChDir or CD command. For example these two commands have the same effect:

```
D:> CD C:\Windows  
D:> C:\Windows
```

This is usually referred to as an *implicit directory change*.

Configuring WinCLI

WinCLI allows you to configure certain settings by adding a special section in the Windows WIN.INI file. Using NotePad or SysEdit, add an entry for WinCLI at the end of the WIN.INI file. The entry heading must be called [WINCLI].

WinCLI recognizes the following subsections:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Prompt | Check Prompt for more information on the settings. |
| Font | System, Courier or OEM. Use System on MONO, CGA, EGA, and VGA systems. Use Courier on 8514/A or SVGA systems. You only need to use OEM if you use characters above 127 ASCII in your filenames. |
| Colors | Normal, Inverse or DOS. WinCLI uses the system colors for the text and the background of the shell. If you use Inverse WinCLI will inverse the system values you have selected. You can modify the system colors with the Windows Control Panel. The DOS setting emulates the grey on black of the standard DOS prompt. |
| Virtual Height | Any value greater than 24. This is the size of the scrollable field. |
| Virtual Width | Any value greater than 79. This is the size of the scrollable field. |
| Window Height | Any value greater than 0. This is the size (in pixels) of the Window. A value of 0 will will make the window open with a default size. |
| Window Width | Any value greater than 0. This is the size (in pixels) of the Window. A value of 0 will will make the window open with a default size. |

For example, these are the default settings:

```
[WINCLI]
Prompt=$n$g
Font=System
Colors=Normal
Virtual Height=25
Virtual Width=80
Window Height=0
Window Width=0
```

Keyboard

To get help for a subject, click the appropriate word.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Window</u> | Scrolling the virtual buffer. |
| <u>Line editing</u> | Editing the command line. |
| <u>History</u> | Recalling previous entries. |

Window Keyboard Controls

| Key(s) | Function |
|-----------------|---|
| Shift+Left | Scrolls the window left one character. |
| Shift+Right | Scrolls the window right one character. |
| Shift+Up | Scrolls the window up one line. |
| Shift+Down | Scrolls the window down one line. |
| Page Up | Scrolls the window up one notch. |
| Page Down | Scrolls the window down one notch. |
| Shift+Page Up | Scrolls the window left one notch. |
| Shift+Page Down | Scrolls the window right one notch. |
| Shift+Top | Scrolls the window to the top. |
| Shift+Bottom | Scrolls the window to the bottom. |

Editing Keyboard Controls

| Key(s) | Function |
|---------------|---|
| Left | Moves the cursor back one character. |
| Right | Moves the cursor forward one character. |
| Home | Moves the cursor to the start of the line. |
| End | Moves the cursor to the end of the line. |
| Delete | Deletes the character to the right of the cursor. |
| Backspace | Deletes the character under the cursor. |

History Keyboard Controls

| Key(s) | Function |
|---------------|---|
| Up | Recalls the command in the history list before the one displayed. |
| Down | Recalls the command in the history list after the one displayed. |

Menus

To get help for a subject, click the appropriate word.

System Various system functions.

System Menu

Arrange Icons

Arranges all icons on the desktop in rows.

Cascade Windows

Arranges windows in an overlapping pattern so that the title bar of each window remains visible.

Tile Windows

Arranges windows side by side so that all windows are visible.

Exit Windows

Terminates your Windows session.

Attrib

Internal

Attrib [D:\Directory\File] [+R|-R, +A|-A, +H|-H, +S|-S] [/P, /S]

Displays, sets or removes a file's (or group of files') attributes. Wildcards are permitted. If no directory is specified then the current directory is used.

A \pm and a letter (R, A, H, or S) sets that attribute. A $_$ and a letter clears that attribute. If you do not include a switch (+ or -) the attributes of the file(s) are displayed similar to a directory listings.

The /S switch allows you to perform the operation on all subdirectories in the specified directory.

The /P switch will have WinCLImpt you to continue when a listing fills the screen. If you press N the listing will stop, anything else will let it continue.

Examples:

```
Attrib *.Doc +R -A
```

or

```
Attrib *.Txt
```

or

```
Attrib *.* -A /S
```

ChDir or CD

Internal

ChDir [*D:\Directory*]

Changes the current directory. You may optionally include the drive and directory you want to switch to. If no parameters are specified the current directory is displayed.

NOTE: You may also change directories by just typing the name of the drive and directory you want to go to without typing the ChDir command.

Examples:

```
ChDir C:\Windows\WinWord
```

or

```
C:\Windows\WinWord
```

Cls

Internal

Cls

Clears the display and the buffer, then it resets the prompt to the top.

Examples:

```
Cls
```


Copy

Internal

Copy D:\FromDirectory[File] [D:\ToDirectory[File]]

Copies files from one directory to another. Wildcards are permitted.

If you use wildcards as the destination, the characters represented by the wildcards will be identical to the corresponding characters in the source.

For example:

```
Copy *.TXT *.DOC
```

will copy all files ending with .TXT to the same names but ending with .DOC.

If a directory is specified as the source, all the files in that directory (but not the subdirectories) are copied to the destination.

If no directory is specified as the destination then the current directory is used.

Examples:

```
Copy C:\Windows\Temp D:\Temp
```

or

```
Copy C:\Windows\Temp\*.bak D:\Temp
```

Date

Internal

Date

Displays the current system date.

Examples:

```
Date
```

Del or Erase

Internal

Del D:\Directory\File... [/P]

Deletes a file or group of files. Wildcards are permitted. If both the filename and the extension contain * as the wildcard, Delete will ask you if you are sure you want to continue.

You may enter more than one file specification on the command line.

The /P switch prompts you for confirmation before deleting each of the specified files.

Examples:

```
Del C:\Windows\Temp\*.bak
```

or

```
Del Win.syd Win.bak *.tmp
```

Dir

Internal

Dir [D:\Directory[File]] [/W, /P]

Displays a directory listing of all the files and directories matching the wildcard specification. If no parameters are entered *.* is used.

You can use the /P switch to have WinCLImpt you to continue when a directory listing fills the screen. If you press N the listing will stop, anything else will let it continue.

You can use the /W switch or the Dirw command to display a *wide* listing that only includes the file and directory names, not the size, date, and attributes.

Examples:

```
Dir C:\Windows\*.EXE
```

or

```
Dir C:\Windows\*.* /P
```

Exit

Internal

Exit

Terminates the current WinCLI shell.

Examples:

```
Exit
```

Help

Internal

Help [*Keywords*]

Brings up the WinCLI help system using the specified keywords. The keywords can be any of the keywords (or phrases) that appear in the help system.

Examples:

```
Help
```

or

```
Help Attrib
```

or

```
Help Internal Commands
```

Label

External

Label D:[Disk label]

Creates, changes or deletes a volume label for a disk. You must specify the drive you want to change. The disk's old label will be replaced by a new label. If you do not include a new label, the old label is erased.

Examples:

```
Label C:MainDisk
```

or

```
Label C:
```

Mem

Internal

Mem

Displays available system memory.

Examples:

Mem

MkDir or Md

Internal

Mkdir D:\Directory

Creates a new subdirectory. The name of the directory you want to create must be unique, there must not be another file or subdirectory with the same name.

Examples:

```
Mkdir C:\Windows\Temp
```

More or Type

External

More D:\Directory\File [/P, /T:??]

Displays a file, preferably a text (ASCII) file.

You can use the /P switch to have WinCLImpt you to continue when the screen gets full. If you press N the listing will stop, anything else will let it continue.

The /T switch allows you to specify the amount of spaces to replace a TAB with. This can be anywhere from 1 to 16.

Examples:

```
More C:\Windows\Winini.txt
```

or

```
More C:\Windows\Winini.txt /P /T:4
```

Move

Internal

Move *D:\FromDirectory[\File] [D:\ToDirectory[\File]]*

Moves files from one directory to another. Wildcards are permitted.

If you use wildcards as the destination, the characters represented by the wildcards will be identical to the corresponding characters in the source.

For example:

```
Move *.TXT *.DOC
```

will move all files ending with .TXT to the same names but ending with .DOC.

If a directory is specified as the source, all the files in that directory (but not the subdirectories) are copied to the destination.

If no directory is specified as the destination then the current directory is used.

Move renames the files if the source and destination drive are the same. If they are not the same it copies the files and then deletes the originals.

Examples:

```
Move C:\Windows\Temp C:\Trash
```

or

```
Move C:\Windows\Temp\*.bak D:\Temp
```

or

```
Move C:\Autoexec.bat
```

Path

Internal

Path

Displays the system PATH environment variable.

Examples:

```
Path
```

Prompt

Internal

Prompt[[\$] Text]

Change the prompt string using text or optional meta-string values. If no parameters are specified, the current prompt is displayed.

A meta-string is composed of the dollar sign, \$, and one of the following characters.

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>_</u> | Start a new line. |
| b | , Vertical bar |
| d | Current system date. |
| g | >, Greater than sign. |
| i | WinCLI instance number. |
| l | <, Less than sign. |
| m | <u>Available memory.</u> |
| n | Current drive. |
| p | <u>Current drive and path.</u> |
| r | Free system resources. |
| t | Current system time. |
| z | Sound a bell. |
| \$ | Dollar sign. (\$\$ = 1 dollar sign) |

If you use the \$p meta-string in a prompt, WinCLI reads your disk after each command you enter to determine the current drive and path. This can take extra time, especially on floppy disk drives.

Examples:

Prompt

or

Prompt Hello master!\$_\$p\$g

Rename or Ren

Internal

Rename *D:\Directory\Old D:\Directory\New*

Renames a file from old to new. Old is the original name and new is the new name you want to give to the file. Wildcards are permitted.

If you use wildcards as the destination, the characters represented by the wildcards will be identical to the corresponding characters in the source.

For example:

```
Rename *.TXT *.DOC
```

will rename all files ending with .TXT to the same names but ending with .DOC.

Examples:

```
Rename TestFile.1st TestFile.2nd
```

Rmdir or Rd

Internal

Rmdir D:\Directory

Removes an empty subdirectory. It must contain no files or subdirectories. If you get an error removing an empty subdirectory make sure there are no hidden files.

Examples:

```
Rmdir C:\Windows\Temp
```

or

```
Rmdir C:\Windows /S
```

SysInfo

External

SysInfo

Displays various information on PC, DOS and Windows.

Examples:

SysInfo

Time

Internal

Time

Displays the current system time.

Examples:

```
Time
```

Ver

Internal

Ver

Displays WinCLI version information.

Examples:

```
Ver
```

Verify

Internal

Verify On|Off

Turns the DOS verify flag on or off. Check your DOS (under verify) manual for more information.

Examples:

Vol ON

or

Vol OFF

Vol

External

Vol [D:]

Displays the volume label of the disk in the specified drive. If no parameter is specified then the current drive is used.

Examples:

Vol A

or

Vol

WinCLI Commands

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>Attrib</u> | Displays, sets or removes files' attributes. |
| <u>ChDir or CD</u> | Displays or changes the current directory. |
| <u>Cls</u> | Clears the display. |
| <u>Copy</u> | Copies files. <u>Wildcards</u> are permitted. |
| <u>Date</u> | Displays current system date. |
| <u>Del or Erase</u> | Deletes files. Wildcards are permitted. |
| <u>Dir</u> | Displays files and subdirectories. Wildcards are permitted. |
| <u>Exit</u> | Terminates current WinCLI window. |
| <u>Help</u> | Invokes command specific help. |
| <u>Label</u> | Sets or clears volume labels. |
| <u>Mem</u> | Displays available system memory. |
| <u>MkDir or MD</u> | Creates a new subdirectory. |
| <u>More or Type</u> | Displays text files. |
| <u>Move</u> | Moves files. Wildcards are permitted. |
| <u>Path</u> | Displays <u>PATH</u> environment variable. |
| <u>Prompt</u> | Changes the prompt or displays the current value. |
| <u>Rename or Ren</u> | Renames a file. |
| <u>Rmdir or Rd</u> | Removes a subdirectory. |
| <u>SysInfo</u> | Displays system information. |
| <u>Time</u> | Displays current system time. |
| <u>Ver</u> | Displays current WinCLI version information. |
| <u>Verify</u> | Sets or clears the DOS verify flag. |
| <u>Vol</u> | Displays the current volume label. |

