

(SS64)

CMD

Syntax

Search

ECHO

Display messages on screen, turn command-echoing on or off.

Syntax

```
ECHO [ON | OFF]
ECHO [message]
```

Key

```
ON      : Display each line of the batch on screen (default)
OFF     : Only display the command output on screen
message : a string of characters to display
```

Type ECHO without parameters to display the current echo setting (ON or OFF).

In most batch files you will want ECHO OFF, turning it ON can be useful when debugging a problematic batch script.

In a batch file, the @ symbol is the same as ECHO OFF applied to the current line only.

Normally a command is executed and takes effect from the next line onwards, @ is a rare example of a command that takes effect immediately.

Command characters will normally take precedence over the ECHO statement
e.g. The redirection and pipe characters: & < > | ON OFF

To override this behaviour you can [escape](#) each command character with ^ as follows:

```
ECHO Nice ^&Easy
ECHO Salary is ^> Commision
ECHO Name ^| Username ^| Expiry Date
ECHO:Off On Holiday
```

Echo text into a FILE

The general syntax is

```
Echo This is some Text > FileName.txt
```

To avoid extra spaces:

```
Echo Some more text>FileName.txt
```

Echo a Variable

To display a department variable:

```
ECHO %_department%
```

An alternative is to separate with : instead of a space, this has some [performance benefits](#).

```
ECHO:%_department%
```

If the variable does not exist - ECHO will simply return the text "%_department%"

This can be extended to search and [replace](#) parts of a variable or display [substrings](#) of a variable.

Echo a file

Use the [TYPE](#) command.

Echo a sound

The following command in a batch file will trigger the default beep on most PC's

```
ECHO ^G
```

To type the [BELL](#) character use Ctrl-G or 'Alt' key, and 7 on the numeric keypad. ([ascii 7](#))

Alternatively using Windows Media Player:

```
START/min "C:\Program Files\Windows Media Player\wmplayer.exe"
%windir%\media\chimes.wav
```

Echo a blank line

The following in a batch file will produce an empty line:

```
Echo.
```

or

```
Echo:
```

The second option is better, because `Echo.` will search for a file named "echo" if the file is found that raises an error.

If the 'echo' file does not exist then the command does work, but this still makes `Echo.` slightly slower than `echo:`

To ECHO text *without* including a CR/LF ([source](#))

```
<nul (set/p _any_variable=string to emit)
```

Echo text into a stream

Streams allow one file to contain several separate forks of information (like the macintosh resource fork)

The general syntax is

```
Echo Text_String > FileName:StreamName
```

Only the following commands support the File:Stream syntax - ECHO, MORE, FOR

Creating streams:

```
Echo This is stream1 > myfile.dat:stream1
```

```
Echo This is stream2 > myfile.dat:stream2
```

Displaying streams:

```
More < myfile.dat:stream1
```

```
More < myfile.dat:stream2
```

```
FOR /f "delims=" %%G in (myfile.dat:stream1) DO echo %%G
```

```
FOR /f "delims=" %%G in (myfile.dat:stream2) DO echo %%G
```

A data stream file can be successfully copied and renamed despite the fact that most applications and commands will report a zero length file. The file size can be calculated from remaining free space. The file must always reside on an NTFS volume.

ECHO is an [internal](#) command.

"The only thing that helps me pass the time away; is knowing I'll be back at Echo Beach some day" ~ Martha and the Muffins

Related:

[SET](#) - Create and display environment variables

[TYPE](#) - Display the contents of a text file.

[Banner.cmd](#) - Batch file to display a string of text in extra large letters.

[NET SEND %COMPUTERNAME%](#)

[SoundRecorder.exe](#) - Record

[Q177795](#) - Large vs Small fonts

[Q901115](#) - Terminal Services/Citrix client makes beep sounds

Equivalent PowerShell cmdlet: [Write-Host](#)

Equivalent bash command: [echo](#) - Display message on screen



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