

The CMD Command-Line Environment in Windows XP

Entering: From Start, choose Run and in dialog box type
cmd

Exiting: At prompt, type
exit

Handy keys:

Stopping runaway programs: Normally CTRL/C (depressed at same time) will work. If it doesn't, try CTRL/ESC. As a last resort, close the Command Prompt window. CTRL/S acts as a toggle switch to stop output and restart it.

ALT/ENTER acts as a toggle switch to go to full-screen and return to a smaller window.

Standard input/output, standard error, and redirection:

Normally input is from the keyboard, but a file can be used for input by redirection. Similarly, output is normally to the screen, but a file can receive output by redirection. Moreover, error messages normally go to the screen, but can be redirected to a file.

<u>Redirection Option</u>	<u>Action</u>
<file	Reads standard input from <i>file</i>
>file	Writes standard output to <i>file</i>
>>file	Appends standard output to <i>file</i>
2>file	Write standard error to <i>file</i>
2>>file	Append standard error to <i>file</i>

Examples:

```
prompt> asc1 -e myprog.asc 2>myprog.err  
prompt> asc2 -e myprog.iob <myprog.in >myprog.out 2>myprogrun1.err
```

Issuing commands:

You can edit a command line before pushing Enter by
Left and right arrow keys - forward and backward in line.
CTRL + arrow moves over words
Home and End move to beginning and end

Lines wrap automatically

Up and down arrows allow you to scroll through commands and reuse old commands by pressing Enter.

Tab acts as a name completion command and the command interpreter will try to complete the words so you can avoid typing. Repeatedly hitting <tab> will cycle through possible choices. But, if nothing matches, there is just no completion. (Remember, this is MS so although something like a bell should ring, it doesn't!)

Example: You are at C:\Documents and Settings\Yourname and you want to change to My Documents. Then

```
C:\Documents and Settings\Yourname> cd m<tab>
```

followed by repeated <tab>s will cycle through all subdirectories that begin with an m or M. When My Documents appears, hit Enter for the command to be executed.

Example: You are at C:\Documents and Settings\Yourname and you want to see what is in a directory that starts with a Z. Then

C:\Documents and Settings\Yourname> dir z<tab>
followed by repeated <tab>s will cycle through all subdirectories that begin with a z or Z. When the desired directory appears, hit Enter for the command to be executed.

Handy commands: For <directory path> you should use either name completion or type directory names with blanks in the names by enclosing them in quotes (").

Command

cd <directory path>

cd ..

dir

dir <directory path>

del <file>

exit

md <directory name>

move <filename> <destination>

rename <oldfile> <newfile>

Action

change directory

go up one directory

list directory contents (of current directory)

list directory contents

delete file

close command window

makes a new subdirectory

move file from one directory to another

rename a file

Environment Variables and Setting the Search Path

Path (not case sensitive) is a system variable which shows all the directories to be searched to find the executable code for a command when you type a command such as
prompt> ascl -e myprog.asc

To see your current search path:

echo %path%

To set a new directory in the search path temporarily:

set path=c:\<fullpathname>;%path%

This sets the new directory at the front of the path. Reverse these to set it at the end. (If you mess things up and CMD stops working, just close the window and all will disappear.)

To set a directory search path permanently:

Click Start; Right click My Computer; select Properties. Choose Advanced Tab and click Environmental Variables. Edit or Delete allows you to modify an existing entry. You need administrator privilege to do this.