

Batch Language Scripting

Duration: Consolidated into 8 hours

This course is intended for support personnel and information technology professionals who will be called upon to use batch files for task automation and programmatic system administration. There is an examination of the DOS batch language syntax, commands, and its utilization in the MS Windows operating system family and internetworking environments. Integrated exercises provide a framework for acquiring proficiency in coding DOS batch files and techniques for task automation. A variety of sample programs are utilized to provide guidance in updating existing batch files and the expanded capabilities of the DOS language.

Participants will learn to:

- create, run and debug a batch script.
- retrieve data into the script from user input.
- perform conditional processing.
- code DOS commands and script statements.
- process files and control programs.
- code scripts in the DOS / Windows environment.

CREATING A BATCH FILE

- Batch Suffix / Running Different Programs
- Starting Windows Files and Programs
- Creating a Batch File Delay
- Making a Time Log in a Batch File
- Environment Variables

BATCH COMMANDS

- Variable / Label / CALL / CHOICE
- CLS / ECHO / EXIT /GOTO
- IF / PAUSE / SHIFT / START

PROCESSING

- Getting User Input
- Creating Secondary Batch Files / Child Shells
- Processing a Line of Data / Characters in a Word
- Processing Lists / Lists of File Names

DOS SCRIPTING TECHNIQUES

- Choice and ERRORLEVELs
- Comments for Explain Lines of Batch Code
- Design a Setup Batch File
- Build and Test the Main Script Project
- Redirection and File Management
- Managing Workfiles and Debugging Batch Scripts
- Nesting BAT Files

TESTING FOR EXISTENCE OF FILES OR FOLDERS

- IF EXIST for Determining Whether Files Exist
- Use of IF EXIST FolderName \ NUL for Testing Existence of a Folder
- Inserting Breakpoints with ECHO and PAUSE for Debugging Script Errors

COMMAND-LINE PARAMETERS AND STRING COMPARISON

- Command-line Parameter Symbols %0 - %9 within a Batch File
- Use IF Text==Text and IF NOT Text==Text Comparison Test
- Handle IF Comparison for Strings that May be Empty
- ECHO Command for Parsing a Complex Line of Batch Code

FILE BACKUP METHODS

- Designing Backup Strategies
- Date Stamp Backup: xcopy and the /d Switch
- Sample Files in Immediate Mode
- Disk File Created with Redirection

PIPE OPERATOR

- Pipe Operator for Connecting STDOUT to STDIN
- Pipe Operator in a DVM and in Notepad
- Testing for Correct Pipe Operator
- Examine ERRORLEVELs Returned from a Find using Return-code Shell

FOR COMMAND - ADVANCED USES

- Use of "Quotes" for Grouping Text and Spaces Together in FOR Statements
- Remove "quotes" around Text in Variables with FOR
- Wildcards in FOR Statements for Scanning through Matching Filenames
- Hide Files from a FOR Wildcard Scan with Attrib +h
- FOR Statement for Replacing Multiple Instances of Similar Commands
- 64 Token Limit in Command Lines

DOS COMMANDS AND TECHNIQUES

- COPY, MOVE, XCOPY, APPEND, RENAME, ERASE, DELTREE, COMP, EXIT, FIND, SORT, DATE/TIME
- File Structure and Architecture
- Multiple Commands on a Line with & and |
- Directory Commands
- Hex and Octal Values
- Filenames and Wildcards
- Accessing System Help Facilities

ENVIRONMENT HANDLING

- Setting and Using Environmental Variables
- Checking for Empty Values
- SETLOCAL, ENDLOCAL
- Shifting Variables
- Setting the PATH
- System Environmental Variables
- Execute Nested Batch Files
- Passing Data

DEBUGGING TECHNIQUES

- Redirecting All Output to a Log File
- REM out the @ECHO OFF Line
- Temporally Display and Pay Special Attention to the Values of any Environment Variables
- Insert Command Check Lines
- Display a Message at Entry and Exit of Subroutines
- Code and Use Debug Utility Scripts

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