

CSNB224

Tutorial 4

Objective:

Writing a simple batch program

What is a batch program?

1. A batch program file contains list of command prompt instructions that you have learnt in lab 3.
2. A successful batch file will execute automatically all the instruction inside the batch files when you double click on it or execute it.
3. Aside from automating jobs, most simple virus or malware can also be distribute by and executed by batch files.

Now on to our example exercise

1. Open up the **command prompt** and make a directory/folder named **Lab4**. (hint: use **mkdir**)
2. Use text editor (hint: use **edit**) and write one text file, fill it with anything you want and **SAVE IT** as **Sample.txt** inside the Lab4 folder you have made earlier.

3. After that, use the text editor again, write the following :

Note: IMPORTANT! for the text in red below

C:\LAB4 replace the red text with your own folder address

(Example **C:\USERS\STUDENTID\LAB4** or **C:\USERS\TEMP\LAB4** whichever is your current folder)

```
ECHO OFF
CLS
ECHO THIS IS MY FIRST BATCH PROGRAM. ENTER ANY KEY TO START IT
PAUSE
CLS
ECHO MAKE A MYTEXT FOLDER INSIDE LAB 4 FOLDER
PAUSE
MKDIR C:\LAB4\MYTEXT
ECHO IF ANY .TXT FILE EXIST IN LAB4 FOLDER, COPY IT TO MYTEXT FOLDER
PAUSE
IF EXIST C:\LAB4\*.TXT COPY C:\LAB4\*.TXT C:\LAB4\MYTEXT
ECHO NOW SEE IF THERE WAS ANY *.TXT COPIED ONTO MYTEXT FOLDER?
PAUSE
CLS
DIR C:\LAB4\MYTEXT\
ECHO NOW I WILL DELETE ALL FILES IN MYTEXT FOLDER
PAUSE
IF EXIST C:\LAB4\MYTEXT\*.TXT DEL C:\LAB4\MYTEXT\*.TXT
ECHO AND NOW I REMOVE THE MYTEXT FOLDER
PAUSE
IF EXIST C:\LAB4\MYTEXT RD C:\LAB4\MYTEXT
ECHO NOW I EXIT...
PAUSE
```

4. Save the file as **mybatch1.bat** inside the **Lab4 folder**
5. Run the batch file by writing the following command inside the Lab4 folder: **mybatch1.bat**

6. This will start the execution of your first batch script. Observe how it works as each command line in the script executes. ([How to observe:](#) Open windows explorer, and look at lab 4 folder side by side with the command prompt window). Understand what happens each time a job is done.

Notes:

Each command of Command Line Interpreter is a JOB/INSTRUCTION. Thus a Batch File is actually consists of Command Lines of INSTRUCTION that we instruct it to do.

Now here is your exercise for this session (you need to pass this up).

7. Write a **NEW batch file** (using the same method above) which will do the following task, for each of the task, use the ECHO command to comment on the task that the batch file will do:
 - a. The batch file will make a directory named **ASSGLab4** inside **Lab4**
 - b. The batch file will **Echo <Your Name> and <StudentID>**
 - c. The batch file will **Copy** the previous text file you made into the **ASSGLab4** folder.
 - d. The batch file will **rename** the file that you have copied inside the **ASSGLab4** folder to a new name which is **Copytext.txt**
 - e. The batch file will **change directory** and go into **ASSGLab4** directory. (hint: **use cd command**)
 - f. The batch file will display the **dir** structure for **ASSGLab4**
 - g. The batch file will **Hide** the **Copytext.txt** file inside the ASSGLab4 directory
 - h. The batch file will move up one level into Lab4 again. (hint: find the command in Lab 3 companion document)
 - i. The batch file will display the **tree** structure for **C:\LAB4**
8. Save the batch file as **mybatch2.bat** and try executing the batch file by writing this inside the Lab4 directory: **mybatch2.bat**
9. After making sure that your batch file executes correctly, save it **as a txt file** and submit it to my gmail account (muhd.nabil@gmail.com) with the subject **OSLab4_SectionNo_studentID**

Check out some commands that may help you in this task:

Renaming file: **rename originalName newName**

Changing a file attribute to be hidden : **attrib +h filename**

Changing a file attribute to be unhidden: **atrib -h filename**

For other commands needed, see the previous lab (**Lab 3**) companion document.