

Free Up Hundreds Of Megs Of Disk Space!

Here's an example of a very simple annotated batch file: This particular file can free up literally *hundreds of megabytes* of extra space on your hard drive by scrubbing away junk and unwanted files that Windows leaves behind (even if you use Windows' "Disk Cleanup Wizard"). I run a file like this every night.

There are two ways to get the file on your machine. I'll tell you how you can download it, for free, in a moment, but please read through the following text so you'll be sure you understand what the file does.

Better still, manually copy the file, because then you'll have 100%, total control over everything the file does. It's easy! Here's how:

Copy and paste the following lines into Notepad, and then save the file; name it something like "CLEANUP.BAT." (Make sure you're naming it ".bat" and not ".txt"). It can reside anywhere, and uses only files and commands that are normally part of a standard Windows installation.

```
@rem The first group of lines clears the screen and displays program information
@cls
@echo Fred Langa's Cleanup.Bat, a Win9x hard-disk cleanup tool.
@echo -----
@echo          Copyright (c) 2000 Langa Consulting
@echo          http://www.langa.com
@echo -----
@echo Use Notepad to view file contents before running!
@echo Please also see http://www.langa.com/cleanup_bat.htm
@echo for precaution/usage info and for newer versions.
@echo -----
@rem This file is offered as-is and without warranty of any kind.
@rem This file may be redistributed as long as this header
@rem information is retained in the final file.
@rem
@echo This batch file aggressively cleans up temp files in windows.
@echo Note: all other apps should be closed before running this.
@echo -----
@echo If you haven't followed the instructions above, hit ctrl-c to abort; otherwise
@pause
rem The next line wipes out the entire temp directory(ies), if it(they) exists
deltree /y c:\windows\temp\
deltree /y c:\temp\
deltree /y c:\windows\tmp\
deltree /y c:\tmp\
rem Next set of "del" lines deletes possibly-large "orphan" files that sometimes
rem get placed inappropriately in the "temporary internet files" (TIF) directory.
rem Note: it does NOT clean out files that actually belong in the TIF.
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.zip
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.exe
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.gif
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.jpg
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.mov
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.qt
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.png
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.bmp
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.avi
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del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.mpg
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.mpeg
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.ra
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.ram
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.mp3
del c:\windows\tempor~1\*.asf
rem Next line kills garbage files that Office leaves behind in c:\windows
del c:\windows\ff*.tmp
rem next line erases the icon cache, saving some resources on restart
deltree /y c:\windows\ShellIconCache
cls
exit
rem For best results, reboot after running this file.
```

Of course, you can (and should) edit and modify this batch script to preserve any files you *don't* want it to delete, or to delete other junk files that may accumulate in other places on your system. In any case, read through the script and make sure it's going to do what (and only what) you want before you run it. Because this script operates from DOS, the files it deletes will NOT be placed in the Recycle Bin: They will, in fact, be deleted immediately and may be difficult or impossible to recover. It's up to you to make sure that the batch file works only on files that are safe to delete! (If you're not sure what's safe, see the next item in this newsletter.)

Before you use this file, close all other running apps--- that's important because running apps use the Temp directory (that's what it's there for) and it's not a good idea to delete the Temp area while it's in use. When you close all other apps, the Temp file area should contain only junk that's safe to delete. (You can verify this by using Windows Explorer to view the contents of your Temp directories to ensure that nothing important has been placed there in error.)

When you click on CLEANUP.BAT to run it, it will identify itself, tell you what it's going to do, remind you to close all other apps, and give you a prompt telling you that you can abort the batch operation (by hitting the Ctrl and the letter C key at the same time) or go on (by hitting any other key).

If you abort, the batch file ends without doing anything at all; it makes absolutely no changes to your system. But when you let the batch script run, it will delete many temp files, and chances are good that it will free up *a ton* of space: On one cluttered system here, for example, it freed up over 700 MB! Of course, subsequent runs will delete far fewer files, especially if you run this file regularly.

If you have trouble getting the file to run, and if you copied the lines from the email version of this newsletter, it's possible that some lines got word-wrapped in your email. The web version of this newsletter, at <http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2000/2000-08-17.htm> , has a correctly-formatted version you can copy more reliably.

Or, if the above batch script is OK to run as-is on your system, you can download a copy for free (saving you the hassle of cutting-and-pasting or editing) by clicking here: http://www.langa.com/cleanup_bat.htm

All the above shows both the power of DOS (freeing up potentially hundreds and hundreds of megabytes of junk files that Windows misses) and the hassle of DOS (you operate without Windows' safety nets).

You may decide it's not worth the hassle, but I feel otherwise--- especially when I can run a little file like this and regain 700 MB of space!

Click to email this item to a friend
<http://www.langa.com/sendit2.htm>

