

The echo command in Windows

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For an example of how to use this command, please see the example below.

Syntax echo command

```
echo [ ] echo [on | off]
```

Parameters

ParameterDescription [on | off] Enable or disable the repeat command feature. The repeat command is turned on by default. Specify text displayed on the screen. /? Show help at the command prompt.

Note

1. The *Message echo* is particularly useful when echo is disabled. To display a message that is only a few lines long without displaying any commands, you can include several **echo messages** after the command **echo off** in the batch program.
2. When **echo** is disabled, the command prompt will not appear in the Command Prompt window. To display the command prompt, enter **echo on**.
3. If used in a batch file, **echo on** and **echo off** does not affect the settings at the command prompt.
4. To prevent repeating a specific command in a batch file, insert a (@) sign in front of the command. To prevent repeating all commands in a batch file, include the **echo off** command at the beginning of the file.
5. To display the character (|) or navigation character () when you are using the **echo** command , use a caret (^) immediately before the straightforward character or redirect (eg: ^ | , ^> or ^). To display the caret, enter two consecutive quotes (^ ^).

For example

To display the current echo installation, enter:

```
echo
```

To loop a blank line on the screen, enter:

```
echo.
```

Note:

Do not include spaces before the dot. Otherwise, the dot will be displayed instead of a blank line.

To prevent repeat commands at the command prompt, type:

```
echo off
```

Note :

When the **echo** command is turned off, the command prompt will not appear in the Command Prompt window. To display the command prompt again, type **echo on**.

To prevent all commands in a batch file (including the **echo off** command) displayed on the screen, on the first line of the batch file, enter:

```
@echo off
```

You can use the **echo** command as part of an if statement. For example, to search for the current directory for any file with the **.rpt** file name extension and to repeat the message if you find such a file, enter:

```
if exist *.rpt echo The report has arrived.
```

The following batch file is searched in the current directory where the file has a file name extension of **.txt** and displays a message indicating the search results:

```
@echo off if not exist *.txt ( echo This directory contains no text files. ) else
```

If the **.txt** file cannot be found when the batch file is run, the following message will appear:

```
This directory contains no text files.
```

If the **.txt** file is found when the batch file is run, the following output is displayed (this example, assuming files **File.txt**, **File2.txt** and **File3.txt** exist):

```
This directory contains the following text files: File1.txt File2.txt File3.txt
```

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