

The replace command in Windows

The replace command helps replace files.

The **replace** command helps replace files. If used with the / **a** option, the **replace** command will add new files to a directory instead of replacing existing files. To learn more about how to use this command, see the example section below.

Replace command syntax

```
replace [:] [] [:] [] [/ a] [/ p] [/ r] [/ w]  
replace [:] [] [:] [] [/ p] [/ r] [/ s] [/ w] [/ u]
```

Replace command parameter

Parameters

Describe

[:] []

Specify the location and name of the source file or set of files to replace. **FileName** is a required parameter and can include wildcards (* and?).

[:] []

Specify the location of the destination file. You cannot specify file names for files you want to replace. If you do not specify a drive or path, the **replace** command will use the current drive and directory as the destination file by default.

/ a

Add new files to the target directory instead of replacing existing files. You cannot use this command line option together with the command line option / **s** or / **u** .

/ p

Remind you to confirm before replacing a destination file or adding a source file.

/ r

Replace Read-only files and unprotected. If you try to replace a Read-only file, but you did not specify the / **r** parameter, the returned result will report an error and stop executing the **replace** command.

/w

Wait for you to add a disk before the process of finding source files begins. If you do not specify the /w parameter, the **replace** command will start replacing or adding files immediately after you press ENTER.

/S

Search all subdirectories in the destination directory and replace the appropriate files. You cannot use the /s parameter with the command line option /a. The **replace** command will not search for subdirectories specified in **Path1**.

/u

Replace only the files on the target folder older than those in the source directory. You cannot use the /u parameter with the command line option /a.

/?

Show help at the command prompt.

Note the replace command

When the **replace** command adds or replaces files, the file name will be displayed on the screen. After the **replace** command is executed, a summary line will be displayed in one of the following formats:

```
nnn t?p tin thêm nnn t?p tin không thay th? t?p tin thêm không có t?  
p tin
```

If you are using a floppy disk and you need to convert the disk during the replacement process, you can specify the /w command line option to replace the **replace** command that will be suspended while you convert the disk.

You cannot use the **replace** command to update hidden files or system files.

The following table shows each exit code and a brief description of the meaning of these codes:

Exit code

Describe

0

The **replace** command has successfully replaced or successfully added the files.

first

The **replace** command encountered an incorrect MS-DOS version.

2

The **replace** command cannot find the source files.

3

The **replace** command cannot find the source or destination path.

5

Users do not have access to the files you want to replace.

8

There is not enough system memory to execute the command.

11

The user has used the wrong syntax on the command line.

Note:

You can use the **ERRORLEVEL** parameter on the **if statement** in a batch program to handle exit codes returned by the **replace** command.

For example the replace command

To update all versions of a file named Phones.cli (appearing in multiple folders on drive C), with the latest version of the Phones.cli file from the floppy disk in drive A, enter:

```
replace a: phones.cli c: / s
```

See more:

1. The qprocess command in Windows
2. Qappsrv (query termsrv) command in Windows
3. The quser (query user) command in Windows
4. The pubprn command and the pushprinterconnections command in Windows

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