

zDEL 3.0
for
Microsoft Windows 95
or
Microsoft Windows NT

User's Manual

Copyright © 1997 P & J's Software

Table of Contents

1. THE ASSOCIATION OF SHAREWARE PROFESSIONALS.....	
2. WHAT'S NEW IN ZDEL 3.0.....	
3. TAKING ZDEL FOR A TEST DRIVE.....	
4. FUNCTION OF ZDEL.....	
5. ZDEL LICENSE AGREEMENT.....	
6. ZDEL REGISTRATION.....	
7. ZDEL DISTRIBUTION.....	
8. DISCLAIMER.....	
9. COMMAND LINE SYNTAX.....	
10. THE DRIVE AND PATH PARAMETERS.....	
11. USING A FILESPEC.....	
12. USE OF COMMAND LINE SWITCHES.....	
12.1 -A ATTRIBUTE SWITCH.....	
12.1.1 <i>h The Hidden File Attribute.....</i>	
12.1.2 <i>s The System File Attribute.....</i>	
12.1.3 <i>r The Read Only File Attribute.....</i>	
12.2 -C CONFIRMATION SWITCH.....	
12.2.1 <i>d Confirm Directory Delete.....</i>	
12.2.2 <i>f Confirm File Delete.....</i>	
12.2.3 <i>s Confirm Subdirectories to search.....</i>	
12.3 -D DIRECTORY SPECIFICATION SWITCH.....	
12.4 -DATE DATE RANGE SWITCH.....	
12.5 -F FILESPEC SWITCH.....	
12.6 -K KEEP RELATIVE ROOT DIRECTORY SWITCH.....	
12.7 -NOLOGO SUPPRESS ZDEL BANNER SWITCH.....	
12.8 -O OVERRIDE ZDELCMD SWITCH.....	
12.9 -OLD OLD FILE SEARCH SWITCH.....	
12.10 -Q SUPPRESS DELETE REPORTING SWITCH.....	
12.11 -R RECURSE DIRECTORIES SWITCH.....	
12.11.1 <i>k Keep Directory Tree Structure.....</i>	
12.11.2 <i>p Prune Directory Tree Structure.....</i>	
12.12 -S SEARCH PROCESS SWITCH.....	
12.12.1 <i>a Accumulate Bytes.....</i>	
12.12.2 <i>f Search Fixed disks only.....</i>	
12.12.3 <i>l Search All Logical Drives.....</i>	
12.12.4 <i>p Search the PATH Environment Variable.....</i>	
12.13 -SIZE FILE SIZE SEARCH SWITCH.....	
12.14 -TIME TIME RANGE SWITCH.....	
12.15 -V VERBOSE DISPLAY SWITCH.....	
12.16 -VOL VOLUME LABEL DELETE SWITCH.....	
12.17 -W SUPPRESS WARNING MESSAGES SWITCH.....	
12.18 -WHERE "WHERE IS..." SWITCH.....	
12.19 -WIPE WIPE DATA SWITCH.....	
12.20 -X EXCLUDE FILESPEC SWITCH.....	
13. USING THE ZDELCMD ENVIRONMENT VARIABLE.....	
14. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	
15. HOW TO CONTACT P & J'S SOFTWARE.....	
16. PLANS FOR FUTURE UPDATES.....	
17. REVISION HISTORY.....	

1The Association of Shareware Professionals



ASP Ombudsman Information

Paul McLaughlin of P & J's Software is an approved member of the Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP). ASP wants to make sure that the shareware principle works for you. If you are unable to resolve a shareware-related problem with an ASP member by contacting the member directly, ASP may be able to help. The ASP Ombudsman can help you resolve a dispute or problem with an ASP member, but does not provide technical support for members' products. Please write to the ASP Ombudsman at 545 Grover Road, Muskegon, MI USA 49442-9427, FAX 616-788-2765, or send a CompuServe message via CompuServe Mail to ASP Ombudsman 70007,3536

2What's New in zDEL 3.0

zDEL 3.0 adds several new features which truly make zDEL second to none in its category of utilities. New features added are based on the feedback of previous zDEL users. We hope you will find the new features just as exciting as we do:

- "Files older than" day, month, or year amounts can be specified.
- A date range can be specified for files.
- A time range can be specified for files.
- Files with file sizes within a range can be specified.
- Volume labels from searched logical drives can be removed.
- You can restrict your search to all logical drives on your computer (avoids network scanning).
- New registration options.
- ASP compliance.

zDEL 3.0 is Shareware. Thank you for your support in advance by registering zDEL.

3Taking zDEL for a Test Drive

zDEL deletes files and subdirectories. That's its purpose. Deleting information has the potential to be very dangerous if misused. To test zDEL, TEST IT ON A FLOPPY which has experimental data on it. Use a floppy disk that has no valuable information on it, or copy another disk and use it as a testing diskette. Then type a: (or b:, or whatever your floppy drive designation is). Once changed over to the floppy drive, no data on any other disk can be deleted as long as you don't specify otherwise (i.e.- zdel c:).

Alternatively, you may turn on "WHERE IS MODE" (i.e.- zdel *.* -whereis).

Please read the rest of this file, because it contains information on how to use and register zDEL. You can type "zDEL /?" to request zDEL's full help.

4Function of zDEL

The purpose of zDEL for NT is to provide Windows 95 or NT users with a more powerful and efficient tool for deleting files and subdirectories.

zDEL does everything the Windows 95/NT commands DEL and RD /s do and more. zDEL offers the ability to search for hidden, system, and read only files. The ability to search through directories is possible with zDEL. You can search directories with a specific filespec too. You can even pick which subdirectories you want to search into.

Network administrators will specially like the ability to search for file dates, times, and sizes. Specify a range using two data points, or use one data point with the less than, greater than, or equality operators.

And just for added safety, zDEL has the ability to prompt you for permission to delete a file and/or subdirectory. This gives you the power to choose which files you want to delete and skip over the ones you want to keep. And for all of you nervous people out there, zDEL will always let you know what it is going to do BEFORE it does anything (unless you override it with a switch).

5zDEL License Agreement

zDEL is Shareware and is supported by you. As a Shareware program, you may review zDEL for a period of 30 days. If during that time you decide zDEL 3.0 is a program you would like to use, please follow the registration instructions outlined in section 6.

If you register and later decide you do not need zDEL, for any reason within 10 days after you receive my registration letter (via e-mail or hard copy), simply delete all zDEL files and any archive file you may have received zDEL in (i.e.- ZDEL.ZIP) and P & J's Software will gladly refund 100% OF ALL REGISTRATION MONEY (sorry, no postal refunds). We would appreciate feedback when doing so, although not required.

6zDEL Registration

zDEL 3.0 is Shareware and is not free. However, the fee is nominal and there are various types of registration:

1. \$1 - Minimum registration fee.
2. \$6 - Register zDEL 3.0 and laser-quality printed documentation.
3. Network - Fee from option 1 or 2 plus 25 cents per **extra** machine that zDEL will be used on (i.e.- \$1.50 for a 3 machine network with option 1 or \$6.50 with option 2).

To register zDEL, please fill out the form REGISTER.TXT that is supplied with zDEL. It contains a straightforward method to calculate your payment.

7zDEL Distribution

zDEL may be freely distributed provided the following rules are adhered to:

- The program ZDEL.EXE and its components MANUAL.DOC, README.TXT and REGISTER.TXT are not modified in any way whatsoever.
- The files MANUAL.DOC, README.TXT and REGISTER.TXT are provided with each copy of the program ZDEL.EXE.

If you send the completed REGISTER.TXT form, I will mail you a letter stating your registration status.

REGARDLESS of which option you choose, THANK YOU for your support of zDEL and the Shareware industry.

8Disclaimer

P & J's Software, disclaim all warranties as to this software, whether expressed or implied, including without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, functionality or data integrity or protection.

Furthermore, accuracy of the information within this document and fitness of the zDEL program for any purpose may change without notice, and should not be considered as a commitment of any kind.

To test zDEL, read section 3. Whew! <g>

9Command Line Syntax

The command line syntax appears when you type "zDEL -?" or "zDEL" at the command prompt. zDEL's syntax is shown below:

```
zDEL [drive:][path]filespec [-A{[+,-]<a|h|r|s>}] [-C<d|f|s>]
[-Ddirectory] [-DATE[2]:<l,g,e>mm-dd-yyyy] [-Ffilespec] [-K]
[-NOLOGO] [-O] [-OLDnnnn[<d,m,y>]] [-Q] [-R[<k,p>]] [-S<a|<f,l,p>>]
[-SIZE[2]:<l,g,e>nnnn] [-TIME[2]:<l,g,e>hh:mm[:ss][p]]
[-V] [-VOL] [-W] [-WHERE] [-WIPE[:nnn]] [-Xfilespec]
```

Reading the syntax requires that you know what the symbols mean. The symbols used in the command line syntax and their meanings are listed below:

{ }	The parameter(s) between can be repeated in the given sequence.
[]	The parameter(s) between square brackets are optional.
< >	The parameter(s) between the LT and GT symbols are members of a list.
space	A space is required as a delimiter.
,	A comma means pick ONE in the list.
	A pipe symbol means pick AT LEAST one. You may select others.

The command line is not case sensitive. It is illustrated as such for documentation purposes only.

10The Drive and Path Parameters

The [drive:] parameter is optional. You would use this parameter if you wanted to delete files from a logical drive that was different from your current working logical drive. You must use the drive letter and the ':' for this parameter.

The [path] parameter is optional. This represents the pathname of where to start looking for the file(s) you specified in the filespec parameter. If you want to delete from a root directory, and you are not currently in the root directory, you must provide the '\' symbol. If no path is supplied, the current working directory is used.

11Using a Filespec

A filespec is used as a pattern to match file names against. You could just type an existing filename, and zDEL will only find that file. With the use of wildcards '*' and '?', you can instruct zDEL to use the pattern matching rules listed below:

- '*' - Match the remainder of characters.
- '?' - Match with a single character.

Please refer to your Windows NT/95 User's Guide for more information on filenames, filespecs and wildcards, or use the DIR command for practice.

12Use of Command Line Switches

There are 20 switches that you may use with zDEL. They are "-A", "-C", "-D", "-DATE", "-F", "-K", "-NOLOGO", "-O", "-OLD", "-Q", "-R", "-S", "-SIZE", "-TIME", "-V", "-VOL", "-W", "-WHERE", "-WIPE" and "-X". They are all optional.

12.1-A Attribute Switch

The -A switch follows the syntax of "[A{[+,-]<a|h|r|s>}]".

The attribute switch allows you to search for archive, hidden, system, or read only attributes in a file. If you only specify "-A" then zDEL files all files regardless of attribute setting.

For example, "-A+h" or "-Ah" will make sure that all files found have the hidden bit set. Conversely, "-A-h" will make sure that all files reported do not have the hidden bit set.

12.1.1h The Hidden File Attribute

If you want to search for files that contain the hidden file attribute, you must tell zDEL by appending 'h' to the "-A" switch.

Example: "zDEL *.* -Ah"

12.1.2s The System File Attribute

If you want to search for files that contain the system file attribute, you must tell zDEL by appending 's' to the "-A" switch.

Example: "zDEL *.* -As"

12.1.3r The Read Only File Attribute

If you want to search for files that contain the read-only file attribute, you must tell zDEL by appending 'r' to the "-A" switch.

Example: "zDEL *.* -Ar"

12.2-C Confirmation Switch

The -C switch follows the syntax of "[C<d|f|s>]".

The Confirmation switch allows you to respond to a "(Y)es, (N)o, Yes to (A)ll" question for file deletion, subdirectory deletion and for which directories to search.

12.2.1d Confirm Directory Delete

Supplying zDEL with "-Cd" will make zDEL prompt you with the "(Y)es, (N)o, Yes to (A)ll" question for every directory found in the current search path.

Pressing Y will delete the directory. Press N and zDEL will not delete the directory. Press A and all subsequent directories found will automatically be deleted and the prompt will be suppressed for directory confirmation ONLY.

Example "zDEL *.* -Cd"

12.2.2f Confirm File Delete

Supplying zDEL with "-Cf" will make zDEL prompt you with the "(Y)es, (N)o, Yes to (A)ll" question for every file found in the current search path.

Pressing Y will delete the file. Press N and zDEL will not delete the file. Press A and all subsequent files found will automatically be deleted and the prompt will be suppressed for file confirmation ONLY.

Example "zDEL *.* -Cf"

12.2.3s Confirm Subdirectories to search

Supplying zDEL with "-Cs" will make zDEL prompt you with the "(Y)es, (N)o, Yes to (A)ll" question for every subdirectory found in the current search path.

Pressing Y will search the subdirectory. Press N and zDEL will skip that directory and look for the next one on the same depth level. Press A and all subsequent directories found will automatically be searched and the prompt will be suppressed for subdirectory search confirmation ONLY.

Example "zDEL *.* -Cs"

12.3-D Directory Specification Switch

The -D switch follows the syntax of "[-Ddirectory]".

This switch allows you to specify an additional directory to search for the filespec(s) you have specified to delete. No filespec information is allowed with -D. For example, "-D\utils\archive*.zip" is not allowed, but "-D\utils\archive" is. You may specify up to 25 on the command line.

Note: Using -D implies "in addition" to the explicit or implicit path given by the first parameter.

Example: "zDEL *.txt -D\windows\docs -D\scratch\docs"

12.4-DATE Date Range Switch

The -DATE switch follows the syntax of "[-DATE[2]:<L,G,E>mm-dd-yyyy".

This switch allows you to either specify one date and search for files less than (older), greater than (newer), or equal to a given date, or specify two dates (by also specifying the -DATE2 switch) and making the less than and greater than appropriate to define a date range.

Note: When specifying a range, the **dates searched include the bounding dates**, therefore you must specify one date greater, and one date less than what you want to include, if you don't want the bounding points to be included. Yes, therefore **G, and L, are actually "... or equal to"**.

Here are several examples:

Scan for files newer than 2-5-97: "zDEL *.* -DATE:G2-6-97"

Scan for files older than 6-1-2001: "zDEL *.* -DATE:L5-31-1"

Scan for all files in June of 1996: "zDEL *.* -DATE:G5-31-96 -DATE2:L7-1-96"

12.5-F Filespec Switch

The -F switch follows the syntax of "[-Ffilespec]".

This switch allows you to specify an additional filespec to delete. No directory information is allowed with -F. For example, "-F\utils\archive*.zip" is not allowed, but "-F*.zip" is. You may specify up to 25 on the command line.

Example: "zDEL *.bak -F*.tmp -F*.old -F*.00?"

12.6-K Keep Relative Root Directory Switch

The -K switch follows the syntax of "[-K]".

This switch is used with the -Rp switch. Doing so prevents zDEL from deleting the beginning directory. For example, "zDEL junk1 -Djunk2 -Rp" will prune the two given directory trees, but it will keep the "junk1" and "junk2" directory entries.

12.7-NOLOGO Suppress zDEL Banner Switch

The -NOLOGO switch follows the syntax of "[-NOLOGO]".

This switch allows you to suppress the zDEL banner information. You might find this useful if you use zDEL in a batch file.

Example: "zDEL d:\junk -NOLOGO"

12.8-O Override ZDELCMD Switch

The -O switch follows the syntax of "[-O]".

This switch will override the switches supplied in the ZDELCMD environment variable.

Example: "zDEL *.c -O"

12.9-OLD Old File Search Switch

The -OLD switch follows the syntax of "[-OLD:nnnn[<d,m,y>]]".

This switch allows you to search for files older than the specified number of days, months, or years, relative to the current time. If you're a network administrator, you'll love this functionality; it's great for managing "scratch" type volumes and the like.

You cannot use the -OLD switch with the -DATE switch.

Note concerning elapsed time calculation accuracy: If you specify either months or years, zDEL estimates months as having 30 days, and years as having 365 days, so zDEL will be off a few days if you specify a bunch of months or years (months is least accurate).

The approximation was done, because determining what the unit offset truly is, relative to the current date, would change depending on when you issued the command, and so the units in the parameter would therefore be an approximation because your switch parameter is probably in a batch file and doesn't change. For example, search for files "1 month old" in December could mean search for 31 days or 30 days depending on what your point of view is on the unit at that interval in time. Or how about February and leap year? On the other hand, specifying days is completely accurate. Furthermore, when zDEL calculates how many days have elapsed from the file's date, to the current day, it is 100% accurate (taking into account leap years, and correct month day values).

I don't want to seem unconcerned with accuracy and your data, but I have found that when people look for "old" files, they either search for files a few days or weeks old (very accurate), or they scan for really old files and don't care if the file is 3 years old or 3 years old and 12 days; they're both really old and should be removed. It's kind of like not caring about the difference between 12 million dollars and 12 million dollars and 3 cents.

I still think you'll find this -OLD switch extremely useful.

12.10-Q Suppress Delete Reporting Switch

The -Q switch follows the syntax of "[-Q]".

This switch causes zDEL not to display any of the filenames or subdirectories that are deleted. Because displaying text takes considerable time in relation to other tasks done by a computer, our tests have shown that using this switch will increase the speed of zDEL by over 50% in most cases. zDEL is by far the fastest when this switch is used.

Example: "zDEL T:\SCRATCH -Q"

12.11-R Recurse Directories Switch

The -R switch follows the syntax of "[R[<k,p>]]".

This switch causes zDEL to recursively search all directories found in the current search path. All directories specified by -D or -Sp are affected by this switch as well.

12.11.1k Keep Directory Tree Structure

If you specify "-Rk" or "-R" on the command line, zDEL will search all directories in the search path, but it will not attempt to delete them.

Example "zDEL *.TMP -R"

12.11.2p Prune Directory Tree Structure

If you specify "-Rp" on the command line, zDEL will search all directories in the search path and will try to delete each directory it searches.

NOTE: If you specify only a directory (with no filespec) in the FIRST command line parameter, then zDEL AUTOMATICALLY turns on the "-Rp" deletion process and assumes a filespec of "*.*". This does not apply to directory names specified by the "-D" switch.

```
Parameters >>      1      2
-----
example 1:  zDEL  mydir          -> auto "-Rp"
example 2:  zDEL  *.*  -Dmydir    -> NO auto "-Rp"
```

This "auto -Rp" is very convenient and powerful. Remember, zDEL will tell you everything it's going to do first as long as you don't specify "-W" in the command line.

12.12-S Search Process Switch

The -S switch follows the syntax of "[S<a|<l,p>>]".

This switch tells zDEL to perform additional operations while searching.

12.12.1a Accumulate Bytes

If you specify "-Sa" on the command line, zDEL will accumulate the number of bytes freed for every file it deletes on a per logical drive basis. The report will be displayed regardless if the -Q switch is used.

Example: "zDEL c:\scratch -Sa"

12.12.2f Search Fixed disks only

Specifying "-Sf" on the command line, will restrict zDEL's logical partition searching to those found on your computer's hard drives.

For example, if your fixed disks have partitions C:, D:, and E:, and you have other mapped drives, such as network, a CD-ROM, or a RAM-DRIVE, or removable media, only partitions C:, D:, and E: will be searched.

Example: "zDEL *.tmp -R -Sf" (removes all your *.tmp files)

12.12.3l Search All Logical Drives

If you specify "-Sl" on the command line, zDEL will apply all the filespec and directory information you have supplied to every logical drive it finds. The scan starts from the C: drive. If you have any network connections defined, zDEL will search those as well.

You cannot use the -Sl switch with the -Sp switch.

A usage tip that may be of help is that when you use this switch, "-Sl", be sure not to specify any drive letters in any directories you may have supplied zDEL with. If you do there's no harm done, only time wasted because when zDEL changes to a logical drive with the "-Sl" switch, it applies ALL filespec and directory information given with "-F" and "-D", respectively. Therefore, if you specify "-Dc:\mydir" as a directory to search, then for every logical drive zDEL changes to, zDEL is forced to go back to C:\MYDIR to look for filespecs to delete. The only reason you would WANT to do this is if you know there is a "\mydir" directory on another logical drive you don't want to mess with, but you still need to use the "-Sl" switch.

Example: "zDEL *.txt -Sl"

12.12.4p Search the PATH Environment Variable

If you specify "-Sp" on the command line, zDEL will add all the directories specified in the PATH environment variable to the list of directories to search. This list is exactly the same as the list used by the -D switch.

You cannot use the -Sp switch with the -Sl switch.

Example: "zDEL *.tmp -Sp"

12.13-SIZE File Size Search Switch

The -SIZE switch follows the syntax of [-SIZE[2]:<L,G,E>nnnn].

This switch allows you to search for files based on their file size. You can use the -SIZE switch to search for files Less than, Greater than, or Equal to a given size.

For example: "zDEL *. * -r -Sf -SIZE:G5000000" would find and delete all the files on your local fixed disks which are greater than approximately 5 megabytes (5 megs is actually 5 * 1024 * 1024, of course).

You can also use -SIZE to specify a file size range search. To do this use -SIZE with -SIZE2 and then have -SIZE be the low point in the range, and have -SIZE2 be the high point in the range.

For example, to delete all your files between 10 and 20 megs, you could do the following command, "zDEL *. * -r -Sf -SIZE:G10000000 -SIZE2:L20000000

12.14-TIME Time Range Switch

The -TIME switch follows the syntax of [-TIME[2]:<L,G,E>hh:mm[:ss][p]].

This switch allows you to search for files based on their file time. You can use the -SIZE switch to search for files Less than, Greater than, or Equal to a given size. Just like the -DATE switch, the bounding points are included in the search. All time is assumed to be 24 hour time, unless you append the "p" and the end (for PM).

For example: "zDEL *. * -r -TIME:L5:0p" would find and delete all the files on the current logical drive which are less than or equal to 5pm. Note that all dates are assumed to be in the search, unless you further restrict the search with the -DATE switch.

You can also use -TIME to specify a file time range search. To do this use -TIME with -TIME2 and then have -TIME be the low point in the range, and have -TIME2 be the high point in the range.

For example, to delete all temp files on your machine that have a modified time between 8am and 5pm, you could issue the following command:

"zDEL *. * -r -Sf -TIME:G1:0a -TIME2:L5:0p"

12.15-V Verbose Display Switch

The -V switch follows the syntax of "[-V]".

This switch tells zDEL to display a detailed (verbose) report of each file and directory that it deletes. An example output is shown below:

Example: "zDEL *.txt -V"

```
[...A]      1626   D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE1.TXT
[...A]      4050   D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE2.TXT
[...A]     23746   D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE3.TXT
```

Without using the -V switch, only the filename and its path are displayed:

```
D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE1.TXT
D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE2.TXT
D:\TEMP\JUNK\FILE3.TXT
```

12.16-VOL Volume Label Delete Switch

To erase the volume label from a partition, use the "-VOL" switch.

Example: "zDEL a:\ -VOL"

12.17-W Suppress Warning Messages Switch

The -W switch follows the syntax of "[-W]".

This switch tells zDEL not to display the "If you continue, zDEL will..." warning messages.

If you do not want to confirm this message every time you use zDEL, or you are using zDEL in a batch file, then use the -W switch on the command line. If you prefer to ALWAYS have this switch enabled, you should put the command "SET ZDELCMD=-W" in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, or type it directly from the command prompt.

Example: "zDEL *.txt -W"

12.18-WHERE "Where is..." Switch

The -WHERE switch follows the syntax of "[WHERE]".

This switch tells zDEL not to delete anything and only display the files and directories found during the search. This is handy if you don't have a file finding program, or if you use it in conjunction with -Sa you'll be able to tell how much space will be freed before you delete anything.

Using -WHERE with -Sa can be very helpful in a situation where you are low on disk space and you need more space to install a program that needs "x" more bytes of disk space to fit. Just keep adding files with -F until you satisfy the requirement, then remove the -WHERE switch and zDEL will delete everything you specified.

Example: "zDEL *.tmp -F*.bak -WHERE"

12.19-WIPE Wipe Data Switch

The -WIPE switch follows the syntax of "[WIPE[:nnn]]".

If you did not know already, when a file is deleted from a media using the File Allocation Table (FAT), the actual data is not destroyed; the FAT is updated to reflect the space is now available and the first character of the filename is changed to a '?'. That's how UNDELETE utilities work (in a nutshell). They merely scan the FAT for the '?' character as the first character in the filename and ask you what character it used to be.

If you are in an environment where the above deletion scheme does not satisfy your data sensitivity/protection policies (i.e.- you actually need the data destroyed, thus making UNDELETE and raw data scanning utilities useless), then you need to use the -WIPE switch.

Specify -WIPE on the zDEL command line to perform this action. You can specify any ASCII character from 0 to 255 to replace the data with. If you do not supply a character, 0 is used by default.

Please note that the ONLY way get data back after using this method is if you have a backup. Also, because zDEL has to re-write all the data before it deletes the file, the time taken to do so is longer. Judge for yourself: on a hard drive with a 15ms access time, it takes about 1-2 seconds per megabyte. ZDEL will report a real-time percentage complete status when it is in "Wipe" mode, unless you have specified the "-Q" switch.

Example: "zDEL secret.txt -WIPE"

12.20-X Exclude Filespec Switch

The -X switch follows the syntax of "[-X]".

Quite possibly the most powerful switch zDEL supports is this one. You may specify up to 25 exclude filespecs on the command line.

For every file found, zDEL checks all the entries in the -X filespec table. If the current file matches a filespec in this table then the file is NOT deleted. Hence, excluding it from being deleted.

Example: "zDEL *.* -X*.c -X*.h -X*.txt"

13Using the ZDELCMD Environment Variable

The ZDELCMD environment variable may be used to supply additional command line information to zDEL. Every time you use zDEL, it looks for and reads the ZDELCMD environment variable (as long as -O is not specified). Any switches recognized in the ZDELCMD environment variable are set just as if they were specified on the command line directly.

One of the best things about using ZDELCMD is that you can use it for setting switches that you always want set. Therefore, you type them once into ZDELCMD and never have to again.

For example, if you find yourself always using the -Sa and -V switches, just type "SET ZDELCMD=-Sa -V" at the prompt, or in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, and now you don't have to type them ever again.

If you never want to delete any executable files with zDEL, type "SET ZDELCMD=-X*.exe -X*.com -X*.bat" at the command prompt.

Remember, to override all the switches in ZDELCMD, use the -O switch.

To remove the ZDELCMD variable from the environment table, type "SET ZDELCMD=" as you would to delete any environment variable.

For more information on environment variables, please refer to your operating system's User's Guide.

14Acknowledgments

Thanks to all the zDEL users and all your suggestions.

zDEL is written with Microsoft Visual C++ 5.0.

MS-DOS, Windows, Windows 95, and Windows NT are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation which are used in this document for identification purposes only.

15How to Contact P & J's Software

If you wish to send comments, suggestions or questions about zDEL, please write to any of the addresses below:

U.S. Mail

P & J's Software
9316 178th PL NE, #1
Redmond, WA 98052

CompuServe e-mail:

PJSoftware

Internet e-mail:

`pjsoftware@compuserve.com`

Visit P & J's Software on the World Wide Web at <http://members.aol.com/pjsoftware>.

We encourage you to use e-mail for support as it is faster, more reliable, uses less resources and ultimately less expensive for you. If you do not have access to e-mail, you can always send a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for product support.

Please understand we can only guarantee a response to registered zDEL 3.0 users although we'll try to respond to all mail. This helps to keep support costs low.

16Plans for Future Updates

The next version may contain "file input" parameters for the -F and -X switches (i.e.- something like... zDEL *.* -X@files.txt) and the 25 item limits will be removed.

17Revision History

3.0 June 5, 1997

Added several new powerful features and fixed a few things:

- "Files older than" day, month, or year amounts can be specified.
- A date range can be specified for files.
- A time range can be specified for files.
- Files with file sizes within a range can be specified.
- Volume labels from searched logical drives can be removed.
- You can restrict your search to all logical drives on your computer (avoids network scanning).
- New registration options.
- ASP compliance.
- Fixed `-S<a|l,p>` parameter mixing.
 - Updated documentation to reflect zDEL usage on Windows 95 and Windows NT.

2.11 August 27, 1995

Fixed "unable to remove directory" problem with directories with attributes set other than archive. This problem only existed with the NT version.

2.10

32 bit version of zDEL 2.0 for DOS with the following changes/additions:

- zDEL 2.10 for Windows 95/NT is a native Win32 application.
 - The NTFS is supported (long files names).

2.00

Complete rewrite of zDEL 1.x with the following additions in functionality:

- Bit testing may be done with all file attributes.
- Multiple filespecs may be specified to delete files.
- Multiple filespecs may be specified to EXCLUDE files.
- Multiple directories may be specified to scan.
- The PATH may be scanned.
- All logical drives may be scanned.
- A new verbose display mode.
- Bytes freed may be accumulated and reported.
- A "where is ..." mode is available.
- Optionally "wipe" files (permanently destroys the data).
 - A "(Y)es, (N)o, Yes to (A)ll" prompt has been given to all Confirmation switches.

1.01 1993

Mailing address change.

1.00 1993

Initial version.