

WCL Help

WCL is a command line processor for Microsoft Windows 3.x, and IBM Win-OS/2. There are several internal commands available in WCL under the headings listed below. A proper introduction to WCL is contained within the "Introduction" section below. If you are new to WCL please read that section first.

Please be sure to read the "Disclaimer" section below BEFORE attempting to use WCL.

[Introduction](#)

[Alphabetical List](#)

[Directory Services](#)

[File Services](#)

[System Services](#)

[Miscellaneous Services](#)

[Command Line History](#)

[Batch Files](#)

[INI File Settings](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Registration](#)

Alphabetical List of Commands

Below is an alphabetical list of internal commands supported by WCL. They can all be found grouped under the various services listed in the index screen.

I
!!
?
??
ABOUT
ADD
ALIAS
ATTRIB
BACKINI
BACKUPTHEINIS
BEEP
CD
CHANGE
CLEAR
COPY
DATE
DEL
DIR
DOS
EXIT
FREE
GOTO
HALT
H
H2
HELP
HELP2
HIDE
LIST
MD
PATH
PLAY
PRINT
PROMPT
PWD
RD
REN
RESTART
REVEAL
SAVE
SAY
SEEK
SET
SETDATE
SETTIME
SUM
TIME
TYPE

TYPEWRITE
UPDATE
WINLOAD
WINRUN
WINSHELL

Directory Services

WCL supports a number of internal commands for directory services. The supported internal commands operate similarly to the DOS equivalents. Sometimes however, there may be minor variations. The directory commands are outlined below

DIR

MD

CD

RD

GOTO

ALIAS

PWD

DIR

List the files in the directory. This can take parameters. e.g "DIR A:*.EXE", "DIR C:\MSDOS", etc. If no parameter is supplied, then there will be a listing of the CURRENT directory. The list displays about 20 lines and then pauses for a key press - much like "DIR/P" in DOS.) The Directory listing is sorted, with sub-directories appearing first before files. You can afterward scroll up and down the file list window with the mouse.

NOTE: The DIR command shows in its first column the attributes of each file in the directory, enclosed within "<>"

H stands for Hidden
S stands for System File
R stands for Read Only
A stands for Archive (i.e, normal file)
DIR stands for Directory (i.e, this is a sub-directory)
N/A stands for "No Attribute"

If a file has more than one attribute, they are all listed e.g. <HRSA> for the DOS system files.

Like with the DOS equivalent, the output of the 'DIR' command can be redirected to a FILE or to the printer (LPT1) with ">"

e.g. DIR *.EXE > EXEDIR.TXT (output to a FILE)

DIR C:\WINDOWS > LPT1 (output to the PRINTER)

NOTE: If you use redirection, make sure there is a space both before and after the redirection sign ">" (as in the examples above). If you do not insert a space (e.g. "DIR *.EXE>EXEDIR.TXT") you will probably only get an error message.

The DIR window show can be RESIZED and MOVED, and there is nothing to stop you from having many DIR windows open. It's quite a straight- forward matter to ensure that only one copy of DIR is running, but I am convinced that there are good reasons for allowing multiple copies. You can compare the contents of two directories by having DIR windows of both of them on screen, for example.

MD

MD - Create a Directory (alternative command is MKDIR).

PWD

PWD - Show the current directory.

CD

CD - Change to a directory (alternative commands are CHDIR and CWD). Using this command you can also change to an ALIASed directory.

RD

RD - Remove a directory. This will only work if the directory is empty of files (alternative command is RMDIR)

GOTO

GOTO - Change to a directory for which an alias has been created in WCL.INI. You should create ALIASES under the "[Directories]" part of WCL.INI by using a text editor or by using the ALIAS command.

The GOTO command enables a user to change to long directory paths easily.

e.g. if the line "SYS=C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM" exists in the "[Directories]" part of WCL.INI, typing the command "GOTO SYS" will cause WCL to change to C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM.

ALIAS

ALIAS - VIEW the current list of Directory Aliases in WCL.INI (the first 20), or CREATE a new Directory Alias, or CHANGE an existing one. If the command is used without any parameter, a list of current Aliases is presented.

To CREATE a new alias, or CHANGE an existing one, use ALIAS <ALIAS-NAME>
<DIRECTORY-PATH>

e.g. ALIAS BACKUP C:\DOCUMENTS\SECRET\BACKUP

If you want to create an ALIAS for the directory in which you are, you can use a dot (".") for the directory path, e.g.,

ALIAS THIS-DIR .

File Services

WCL supports a number of internal commands for file services. The supported internal commands operate similarly to the DOS equivalents. Sometimes however, there may be minor variations. The file commands are outlined below

COPY
DEL
REN
TYPE
HIDE
REVEAL
SEEK
ADD
PRINT
ATTRIB

COPY

COPY - Copy a file or a number of files. This again is similar to the DOS Copy command and wildcards are allowed. You can copy to another drive/directory, etc., or to the printer "LPT1" (alternative command is CP).

NOTE: You can create an ASCII file with "COPY CON <FILENAME>", just as under DOS (e.g., "COPY CON LOADWCL.BAT"). This is useful for quick creation of TEXT FILES from within Windows without loading the NOTEPAD, or any other Text Editor. When the "COPY CON command is invoked, an Edit Window is opened for the text to be typed in. Each line is NUMBERED by WCL, so you can know how many lines you have left (a MAXIMUM of 100 lines of text is permitted, and each line cannot be more than 128 characters in length).

NOTE that the editor is a LINE EDITOR, just as in the DOS command line. Each line must be terminated by a Carriage Return and you CANNOT go back to edit previous lines.

When the editing is complete, type a period or full stop (".") on a line by itself, or type "end" on a line by itself to finish. It is at this point that the file is written to Disk.

The Lines Numbers supplied at the edit screen by WCL will NOT be written into the file, neither will the "end" or the period "." which inform WCL that you have finished editing.

NOTE: That you can also copy a file to the printer. "LPT1" and "PRN" are the only printer ports supported.

e.g. "COPY COMMANDS.SUM LPT1"

This will cause the file COMMANDS.SUM to be printed.

The COPY function tries to ensure that there is enough space on the destination drive for the files to be copied, on a file-by-file basis. If there is insufficient space for a file, there will be an error message to that effect, but the function will then proceed to try and copy any other file listed for copying. This is better than DOS in that DOS terminates the COPY function when there is insufficient space for ANY file, even if there are smaller files that will fit into the the target drive. WCL will copy these smaller ones.

The COPY function also tries to verify that the actual number of bytes copied are equal to the size of each Source file. If there is any discrepancy in the sizes of the copied file and it's copy, there is an error message informing you of this, and the copy is deleted.

DEL

DEL - DElete a file or a number of files. This again is similar to the DOS equivalent (alternative command is RM).

REN

REN - RENAME a file. This can be used on only one file at a time (alternative command is MV).

TYPE

(display the contents of an ASCII file, 20 lines at a time. Note that you should not put the "<" character before the file name (unlike DOS)).

e.g TYPE MYFILE.TXT

or MORE HELLO.DOC (not "MORE<HELLO.DOC")

HIDE

HIDE - Hide a file or a number of files by setting their attributes to "hidden" (alternative command is CONCEAL).

REVEAL

REVEAL - Restore a file or a number of files from "hidden" to normal (alternative command is UNHIDE).

SEEK

SEEK - Try to locate a file on the current drive (alternative command is LOCATE). This function searches first in the current directory, then in all the directories in the DOS Path, and finally all the FIRST LEVEL sub-directories of the current drive. Note that this function does not accept wildcards, and will only retrieve the first occurrence of the specified file.

e.g. "LOCATE WINWORD.EXE" - will look for the first occurrence of WINWORD.EXE.

"LOCATE WINWORD.*" - this contains a wildcard and will NOT work.

ADD

ADD - Add the contents of one file to another. The file that you want to ADD TO is to be specified LAST, and the the file that you want to add to it is to be specified FIRST (alternative command is CONCAT).

The syntax is thus;

```
"ADD <File to Add> <File Added To>"
```

e.g. "ADD SECOND.TXT FIRST.TXT"

This will append or add the contents of SECOND.TXT to FIRST.TXT. This means that after the operation, the file FIRST.TXT will now contain both the original contents of FIRST.TXT, with the contents of SECOND.TXT.

If for Example, FIRST.TXT originally contained "ABC" and SECOND.TXT originally contained "DEF", after the ADD operation, FIRST.TXT will now contain "ABCDEF". The contents of SECOND.TXT remain unchanged.

Always remember that the SECOND file to be specified is the file that will be ADDED to and that what will be added to it are the contents of the FIRST file to be specified.

Note: You CANNOT use wildcards in this command.

PRINT

PRINT - Print a file, i.e., send it to the printer "LPT1" (alternative command are LPR and LPT).

ATTRIB

ATTRIB - VIEW and/or CHANGE the attributes of a file or a group of files. To VIEW the attributes of a file, use ATTRIB <FILENAME> You cannot use wildcards if the ATTRIB command is used in this way.

To CHANGE the attributes of a file or files, use ATTRIB <ATTRIBUTES> <FILESPECS> You can use wildcards when the ATTRIB command is used in this way.

The ATTRIBUTES are represented by

- R for READ ONLY;
- S for SYSTEM FILE;
- H for HIDDEN;
- A for ARCHIVE.

You turn them ON or OFF by supplying a plus (+) or minus (-) AFTER the attributes.

e.g. ATTRIB +RH HIDDEN.DOC (set HIDDEN.DOC to Read Only and Hidden)

e.g. ATTRIB -RS +HA SYSTEM.DOC (set SYSTEM.DOC to Hidden and Archive, and remove the Read Only and System settings)

Miscellaneous Services

WCL offers a number of services which do not readily fall under any of the previous headings. Thus they are all grouped under the miscellaneous services heading. The miscellaneous commands are outlined below

SAY
HELP
SUM
FREE
BEEP
PLAY
DOS
TYPEWRITE

SAY

SAY - Show a Dialog Box displaying whatever is typed after this command.

PLAY

PLAY - Play back any .WAV sound file. For example, to play the sound file CHIMES.WAV in the windows directory, type "PLAY CHIMES.WAV". Note that Windows requires a sound card to be installed before sound files can be played. If no sound card is installed, this command will produce no result. Alternative command is SOUND.

ABOUT

ABOUT - Show information about WCL (alternative commands are VER and ID).

HELP

HELP- Load this help screen (alternative commands are H and ?).

SUM

SUM - Load the Windows Notepad with WCL.DOC (alternative commands are H2, HELP2, and ??).

FREE

FREE - Show the amount of free space on the drive which you specify after this command (e.g. FREE C: or FREE A:).

BEEP

BEEP - Make the annoying beep sound.

DOS

DOS - Open a DOS Shell. You return to Windows by typing "exit" (alternative command is SHELL).

TYPEWRITE

TYPEWRITE - This takes WCL into "Type Writer Mode". You are presented with an Edit Window wherein you can type text. When you press <ENTER> the LINE of text is sent to the printer ("PRN"). This command thus turns your Windows and Printer into a pretend Electric Typewriter. You can type as many lines of text as you wish, but bear these in mind;

[a] Each line must terminate with a carriage return

[b] Each line must not be more than 78 characters long

[c] You can have empty lines, just by pressing <ENTER>

[d] This command will NOT work properly with Page Printers (i.e., Laser printers). This is because lasers print one page at a time, and not line by line like dot matrix, inkjet, and daisy wheel printers.

To EXIT from typewriter mode, just type "END" on a line by itself, or a full stop "." ("period" in American) on a line by itself.

System Services

WCL offers a number of system services. Some of the commands are named like some internal DOS commands, but there are several which are unique to WCL. The system commands are outlined below.

In addition to the system services listed below, WCL allows you to use an "AUTOEXEC" batch file. This file is read everytime Windows is loaded, but only if WCL is your Windows Shell. This file should be called AUTOEXEC.CBF and should reside in your WCL directory, or in any directory which is in the DOS path. This file is treated as any normal WCL batch (.CBF) file, and should contain only commands that you wish to run EVERYTIME Windows is loaded. Note that batch commands may behave strangely because of the re-entrant nature of Windows and Win-OS2.

CHANGE
WINSHELL
WINRUN
WINLOAD
EXIT
HALT
SAVE
UPDATE
TIME
DATE
SETTIME
SETDATE
SET
PROMPT
RESTART
BACKUPTHEINIS
PATH

BACKUPTHEINIS

BACKUPTHEINIS - Make backup copies of the WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files. WIN.INI is backed up as WIN.WCL and WIN2.WCL, and SYSTEM.INI is backed up as SYSTEM.WCL and SYSTEM2.WCL. Alternative command is BACKINI.

CHANGE

CHANGE - Load the WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI, and WCL.INI files into the Windows Notepad program for editing (alternative commands are CHG and CONFIGURE).

WINSHELL

WINSHELL - Change the "SHELL=" setting in SYSTEM.INI. The command takes one parameter (i.e., the new Windows Shell). If no parameter is supplied, the name of the current Windows Shell is presented.

e.g. WINSHELL WCL.EXE

This changes the Windows Shell to WCL.EXE

WINRUN

WINRUN - Change the "RUN=" setting in WIN.INI. The command can take more than one parameter, each of them separated by spaces. The supplied parameters will replace the ones currently on the "RUN=" line. If all you want to do is to ADD extra programs to the "RUN=" line (as opposed to REPLACING the current one) then put a "+" sign BEFORE the first parameter

e.g., "WINRUN + DRWATSON.EXE WRITE.EXE"

this will ADD the two named programs to any one that is currently there.

(If no parameter is supplied, the current setting is presented).

To delete all the settings on the line, type "WINRUN NIL".

WINLOAD

WINLOAD - Change the "LOAD=" setting in WIN.INI. The command can take more than one parameter, and operates exactly like the WINRUN command.

EXIT

EXIT - Quit from WCL. If WCL is your Windows Shell, then this will quit from Windows. You will be invited to confirm that you do want to quit (alternative commands are QUIT or pressing ESC)

HALT

HALT - Same effect as with "EXIT" ,except that this command will exit Windows, whether or not WCL is your Windows Shell (alternative command is CLOSE).

SAVE

SAVE - Save the current state of the Windows desktop (the desktop is saved into a file called WCL.DSK in the Windows directory. This command also and saves the current WCL window co-ordinates and system settings (e.g., the current WCL prompt, the current Windows Shell, etc.) into the WCL.INI file. IF WCL is your Windows Shell, the saved Windows desktop will be restored when next you run WCL.

UPDATE

UPDATE - Update the WCL system settings by reading the WCL.INI file again. It is to be used only when you have changed the contents of the WCL.INI file in the current session and you want the changes to take effect immediately without EXITing and restarting WCL.

PATH

PATH - Display the current DOS path settings

TIME

TIME - Display the current time and date.

DATE

DATE - Display the current time and date.

SETTIME

SETTIME - Set the system time. Format is hh:mm:ss.
e.g. SETTIME 16:30:45

SETDATE

SETDATE - Set the system date. Format is dd:mm:yyyy.
e.g. SETDATE 22:04:1993

SET

SET - Show selected DOS and Windows environment settings. Note that this only SHOWS you the settings. You cannot use the SET command to change any of the environment variables.

PROMPT

PROMPT - Show the current WCL prompt, or change it to whatever is typed after this command.

e.g. PROMPT %

This gives you the UNIX percentage prompt

RESTART

RESTART - Shut down Windows and restart Windows again (valid only for Windows 3.1; alternative command is WIN).

Introduction

Windows Command Line (WCL) is a command line interface program for Windows 3.x and Win-OS/2. The program simulates the infamous C:\> prompt of the DOS command line, but from within Windows, or while running as a "seamless" Windows application on the OS/2 Workplace Shell desktop. This is useful for those DOS hackers who find themselves having to use Windows for certain applications, or for people who want a very quick and easy way to multi-task Windows programs, either within Windows itself, or from the OS/2 desktop, or for those who like to have a command line window available at all times. From WCL, you can run all Windows, DOS and OS/2 (under OS/2 2.1) programs just by typing the program name, and pressing <ENTER> as you do would at the DOS prompt for DOS programs. When you run a program through WCL, the program's window becomes the Active Window. You can go back to WCL by clicking on any part of the WCL window that is visible to you, and then run other programs from there.

OS/2 version 2.1:

If WCL is run from within OS/2 version 2.1, either as a "seamless" application (i.e., from the Workplace Shell desktop), or in a full screen Win-OS/2 session, you can run DOS, Windows and OS/2 programs from the WCL prompt. The ability to run OS/2 programs from Win-OS/2 is a new feature in OS/2 version 2.1. Users of OS/2 version 2.0 will not be able to run OS/2 programs from within WCL, unless perhaps if they acquire the latest Service Paks from IBM.

OS/2 users should please NOTE that WCL will only run DOS and OS/2 programs under OS/2 as well as the Program Manager will run them, since WCL uses the same API calls to run programs as the Program Manager. Some OS/2 programs will not run at all, if run from a Win-OS/2 session, and some DOS programs behave quite strangely if run from Win-OS/2.

PATH:

If the application you wish to run is not in a directory which is in DOS Path, you will have to supply the full path name (e.g. "C:\WPWIN\WPWIN", to run WordPerfect for Windows, if C:\WPWIN is not in the DOS Path). If the application is situated in a directory that is in the DOS Path, all you need do is type its name, and press <ENTER> (e.g. "WRITE" <ENTER>, to run Windows Write).

All Windows programs can be run from within WCL. This includes DOS programs for which a Windows .PIF file exists. Most DOS programs can also be run directly from WCL without creating a PIF file for them. In this case, they will run in full screen mode.

Note that most internal DOS commands (i.e, those that are resident in COMMAND.COM) can NOT be run directly from WCL. However, a number of DOS-like commands are supported through built-in technology. Below is a list of them;

- [1] CD or CHDIR (change directory)
- [2] MD or MKDIR (create a new directory)
- [3] RD or RMDIR (remove/delete a directory)
- [4] DEL or ERASE (delete files. Wild cards are accepted)
- [5] REN or RENAME (rename one file; Note - You CANNOT use wildcards!)
- [6] COPY (copy files. Wild cards are accepted).

- [7] TIME (show current system time)
- [8] DATE (show current system date)
- [9] SET (show SOME environment variables)
- [10] PROMPT (Change the WCL prompt)
- [11] TYPE or MORE (display the contents of an ASCII file)
- [12] PRINT (print a file)
- [13] DIR (list the files in the directory)

Apart from changing drives (e.g. "A:" to change to drive A or "D:" to change to drive D, etc.,) INTERNAL DOS commands different from those listed above cannot be directly run from WCL. Attempting to run them will either produce an error message from Windows, or lead to the DOS prompt being invoked through a DOS Shell.

External DOS commands (i.e. those which have their own .EXE, .COM, or .BAT files, e.g. "FORMAT", "GW BASIC", "XCOPY", etc.) can normally be run directly from WCL. However, I would not attempt to run programs such as "CHKDSK" or programs which access the hardware directly (such as disk compressors) when in Windows. A lot of grief can result from this. Basically, any DOS program which can be used safely under Windows can be used safely in WCL since everything that WCL does is done through Windows API calls (i.e. Windows itself does all the actual processing. WCL only acts as a command line interface between you and Windows).

If there is any program which you should not run under Windows, then please do NOT attempt to run it via WCL.

Note that you can use the UNIX names of some of these commands, although they do not operate like the UNIX commands.

e.g.

CP for COPY

MV for RENAME

RM for DELETE

CWD for CHANGE DIRECTORY

LS for DIRectory listing

These commands operate more or less like their DOS equivalents, except that you cannot use wild cards in the RENAME function. For file copying, wildcards are accepted for SOURCE file specifications only. You cannot use wildcards in TARGET file specifications.

e.g

COPY *.DOC A:\MSDOS - This is valid

COPY *.DOC A:\MSDOS*.BAK - This is invalid.

REN *.DOC *.TXT - This is invalid

Both the COPY and DIR commands produce their own Windows on the screen.

Command_Line_History

WCL supports a limited form of command line history by keeping a record of the LAST 20 commands typed at the prompt. There are a number of commands for accessing the history function. They are enumerated below;

1. **!!** - (two exclamation marks) - this will execute the most recent command.
2. **!** - (one exclamation mark) - If this is typed by itself, WCL will list the last 20 commands (each of them with a number) in a message box. When the message box is closed you are prompted for the number of the line that you want to execute. The command is then executed.

If you do not want to execute any of the listed commands, type 0 (zero) or just press <ENTER>. If the single exclamation mark is followed by a space and then a number (e.g., ! 10), WCL fetches the command with that number (if any exists). Thus for example, "! 6" means fetch the sixth to the last command.
3. **LIST** - Show a numbered listing of the last 20 commands typed at the WCL prompt (alternative command is HISTORY).
4. **CLEAR** - Clear the command line history list. This gets rid of all the entries present on the list of the last 20 commands. The list will then start to build from the scratch. It is a great way to stop prying eyes (e.g., the boss) from seeing what commands you have been typing all day.

Batch_Files

WCL supports sequential processing of commands by allowing you to put commands into a BATCH FILE. This batch file must have ".CBF" as its extension. "CBF" stands for "Command Batch File".

e.g "COPYBAK.CBF"

Batch files can contain any command that WCL supports - ie. internal WCL commands, DOS .BAT, .EXE and .COM programs, and Windows programs. The file batch file must be in ASCII format, and each command must be on a separate line. Each batch file can be up to 20 lines in length. However, it cannot contain another .CBF file.

Once set up, all you need to do is to type the name of the batch file at the WCL prompt. You do not need to type it's extension. With the example above, you only need to type "COPYBAK". WCL will then try to execute the commands in the file on a line-by-line basis. This may result in some interesting screen maneuvres as each program is given the input focus by Windows, and tries to display its messages and main window.

Remember that Windows programs do not have the whole PC to themselves, unlike DOS programs, so each Windows program will allow another to be immediately loaded after it, as soon as it sets up its main window. If the batch file contains a mixture of DOS and Windows programs, the screen maneuvres are yet more interesting. The import of this is that the processing of batch commands in Windows will not always be as you expect, if looked at from a DOS batch file point of view. This is due to the nature of Windows itself, and there isn't much that I can do about it.

NOTE:

Please ensure that batch files do NOT have the same names as any DOS or Windows program file that you will call from the batch files. For example, if you will call KERMIT.EXE from you batch file, make sure that the batch file is not called KERMIT.CBF - if you do not heed this advice, you are SURE to get a SYSTEM CRASH when you try to run the batch file. Please note this warning.

Example of a .CBF file's contents;

```
SAY This is a test .CBF file!  
CD C:\WINDOWS  
COPY *.INI A:\  
CD C:\DOCS\LETTERS  
COPY *.LET A:\LETTERS  
SAY I have finished the back ups
```

This file starts by printing a message that it is a test .CBF file. It then backs up all the .INI files in the Windows directory, and all the .LET files in the C:\DOS\LETTERS directory. It finishes by telling you that its has completed the back ups. "SAY" messages may actually appear BEFORE the operations which they claim to have completed. This again is due to the nature of Windows.

INI_File_Settings

There are various entries in the file WC.INI which determine the way in which WCL works. Below is an explanation of the purpose of each of the settings, including the defaults;

WINDOWLENGTH=50

(This is the length of the WCL window. You can reduce or increase the number from 50. Note that to have enough space for typing commands, 42 is the suggested minimum).

LOCATION-HORIZONTAL=1

(this is the location of the LEFT HAND side of the WCL window. By default, this is the left edge of the screen. You can increase this if you want the window to be moved to the centre, or the right side of the screen for example.

NOTE: assuming that the screen width is 80 characters, for a Standard VGA screen, multiply each character by 8. So, for the left side of the window to be moved to the CENTRE of the screen for example, you can put LOCATION-HORIZONTAL=320).

The EFFECT of this setting depends entirely on the RESOLUTION of your screen. So for SuperVga modes (e.g.800x600; 1024x768) you will need to increase the multiplication ratio.

The easiest way of setting this is to move the WCL window to the desired location, leave it there, and then type "SAVE" at the WCL command prompt. This will cause the location of the WCL window to be saved in WCL.INI.

Note that when you change this setting, you have to allow for the length of the WCL window as set in WINDOWLENGTH (above).

LOCATION-VERTICAL=1

(this is the location of the TOP of the WCL window. By default, this is set to the top of the screen. You can increase it if you wish to move the window DOWN, perhaps to the bottom of the screen.

NOTE: assuming that the screen length is 25 lines, for a standard VGA screen, multiply each line by 19. So, to move the window to the bottom of the screen, you can put LOCATION-VERTICAL=475).

This setting determines the TOP of the WCL window. The window itself occupies about 6 lines. So, you effectively have only 19 lines to play with. In the example given above, 475 is the 25th line of the screen. If you use that setting, you WILL NOT SEE any part of the WCL window (it the rest of it will be below the bottom of the screen). The safe setting for the bottom of the screen on Vga mode (640x480) is LOCATION-VERTICAL=361

For SuperVga modes, you again have to increase the multiplication ratio.)

WCL-PROMPT=\$P\$G

(This is the default mode of the WCL command line prompt. It displays the current Drive and Directory (like DOS). If this line is empty, then this is still the default prompt. If you wish to customise the WCL environment, you can change this setting.

Anything after the "=" sign is taken LITERALLY and will appear EXACTLY as written. The only exception is "\$P\$G" which simulates the ubiquitous DOS prompt.

So you can simulate the famous DBase "dot prompt" by putting on this line, "WCL-PROMPT=."

You can also simulate the UNIX % prompt by "WCL-PROMPT=%" Alternatively, use your own name, "WCL-PROMPT=JOE BLOGGS>" (Note: The longer the prompt, the LESS space you have at the command line for typing commands)

NOTE also that you can change the prompt at the command line at any time by using the "PROMPT" command.

e.g. "PROMPT %" or "PROMPT ."

This change will be saved into WCL.INI if you quit WCL through one of its own exit commands (e.g., "EXIT", "HALT", "QUIT")

SAVE-DESKTOP=0

(this setting **ONLY** has effect when WCL.EXE is your Windows Shell. If set to 0, then the desktop is NOT saved when you exit from WCL. If set to 1 (one) then WCL will save the current state of the Windows Desktop (i.e., all active programs) when you exit. The next time you run Windows, WCL will automatically restore the Windows Desktop to the position it was when you last quit from WCL (i.e., all those active programs will be run automatically). The desktop is saved in a file called "WCL.DSK" in the Windows Directory. This file is in a binary format, so please NEVER try to EDIT it with a text editor. You can of course delete it any time you want.

NOTE: The Desktop will only be saved when you exit from WCL by using one of the WCL exit commands (i.e., "QUIT", "EXIT", "HALT", or pressing the ESCape key). If you exit by pressing Alt F4 or by selecting "Close" from the system menu, then the Desktop will NOT be saved. If you are fond of exiting Windows programs in these ways, then you can save the Desktop manually by typing "SAVE" at the WCL prompt, immediately before quitting.

STARTUP1= ; STARTUP2= ; STARTUP3= ; STARTUP4=

(These are for indicating the programs to be loaded by WCL every time you start a WCL session. They are looked at **ONLY** if WCL is your Windows shell. If you retain Program Manager as your Windows shell, these lines are COMPLETELY IGNORED. WCL does not load the programs in your Windows start up group file, and this is the way of compensating.

So if for example, you want CONTROL.EXE to be loaded every time you start WCL, you can put "STARTUP1=CONTROL.EXE". If the programs are not in the DOS path, then you have to type in the FULL PATH of the program (e.g. "STARTUP2=D:\MYDIR\MYPROG\MYPROG.EXE"). NOTE that the program name/path must not exceed 78 characters, or it will be truncated.

Only 4 start up programs are supported here. If you must have more than 4, then put one on the line that reads "RUN=" and one on the line that reads "LOAD=" in your WIN.INI file. Alternatively you can create a WCL batch file (e.g., "STARTUP.CBF") and include its name in one of the startup lines. With such a batch file, you can load as many programs as you wish.

NOTE: The programs contained on the start up lines will be loaded EVERY TIME that a WCL session is commenced. So, if for any reason you are running multiple copies of WCL, EACH copy will load all the programs. So it is better to leave those lines as

they are until you have finished configuring WCL for your system. If you are likely to want to run multiple copies of WCL, do not add anything to these lines).

CONFIRM-OVERWRITES=0

This sets the behaviour of the File Copy routines. When set to 0 (zero; this is the default) existing files will be overwritten by the versions being copied, WITHOUT WARNING (this is like the DOS Copy command).

If set to 1 (one) then you will ALWAYS be prompted for confirmation before an existing file is overwritten.

NOTE: The WCL.INI file is polled for this setting only ONCE (when the program is loaded) so any change you make to this setting will take effect only after you run WCL again (or if you run another copy of it by typing "WCL" at the prompt, and Close the original copy)

BACK-UP-INI-FILES=1

This setting is effective **only** if WCL is your Windows Shell. If set to 1, then WCL will back up your WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files everytime Windows is started. WCL tries to make TWO backups of each file, with extensions of ".WCL". This is useful for restoring your Windows setup in cases when some program has messed up your INI files. If set to 0 (zero) then the backups will not take place.

IMPORTANT NOTES

[1] There must be NO SPACES AT ALL between the entries on each line. e.g "WINDOWLENGTH = 50" is NOT valid because there are spaces both before and after the "="

[2] The responsibility for supplying correct and sensible values for these window co-ordinates is TOTALLY YOURS. The default settings are quite adequate for most needs, and you can always re-locate and re-size the window using your mouse.

[3] If WCL cannot find the file WCL.INI at startup time, then the default values explained above will always apply.

[4] The WCL.INI file is only read ONCE - when WCL is loaded. If you change anything in the file, you will have to close and restart WCL for the changes to take effect. The only exception to this is with respect to directory aliases. When you use the "GOTO" command, WCL searches always WCL.INI for an alias for the name you supply.

[5] If you are experimenting with different settings for the WCL window, there is nothing to stop you from testing your settings on another copy of WCL. You can run another copy of WCL by typing "WCL" at the prompt. You will then see another copy loaded, and reflecting the window co-ordinates in the current version of WCL.INI. NOTE that if you have not changed the window coordinates, then the other copies of WCL will have their windows right on top of the current copies.

[6] If WCL is NOT your Windows shell, then the Start Up lines and SAVE-DESKTOP setting in WCL.INI will be ignored.

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