

# DelDir for DOS

version 2.7

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December 1993

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## *Object:*

DelDir is a freeware command-line utility to remove or wipe files, directories, and whole volumes.

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## *Features:*

- Handles read-only, hidden, and/or system files (e.g. `DELDIR \io.sys`);
  - Handles non-empty directories and their sub directories (e.g. `DELDIR \windows`);
  - Handles whole volumes at once (e.g. `DELDIR d:`);
  - Handles multiple wild cards specifications at once (e.g. `DELDIR *.old *.bak *.tmp`);
  - Wild cards can be used recursively across sub directories;
  - Can request global and/or local confirmation before deletion;
  - Can truly wipe data for non-recoverable sensible data;
  - Can remove all files but keep the 'skeleton' (the directory structure);
  - Can remove only empty files;
  - Operates in interactive, batch, and mute modes;
  - Detects redirection of report to a log file or to a printer;
  - Handles exclusion wild cards with *Extended Patterns* (Unix-like);
  - Intercepts or ignores hardware faults;
  - Intercepts or ignores break requests by the user;
  - Remembers default options set via an environment variable (`SET DDOPT=...`);
  - Handles *Listfiles* (ASCII list of files to be regularly deleted);
  - Operates in both French and English;
  - Is totally free!
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## Syntax:

```
DELDIR [wildcard...] [/options...]
```

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### Wild cards specifications:

d:	is a complete drive to delete
[d:]path	is a specification of directories to delete
[d:][path]name[.ext]	is a specification of files to delete
@[d:][path]name[.ext]	is an ASCII file containing a list of items to delete
#name[.ext]	is a specification of files to exclude

Exclusion masks can use *Extended Wild cards*:

*	means "zero, one or more character" and is not confined to end of pattern
?	means "any one and only one character" and is not confined to end of pattern
[abc]	means "one letter, must be either 'a' or 'b' or 'c'"
[!xX]	means "one letter, any letter but not 'x' and not 'X'"
[a-dA-D]	means "one letter, from 'a' to 'd', lower- or uppercase"
\!	means '! ' literally
\[	means '[' literally
\]	means ']' literally
\*	means '* ' literally
\?	means '? ' literally
\-	means '- ' literally
\\	means '\ ' literally

e.g. this:

```
#[a-c]*_*. [!~]*
```

means:

exclude any file beginning with either 'a', 'b' or 'c', containing an underscore, and whose extension doesn't begin with a tilde.

- files that would match: a\_now.doc cx\_.txt b\_b\_b.1
- files that wouldn't match: xtra.exe army\_ a\_now.~do

In the current version, Extended Wild cards are not used in items-to-delete specifications in order to be totally compatible with DOS' s internal command DEL, so:

```
DELDIR [ab]*.*
```

means literally "delete files beginning with [ab]", it doesn't mean "files beginning with 'a' or 'b'"

```
DELDIR [ab]*.* #[ab].zip
```

is the same but will bypass ZIP files ending with either 'a' or 'b'.

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## Options summary:

- /A ask for confirmation (Yes/No/All/Quit) before processing each removal;
- /B beep on errors;
- /C count files deleted in each directory;
- /D disable CTRL-C and CTRL-BREAK during processing;
- /E bypass environment variable DDOPT=... reading, thus ignoring default parameters;
- /F display all messages in French instead of English;
- /I ignore hardware errors (this is especially useful in unattended batch files);
- /K keep the directory structure, just remove all the files;
- /L delete the listfile after it has been processed;
- /M be mute, don't report anything even errors (this is the same as a redirection to NUL);
- /O only process empty files (whose size is zero bytes);
- /O only process files and ignore directories with the same pattern;
- /P pause when the screen is full (it is not confined to 25-lines displays!);
- /Q be quiet, don't report items removed (but will report hardware errors);
- /R only process directories and ignore files with the same pattern;
- /S also delete files in sub directories;
- /V verify that files have correctly been deleted or wiped;
- /W wipe files instead of deleting them (data cannot be recovered even with UNERASE);
- /X exclude the files which have been created or modified since the last backup;
- /Z exclude hidden and system files.

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## Notes:

Multiple options can be combined (e.g. /bcP is equal to /b /c /p); they can be either upper- or lowercase (e.g. /c is equal to /C); and can start with - instead of / (e.g. -p is equal to /p).

If you want to delete files or directories beginning with either "/", "-", "@" or "#" then double these characters, e.g. to delete -N.DAT type DELDIR --N.DAT. This is because these four characters are normally used to specify options, exclusions, or listfiles.

Default options can be set via the DOS variable DDOPT in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file (e.g. add the line SET DDOPT=AF to always ask for confirmation in French).

If the output is redirected to a log file or to a printer with ">" or ">>" then the options /A (ask for confirmation) and /P (pause when screen is full) will be ignored.

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## Warnings:

Using DELDIR C:\\*.\* /DW would completely *wipe* your harddisk and wouldn't allow you to even stop the process! Just to say that you should always combine the /W (wipe) option with the /A (ask for confirmation) option. Also remember that unless the /Z option is specified, system and hidden files and directories are *not* protected!

Drive and/or paths are not allowed in exclusions, so "#mydir\\*.doc" will be refused. Exclusions are only for file patterns. Also don't forget that the characters [],!\*-\ are used in the extended patterns; if you want to use them literally, precede them with a backslash:

#hello.*	means "exclude files HELLO with any extension"
#hello.\*	means "exclude files HELLO with, literally, the '*' extension"

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### *The ERRORLEVEL value:*

DelDir returns an ERRORLEVEL value (0 through 255) composed as follows:

- either a zero value, meaning that the process ran fine;
- either a non-zero value, meaning that some trouble occurred:

1st bit set	(1)	file attributes could not be cleared (typically on network files);
2nd bit set	(2)	a wrong parameter had been specified (e.g. /u);
3rd bit set	(4)	a directory or file does not exist;
4th bit set	(8)	access to a file had been denied (typically on network files);
5th bit set	(16)	the code has been modified -or- the DOS version is older than 3.30;
6th bit set	(32)	the current directory had been specified;
7th bit set	(64)	a directory could not be removed (run CHKDSK or NDD);
8th bit set	(128)	a file could not be deleted (run CHKDSK or NDD).

This allows batch files to be aware of DelDir's eventual abnormal termination.

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### *Some examples:*

```
DELDIR tmp --temp -r
```

deletes whole directories TMP and -TEMP ignoring files TMP. or -TEMP. in the root.

```
DELDIR \*.bak \*.old -s -af
```

deletes all .BAK and .OLD files in current drive, requesting confirmation in French.

```
DELDIR d:\docs\???.doc /WXSQ
```

wipes all three-letters .DOC files in D:\DOCS and under, except the new ones, and doesn't display anything but errors.

```
DELDIR a: /i/e/d #*.cpp #*.pas
```

deletes whole diskette in A:, except the C++ and Pascal files, ignoring DDOPT, hardware faults and user interruptions.

```
DELDIR @\todelete.lst #[0-9]*.*
```

deletes all the files listed in \TODELETE.LST but excludes files containing a figure.

```
DELDIR -m -0 m:
```

deletes all empty files in M: and don't report anything, but keeps the directory structure

```
DELDIR \*.bak \*.tmp \*.old -s >>\deldir.log
```

removes all .BAK, .TMP and .OLD files, and appends report to \DELDIR.LOG.  
using -a or -p here would be ignored.

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## About...

DelDir is freeware, it can be freely copied and used without any restrictions provided the code and documentation are left unmodified. I hope that you appreciate its versatility and its many options.

I have written the program with Borland C++ version 3.1 (a superb compiler and a top-level integrated environment by the way) and this minimalist documentation with Microsoft Word for Windows version 6.0 (very nice too) during some white nights...

It has been tested on several 286/386/486 PCs running under the following operating systems: (the minimal configuration is a 286 with 256K memory and DOS v3.3 or higher)

- Microsoft's MS-DOS (versions 3.3, 5.0, 6.0 and 6.2)
- Digital Research's DR-DOS (versions 3.41, 5.0 and 6.0),
- Novell's NetWare (versions 2.15, 3.11 and 4.01), provided you have enough access rights.

Please report bugs and suggestions for improvement, likes and dislikes, to:

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You can also send electronic mail to:

- MCI Mail: 568-9552
- Internet: 5689552@mcimail.com
- AppleLink: Mendez.Bel
- CompuServe: 100010,3700

I try to upload the latest version of DelDir on the same day to the following BBSes:

- CompuServe (in the IBMAPP forum)
- Rusty'n Edie (USA)
- Top 50 (France)
- Hysteria (Belgium)

If you upload this program to another BBS (this is a nice idea, thank you!) please use the filename DELDIR27 and the extension ZIP or LZH or ARJ. Still better, you can create a self-extracting archive provided your target BBS allows EXE files to be uploaded. The archive should contain at least the program (DELDIR.EXE), the documentation (DELDIR.RTF) and the descriptions (FILE\_ID.DIZ, DESC.SDI) in an unmodified form.

Keep in mind that using PKzip v2.\* means that users of PKzip v1.\* may be unable to unzip the archive! Anyway in my opinion Lharc and Arj are *much* better alternatives...

Special thanks go to PHL for beta-testing and advice!