

RDEL

Recursive DElete Utility

By

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## RDEL - Recursive DElete Utility

### Purpose

Did you ever want to delete every file with the .BAK extension on your hard drive, no matter where it was? Imagine the time you'd waste searching and deleting each one. Even if you use a file finder and searched for \*.BAK, how long would it take you to get into each directory and delete them? And if you use a file manager, again, even with the file specification set to \*.BAK, to mark and delete every \*.BAK would take some time.

RDEL to the rescue! RDEL is short for Recursive DElete utility. What this means to non-computer types is that RDEL searches from the current working directory, or the directory you specify, through every sub-directory looking for and deleting every file matching the file specification you give it.

RDEL can even find and delete read-only, system, and hidden files, even if they are in hidden sub-directories!

### Requirements

RDEL requires DOS 2.11 or higher to work. RDEL doesn't check the version, and I don't know if it will work on a version earlier than that, but I trust my compiler's technical documentation, and I couldn't find a computer running anything less than 2.11 on which to test it!

If you're using some version earlier than that, try it. If it works, the first thing to do is to let me know. At the very least, I can correct my documentation. The next thing you need to do if you're using a DOS version less than 2.11 is to UPGRADE!!!

### RDEL - How To Do It

With all utilities I write, you get help by entering the program with no arguments on the command line. What you see is a Reader's Digest version of this documentation. RDEL requires at least two command line arguments:

```
rdel [/s /x /v] filespec
```

The "filespec" is any valid DOS file specification. Note that RDEL will delete every file that matches that file specification in the current working directory and every sub-directory below it.

The optional switches are described as follows:

/s

This switch tells RDEL to remove all empty sub-directories within the tree as it works.

/x

This switch tells RDEL to look for read-only, hidden and system files. Be careful using this switch as no file meeting the specification is safe from RDEL. RDEL nails 'em!

/v

This turns OFF a verify flag. Normally, RDEL does its work safely, politely asking permission prior to deleting anything. But, there is an option to turn OFF that flag causing RDEL to go on killing everything in sight that matches the file specification.

Note that even if you turn OFF the verify flag, RDEL will ALWAYS ask permission before deleting read-only, system, and hidden files.

### What RDEL Does

RDEL takes off by first testing your command line. If you have turned OFF the verify flag, RDEL ensures that you didn't make a mistake, giving you the opportunity to turn the verify flag ON before going on.

After that first question, RDEL begins in your current directory looking for all files matching the file specification. It then goes through each sub-directory and each sub-directory under those looking for files. As RDEL works, it tells you what it is doing, telling you that such-and-such file was deleted or this-and-that sub-directory was removed.

If the /x switch was used, if a file matching the file specification that is read-only and or hidden and or a system file, RDEL will display all the attributes for that file and request permission before deleting them.

### Other Information

#### Installing

When you get this program, there is no installation utility. In fact, RDEL is ready to run (unless, of course, you haven't un-archived it from the BBS or service from which you downloaded it). Just copy RDEL into a directory that your PATH command includes. Look in your DOS manual(s) for more information on what PATH does.

#### History & Direction

Like all other utilities I write, I first wrote RDEL because we needed something like it where I work. I was first asked to write something that would kill all backup files on a network. The backup files numbered in the hundreds, took up mega-mega-bytes, and were contained in just about every directory on the machine.

So, I recognize a chance to do something useful and new, so I wrote something. We had an old utility that would kill sub-directories, but it wouldn't delete JUST the

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backup files. As I wrote it, I realized that if I could remove empty sub-directories, I could also provide a means to remove an entire directory tree.

If you give the command:

```
rdel /s /v /x *.*
```

You can guarantee that everything from your current working directory down will be gone! Therefore, if you have two versions of software residing on the same computer, like we often do, and you need to get rid of the older version with one command, RDEL will zap it for you.

I'm sure we aren't the only people seeking a quick and efficient way to take care of business. Don't get me wrong. If I need to delete one file or all of a particular file specification, I still use the trusty old DEL command. And, there are times when figuring out my exceptions takes longer than using a file manager. RDEL isn't intended to replace all these goodies. It's just more candy on the cake!

For future versions, I am planning to provide multiple file specifications and an exception handler. If you want an exception handling delete utility, look for my program XDEL.EXE roaming around somewhere. The next version of RDEL, however, will combine the talents of these two programs into one!

Any other suggestions are welcome. Just mail me a note with the address above or below, and I'll see what I can do.

### Future Support

Future support of enhancement requests for RDEL will depend upon the number of people who respond to me regarding their use of this program. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REGISTER OR PAY ME A DIME TO USE THIS SOFTWARE** (Of course, if you feel generous ...). But, please, let me know how you are using the software, what you'd like to see it do, etc., etc. You can write to me at the address above or below.

Basically, the more people who actually use it, the more demand I will see, and I will continue to support it. If enough people think my stuff is useable, I might just go ahead and shrink-wrap it! But, for right now, I want to be able to deliver the kind of stuff we have found we have needed to the rest of the world.

### Cost & Registration

There is no cost or registration for RDEL. I am distributing the program and this documentation as **FREEWARE!!!**

Now, **THIS** is how I want to make my money. I will sell the **COMPLETE C SOURCE CODE** for RDEL for \$10.00. Just send a request and \$10.00 to me at:

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Checks and cash and things that can be turned into cash will be accepted. No credit cards please. (Of course, if you'd like to send my kids to college or buy me a new house, I'll accept that too!)

Be sure to include your return address and the kind of diskettes you want. I will send it the day I receive payment. You will receive a package with the latest executable version of RDEL, the latest C source code both printed AND on the diskette type and size you request.

I'll hang on to your address so that if we discover a small bug or some other kind of cosmetic problem, I'll send you the corrected source FREE, up to but not including the next major version of RDEL! (Sounds like registration, doesn't it???)

I'll probably even be nice enough to give you the next version's source for half-price or something if you order.<g> Whatever the case, I won't let you regret it. I'm not doing this to get rich, I just think that the program doesn't offer enough for sale, but the source does!