File Check Help Index

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The Index contains a list of all Help topics available for File Check. For information on how to use Help, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu.

Why Use FC?

Although viruses get a huge amount of attention, there are a multitude of ways in which your disk files can get corrupted: power failures; brownouts and surges; hardware failures and design flaws; software design flaws; inadvertent and malicious human behavior, etc.   The use of FC gives you the ability to feel reasonably secure as to the state of your files.

Validating you files and backing up your disk have a number of things in common.   They both are inconvenient to do and they both are found out to be VERY important after it is too late.   At the very least one should mark all of their .COM and .EXE files as read only and run FC against them on a regular basis.   In DOS this can be unpleasant, but under a multitasking operation system, having FC run in the background is quite acceptable.

FC Data File Creation

FC uses a data file to compare the checksums and sizes of the files you wish to verify.   This data file may be created in a variety of ways.   The simplest manner is to use a pure ASCII editor of your choice, NOT A WORD PROCESSOR WITH EMBEDDED FORMATTING CODES.   Just edit in the FULL path name of the files in question.   Lines that are blank or that begin with a semicolon are ignored by FC.   For example, suppose you create the file FC.DAT, which looks as follows:

    ;file list for drive C

    c:\command.com
    C:\DOS\CHKDSK.COM
    c:\DoS\SuBsT.eXe

Then at the DOS prompt you enter the line:

    fc /u c:\fc.dat

If you would like to check EVERY file on a given drive, the use of the /f switch will assist you.   In this case enter the line:

    fc /f d: c:\fc.dat

IF THE DRIVE TO BE SCANNED AND THE DESTINATION OF THE FC DATA FILE ARE THE SAME, YOU WILL NEED TO EDIT OUT THE LINE THAT REFERS TO THAT DATA FILE!

If you care to only check your .COM and .EXE files, simply edit out the inappropriate lines.

By definition, files that are not supposed to change should be marked as read only.   If this is the case on your disk, FC has a very simple way to generate its data file.   Merely enter the line:

    fc /r c: c:\fc.dat

FC works on all files, even if they are marked as system and/or hidden.

FC Data File Updating

If you have replaced one or more files that are referenced in FC.DAT, the following command would be the way to update the data file:

    fc /u c:\fc.dat

As explained under FC Data File Creation, you could edit in new files before doing the update, too.

Extra Security

Although it would be extremely difficult, it is possible that a sufficiently determined and knowledgeable individual could modify a file in such a manner that the checksum and size would remain unchanged. However, FC allows you to give it a checksum bias so that you can generate a completely new, but just as reliable, set of values for it to use.   As described under Command Line Syntax, the "+" option will enable you to make your files virtually immune to undetectable changes.   IF YOU USE THIS OPTION, YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT IT IS ON THE COMMAND LINE FOR ANY INSTANCE OF FC THAT WILL BE DOING A CHECK WHERE THE DATA FILE WAS UPDATED WITH THE BIAS IN EFFECT.

Why Register?

The main reason to purchase any program is because it is ethically correct.   Not registering is an abuse of the shareware concept and in the long run will cause this method of distribution to disappear.   FC represents a large investment of time and money and as such the author expects compensation if you use FC beyond the trial period.

Although the unregistered version is not lacking any file checking features, it will not allow for completely automatic operation.

Shareware Notice & Disclaimer

File Check Version 1.00
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————————————————— S H A R E W A R E ——————————————————
User-Supported Software

If you continue to use this program after the 7 day trial period, please remit $30 to:

——— Terratech ———
19817 61st Ave. S.E.
Snohomish, WA 98290

A disk will be sent to you containing a registered version.
You are encouraged to copy this program as described below.

** NOTICE: Users of this program are granted a limited license to make copies of this program for trial use by others on a private non-commercial basis.   This limited license does not include:

   1. Distributing this program in connection with any other product
   2. Making the program available for any consideration or 'disk fee'
   3. Distributing the program in modified form

Command Line Syntax

SYNTAX: FC *[drive:] [options] [data file (default is FC.DAT)]*

OPTIONS:
    +*[number]* = number is a value from 0 to 255 for use as described in <u>Extra Security</u>
    /0 or /1 = icon style value (default is 0)
    /e(xecute) = run without any additional user input
    /f(ull) = recursive scan on drive
    /i(con) = minimize during execution
    /p(ause) = do not close window on exit
    /P(ause) = do not close window on exit and restore if iconic
    /r(ead only files) = recursive scan on drive
    /u(pdate) = update data file
    /v(erbose) = minimum display of progress
    /V(erbose) = maximum display of progress

EXIT VALUE
    0   no error
    1   invalid checksum or size
    2   checksum error
    4   size error
    8   FC PROGRAM NOT REGISTERED
    16   a file could not be opened
    32   FC program corruption

Icon

When this option is selected, FC is reduced to an icon when file checking is underway.   The FC window will be restored if an error is encountered.

Verbose

When this option is selected, FC will post additional information when file checking is underway.

Pause

When this option is selected, FC will not close its window after the file checking is completed.   FC will automatically pause and restore an iconic window if the exit value, as described in <u>Command Line Syntax</u>, is not 0 or if the pause and restore option is in effect.

Mode

Checking
> The files listed in the FC data file are verified.

Full
> A recursive scan is done on all the files of the given drive.

Read Only
> A recursive scan is done on the read-only files of the given drive.

Update
> The FC data file is updated with the appropriate values for those files listed in it.

Other

OK
> The parameters that were in effect before the Options box was selected are updated.

Cancel
> The parameters that were in effect before the Options box was selected remain unchanged.

Execute
> The file checking will begin with the current options.

ABORT
> The file checking is halted.

Windows Keys

The keyboard topics below come from Help for Windows.   Choose from the following list to review the keys used in Windows:

Cursor Movement Keys
Dialog Box Keys
Editing Keys
Help Keys
Menu Keys
System Keys
Text Selection Keys
Window Keys

Cursor Movement Keys

Key(s)	Function
DIRECTION key	Moves the cursor left, right, up, or down in a field.
End or Ctrl+Right Arrow	Moves to the end of a field.
Home or CTRL+Left Arrow	Moves to the beginning of a field.
PAGE UP or PAGE DOWN	Moves up or down in a field, one screen at a time.

Dialog Box Keys

Key(s)	Function
TAB	Moves from field to field (left to right and top to bottom).
SHIFT+TAB	Moves from field to field in reverse order.
ALT+letter	Moves to the option or group whose underlined letter matches the one you type.
DIRECTION key	Moves from option to option within a group of options.
ENTER	Executes a command button. Or, chooses the selected item in a list box and executes the command.
ESC	Closes a dialog box without completing the command. (Same as Cancel)
ALT+DOWN ARROW	Opens a drop-down list box.
ALT+UP or DOWN ARROW	Selects item in a drop-down list box.
SPACEBAR	Cancels a selection in a list box. Selects or clears a check box.
CTRL+SLASH	Selects all the items in a list box.
CTRL+BACKSLASH	Cancels all selections except the current selection.
SHIFT+ DIRECTION key	Extends selection in a text box.
SHIFT+ HOME	Extends selection to first character in a text box.
SHIFT+ END	Extends selection to last character in a text box

Editing Keys

Key(s)	Function
Backspace	Deletes the character to the left of the cursor.
	Or, deletes selected text.
Delete	Deletes the character to the right of the cursor.
	Or, deletes selected text.

Help Keys

Key(s)	Function
F1	Gets Help and displays the Help Index for the application. If the Help window is already open, pressing F1 displays the "Using Windows Help" topics. In some Windows applications, pressing F1 displays a Help topic on the selected command, dialog box option, or system message.
SHIFT+F1	Changes the pointer to so you can get Help on a specific command, screen region, or key. You can then choose a command, click the screen region, or press a key or key combination you want to know more about. (This feature is not available in all Windows applications.)

Menu Keys

Key(s)	Function
Alt	Selects the first menu on the menu bar.
Letter key	Chooses the menu, or menu item, whose underlined letter matches the one you type.
Alt+letter key	Pulls down the menu whose underlined letter matches the one you type.
LEFT or RIGHT ARROW	Moves among menus.
UP or DOWN ARROW	Moves among menu items.
Enter	Chooses the selected menu item.

System Keys

The following keys can be used from any window, regardless of the application you are using.

Key(s)	Function
Ctrl+Esc	Switches to the Task List.
Alt+Esc	Switches to the next application window or minimized icon, including full-screen programs.
Alt+TAB	Switches to the next application window, restoring applications that are running as icons.
Alt+PrtSc	Copies the entire screen to Clipboard.
Ctrl+F4	Closes the active window.
F1	Gets Help and displays the Help Index for the application. (See <u>Help Keys</u>)

Text Selection Keys

Key(s)	Function
SHIFT+LEFT or RIGHT ARROW	Selects text one character at a time to the left or right.
SHIFT+DOWN or UP	Selects one line of text up or down.
SHIFT+END	Selects text to the end of the line.
SHIFT+HOME	Selects text to the beginning of the line.
SHIFT+PAGE DOWN	Selects text down one window.
	Or, cancels the selection if the next window is already selected.
SHIFT+PAGE UP	Selects text up one window.
	Or, cancels the selection if the previous window is already selected.
CTRL+SHIFT+LEFT or RIGHT ARROW	Selects text to the next or previous word.
CTRL+SHIFT+UP or DOWN ARROW	Selects text to the beginning (UP ARROW) or end (DOWN ARROW) of the paragraph.
CTRL+SHIFT+END	Selects text to the end of the document.
CTRL+SHIFT+HOME	Selects text to the beginning of the document.

Window Keys

Key(s)	Function
ALT+SPACEBAR	Opens the Control menu for an application window.
ALT+Hyphen	Opens the Control menu for a document window.
Alt+F4	Closes a window.
Alt+Esc	Switches to the next application window or minimized icon, including full-screen programs.
Alt+TAB	Switches to the next application window, restoring applications that are running as icons.
Alt+ENTER	Switches a non-Windows application between running in a window and running full screen.
DIRECTION key	Moves a window when you have chosen Move from the Control menu. Or, changes the size of a window when you have chosen Size from the Control menu.