

Bat-Ques

To ask a question:

Bat-Ques tttttt\$ where tttttt is the text of the question

User then keys a single character response.

To check answer, use IF [not] errorlevel cc, where cc is the character code value of the response. Only single character responses are supported.

This program allows one to build decently friendly batch files. One no longer has only the ctrl-break response to a pause (which isn't very friendly).

Examples:

This program allows a batch file to ask the user a question and return a one-character response which is testable by the IF subcommand of bat files, via the errorlevel.

You use the question asker per following example:

```
.  
. (your batch file to ask if user wants to edit with  
.   mince/emacs or ibm's editor)  
.  
echo off  
bat-ques WHICH EDITOR, m OR e FOR MINCE (EMACS), i FOR IBM's? $  
if errorlevel 110 goto badresp  
if errorlevel 109 goto minceed  
if errorlevel 106 goto badresp  
if errorlevel 105 goto ibmed  
if errorlevel 102 goto badresp  
if errorlevel 101 goto minceed  
:badresp  
echo Your response was invalid. Sorry.  
goto endit  
:minceed  
if not exist mincomm.sum copy \bin\mince.swp mince.swp  
mince %1  
if not exist mincomm.sum del mince.swp  
goto endit
```

```
:ibmed
profed %1
:edit
echo on
```

Note that the question prompt follows the bat-ques command and must end with a dollar sign. The ascii value of the response is returned as the error level. Since error level tests are always greater than or equal tests, you must check for highest value first and lowest value last. Example above shows what you do to check for missing values. Note that the example assumes lower case answers only for simplicity sake.

Ascii values (e.g., A is 65, B is 66, a is 97) are found in back of your BASIC manual. Only one character responses are accepted, and they are not followed by a carriage return.

Extended ascii codes (function and alt keys) should work as per page G-6 of your BASIC manual; the first call to bat-ques will return a zero and the next call (presumably "bat-ques \$" without another prompt) will return the number shown on page G-7.

```
{
```