

## Re: Limits on Parens in Batch files

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.cmdprompt.admin/2004-12/0048.html>

---

**From:** Matthias Tacke (*Matthias\_at\_Tacke.de*)

**Date:** 12/07/04

Date: Tue, 07 Dec 2004 21:52:16 +0100

HipHopHank schrieb:

> *The code I was having a problem with invoved several labels and the goto*  
> *command. All the labels and the goto's were within the parens, but they just*  
> *seemed to make the command processor nuts. The best I could do was get a*  
> *single pass through the for loop and then the program stopped. I don't know*  
> *at this point if it is the 'FOR' command or the Parens that had the problem.*  
> *I solved it by using the call command to call a label within the file. That*  
> *is working fine.*

>

> *This works:*

>

But there are flaws.

In a batch you've to take care yourself that a called routine is seperated from normal flow.

```
> @echo off
> setlocal enableextensions enabledelayedexpansion
> d:
> cd \programs\batch
> for /f %%i IN (MachineList.txt) do (
> echo %%i
> call :worker %%i
> )
> endlocal
>
```

The endlocal is implied when terminating the batch and and resets path and variables to the state when setlocal was issued. Here is a missing:

```
goto :eof
```

```
> :worker
> nbtstat -a %1 | find "<1E> GROUP"
> if !ERRORLEVEL! NEQ 0 goto F
>
```

The usage of delayed expansion isn't necessary.

You could use conditional execution || or && to control flow as an alternative.

```
> dir \\%1\Admin$\explorer.exe /b
> if !ERRORLEVEL! NEQ 0 goto X
>
> freedisk /S %1 /D c: 10MB
> if !ERRORLEVEL! NEQ 0 goto N
> echo %1 found>>foundlog.txt
> goto L
> :F
> echo F
> goto L
> :X
> echo X
> goto L
> :N
> echo N
> :L
> Echo L
> goto :EOF
```

The :eof doesn't need to be defined, it is implied.

```
> This doesn't:
<snipped>
```

```
> The labels are only stubs, something useful will be there soon, now that I
> have the basic logic working. The only thing I don't know at this point is
> if the set local carries over through the call. I don't seem to need it, but
> I don't like to use code I don't understand.
>
```

This batch should do the same as your sample. Readability is a matter of personal preference – I like it more compact.

```
@echo off&setlocal EnableExtensions EnableDelayedExpansion
cd /D d:\programs\batch
for /f %%A IN (MachineList.txt) do echo %%A&call :worker %%A
goto :eof
:worker
nbtstat -a %1 |find "<1E> GROUP"||(echo f &exit /b 1)
dir \\%1\Admin$\explorer.exe /b ||(echo X & exit /b 2)
freedisk /S %1 /D c: 10MB ||(echo N & exit /b 3)
echo %1 found>>foundlog.txt
```

My usage of exit /b errorlevel allows a sub or batch to pass information to the caller. (Though not acted upon here)

HTH

--

microsoft.public.win2000.cmdprompt.admin: Re: Limits on Parens in Batch files

Gruesse Greetings Saludos Saluti Salutations  
Matthias

-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+