

## Re: Sophisticated(!) copying in DOS

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-06/msg01377.html>

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- *From:* "Kerry Brown" <[kerry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx\\*a\\*m](mailto:kerry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx*a*m)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 2 Jun 2005 17:39:30 -0700
- 

"RJB" <[notpublic@xxxxxxx](mailto:notpublic@xxxxxxx)> wrote in message

[news:qLMne.18654\\$Ib.6973@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:qLMne.18654$Ib.6973@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

> Dude. Check the hostility.

>

> I have confirmed in damn near every thread that I AM running from the  
> command prompt.

>

> I didn't understand your "explicit" so I asked for clarification.

>

> My ONLY problem is with the /EXCLUDE switch. So it makes sense to me to  
> focus on that. It is not a tangent. It IS the problem.

>

> Since the paths are correct when the switch is not in there, I am  
> presuming the paths are STILL correct when it is. I can copy between  
> directories till my toes curl, what I can't do is exclude a list of files.  
> Which is all I want to do.

>

> My comment "I don't know where it is" – I have the batch file. It is on my  
> desktop. When it runs, I don't know what IT considers its "explicit"  
> location. If I move it to any directory, I get the same result – nothing.

>

> I have done everything everybody has suggested. I have done my best to  
> explain what the results were, and if I tried modifying others'  
> suggestions, I have tried to explain that.

>

> But thanks, for the first time in decades, I actually feel like I'm a  
> moron.

>

I'm sorry if you are frustrated. I'm sorry if I appear hostile. I'm not hostile, just frustrated, as you are. Not knowing how something works doesn't make you a moron. I have spent hours crafting scripts to copy files to CDRW for backups. It can be very frustrating getting it working as expected. The key is to figure out exactly what you want to do then create a very simple test situation. Once the test situation is working then apply it to the original problem.

It appears you don't understand that Windows XP is not built on DOS. When a

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program runs it has it's own unique environment. Because of this scripts (batch files) often work differently than they did in earlier versions of Windows. If you run a file from your desktop it won't have any idea where the exclude file is located. From all the posts it sounds like this is your problem. Usually it is simplest to have the script and any associated files in the source directory. Make a shortcut on your desktop to run the script.

I suggest you create two temporary directories on a local drive. Keep it very simple. e.g. C:\TEMP1 and C:\TEMP2.

Copy the files to TEMP1.

Create the exclude file in TEMP1. Call it EXCLUDE.TXT.

Start a cmd prompt and navigate to TEMP1 so that the prompt in the cmd window looks like this C:\TEMP1>.

Type "XCOPY C:\*. \* C:\TEMP2\ /EXCLUDE;EXCLUDE.TXT". Without the quotations and trailing period.

Keep it very simple, maybe one line in EXCLUDE.TXT that only excludes one file. Make sure to keep the batch file and the exclude file in the source directory. See if that works. If it doesn't work report back. There is some other problem. If it does then you have to figure out how to apply this to your situation.

It appears you don't understand that Windows XP is not built on DOS. I say this because DOS and earlier versions of Windows used .bat files. Win2K and XP use .cmd files usually called scripts. For compatibilty XP will run .bat files the same as .cmd files. It really doesn't matter what you call them, they should work. When a program runs it has it's own unique environment. Because of this scripts often work differently than they did in earlier versions of Windows. If you run a file from your desktop it won't have any idea where the exclude file is located. From all the posts it sounds like this is your problem. Usually it is simplest to have the script and any associated files in the source directory. Make a shortcut to the batch file on your desktop to run the script.

Kerry

> "Kerry Brown" <kerry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx\*a\*m> wrote in message  
> [news:e2m2jw7ZFHA.3144@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:e2m2jw7ZFHA.3144@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>> "RJB" <notpublic@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>> [news:BdKne.8224\\$zb.4292@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:BdKne.8224$zb.4292@xxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>>> read everyone's posts and try following directions. Once it's working  
>>>> you can build from there.  
>>>  
>>> Um, I appreciate the advice, but I HAVE been trying to follow  
>>> directions. In fact, I will go one step further, and say that I HAVE  
>>> followed directions.  
>>>

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>>  
>> Then why haven't you tried it from a cmd prompt, while in the source  
>> directory, with the exclude file in the source directory, with no path  
>> names in the command line other than the destination directory? This will  
>> help to diagnose if it is a path related problem. I suggested this and  
>> your response was:  
>>  
>> What do you mean "make sure [I am] explicitly in the directory"? I am  
>> running the batch file FROM the destination laptop...  
>>  
>> Then you went off on a tangent about the /EXCLUDE parameter.  
>>  
>> I then posted again repeating the instructions and you said you don't  
>> know where the file is. If you don't know where it is how do you copy it  
>> in the first place? If it is a network share then just map a drive to  
>> that share. You seem unable or unwilling to understand and follow  
>> directions. I'm not trying to put you down. Diagnosing a problem by  
>> newsgroup is frustrating at the best of times. When you keep repeating  
>> that you are following directions when you clearly aren't it is even more  
>> frustrating.  
>>  
>> Kerry  
>>  
>>  
>  
>

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Sophisticated(!) copying in DOS**  
◇ From: RJB

• *References:*

- ◆ **Re: Sophisticated(!) copying in DOS**  
◇ From: RJB
- ◆ **Re: Sophisticated(!) copying in DOS**  
◇ From: Pegasus \(\MVP\)
- ◆ **Re: Sophisticated(!) copying in DOS**  
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