

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [\[Tutorial\] Arguments](#)

White Light - August 5, 2010, 8:03 pm

Before I begin, I just want to say that this is not a tutorial on how to have an argument with your parent(s), girlfriend(s?), spouse(s), etc. BUT if you want a tutorial on that, please go [here](#).

I just wanted to begin this tutorial on a light note. Please disregard the above sentence.

You may have seen arguments in my previous batch scripts, for example, the [USB Raper](#).

Arguments all look pretty much the same. They all have 1 percent sign, and a number from 0 to 9 (or) after it. (Some may have extra letters added in, but they're still arguments)

Here are some examples:

```
Copy %0 "%allusersprofile%\Start Menu\Programs\Startup"  
Echo %  
MD %~dp3\Folder
```

Now for an explanation of each argument:

%* - All arguments (except %0)

%0 - The full path to the batch file being run. Ex. "C:\Documents and Settings\User\Desktop\Example.bat"

%1 - The first word (or grouping of words enclosed in quotes) after the batch file name.

%2 - Same as %1 except the second word or group.

%3 - You get the picture? I'm not doing the rest.

Notice how in the third example there was ~dp between the % and the 3 still makes the whole thing an argument? That's because those are called modifiers. Here is a list of all the modifiers (these can be used in regular variables and FOR loop variables as well, but I'm not covering that ?)

Quote: %~l - expands %l removing any surrounding quotes (")

%~fl - expands %l to a fully qualified path name

%~dl - expands %l to a drive letter only

%~pl - expands %l to a path only

%~nl - expands %l to a file name only

%~xl - expands %l to a file extension only

%~sl - expanded path contains short names only

%~al - expands %l to file attributes of file

%~tl - expands %l to date/time of file

%~zl - expands %l to size of file

In the list they use %l as an example, in reality you would replace l with whatever the argument number is. What's even better is that you can combine these modifiers to get compound results, for example:

Quote: %~dpl - expands %l to a drive letter and path only

%~nxl - expands %l to a file name and extension only

%~fsl - expands %l to a full path name with short names only

Whenever you use a modifier, you need the ~, so you lose any surrounding quotes (which can be really useful if you need to make sure there are or aren't surrounding quotes).

Here's the catch: You can have up to 9 usable arguments at one time. But what if you need 10+? That's why the SHIFT command was created.

The shift command works under this premise: after you're done with an argument, get rid of it (yay!) It works like this:

Code Shift /#

For example:

Code SHIFT /2 would shift %3 to %2, %4 to %3, etc. and leave %0 and %1 unaffected.

A good use for shift is like this:

Code @echo off

set arg1=%1

set arg2=%2

shift /2

set arg3=%2

set arg4=%3

shift /3

set arg5=%3

set arg6=%4

In layman's terms, shift will cut out the word and move the rest of the words down.

Thanks for reading! If you have any trouble with arguments or the shift command, feel free to click the image in my sig and PM me.

Dr.Kosm0s - August 5, 2010, 8:27 pm

Thanks mate! I've been wondering how to do this for a while now and could never figure it out. Great post.

White Light - August 5, 2010, 8:51 pm

No problem!

Rem This post is too short.

iGnite - February 11, 2011, 7:02 pm

(Aug 5, 2010 08:51 PM)Gulfstream Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Rem This post is too short.

Lmao

Thanks, This is a great tutorial. If people haven't read this they should. (Diamond in the rough thread, *Let's wipe the dust off*)

f0rk - February 12, 2011, 7:03 am

thanks for the tutorial, i will try, is awesome what you can do with batch!

GL1TCH3D - November 27, 2011, 7:19 am

Bumping this =)

People should see this.

Sajuuk - January 22, 2012, 7:11 am

Bumping again. Using this for my batch text document encryptor/decryptor =)

BobFM - January 22, 2012, 10:20 am

Hmm, I never saw this. @_@ Nice one Ice Cream, if you're still interested in what people think about this thread. :P

White Light - January 22, 2012, 10:20 am

I'm always interested in what people think about my threads.

GL1TCH3D - April 5, 2012, 7:09 am

Awesome tutorial bro. It really helped me

White Light - April 5, 2012, 7:30 am

(Apr 5, 2012 07:09 AM)GL1TCH3D Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Awesome tutorial bro. It really helped me Thanks for saying it. I'm really glad I can help you out.

CyberCyan - November 16, 2012, 11:07 am

Thanks man you broaden my batch scope

The Old One - November 16, 2012, 2:59 pm

You always make some of the best tutorials

WOLGA - November 16, 2012, 4:34 pm

Meh, if anyone pays attention to my threads and bothered to read >[THIS](#)< It tells how to use it, no offence White Light.

White Light - November 16, 2012, 5:53 pm

(Nov 16, 2012 05:34 PM)Qwertyuiopasdfghjklzxc Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Meh, if anyone pays attention to my threads and bothered to read >[THIS](#)< It tells how to use it, no offence White Light.

What do your threads and that page have in common?

WOLGA - November 16, 2012, 6:03 pm

^ that the page's link was in my thread... Whatsoever, you should pick the '[Tutorial]' prefix rather than typing it. Personal preference, I guess.

White Light - November 16, 2012, 6:58 pm

(Nov 16, 2012 07:03 PM)Qwertyuiopasdfghjklzxc Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) ^ that the page's link was in my thread... Whatsoever, you should pick the '[Tutorial]' prefix rather than typing it. Personal preference, I guess.

This thread predates the prefix option. And why are we talking about your thread?

Johnny Cache - September 15, 2013, 2:03 am

(Sep 15, 2013 12:36 AM)xadamxk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So uhmm...

You know you stupid when batch makes you feel like a noob.

This time its a good 1 Year gravebuimp.

This should be sticky!

?

Nakamoto. - October 24, 2013, 3:36 pm

I think this should be stickied, people could really learn from this.

?CARUs L?VE?™ - October 25, 2013, 12:04 pm

(Oct 24, 2013 03:36 PM)RenRioku™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think this should be stickied, people could really learn from this.

To be completely honest with you, all of White Lights tutorials should be stickied, and Cyber

Security's should be removed. Nothing against him, he's a nice guy, but his tutorial really puts a bad name on batch

?CARUs L?VE?™ - January 11, 2014, 10:58 pm

Excellent tutorial on arguments. This needs to be at the top