Article: Multi-line IF statements in batch file
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DOS – Multi-Line IF Statements in Batch File

Most folks don't realize it, but you can actually place multiple statements into if-else clauses. In fact, most people don't even realize that the [gs batch] file allows you to have an else clause. The following code demonstrates how you can have multi-line **IF** statements, so that you don't have to do a lot of goto's.

The **'('** and **')'** must be on the same line as the **if** and **else** statements as shown above. Even though they are not the open and close bracket, you can think of them as such. With **multi-line** if-else statements, you batch file can become far more structured than ever.

What doesn't work and How to fix it

The set variable function does not work inside a multi-statement if-else scope. For example, the following code does not work:

```
if "%tempDir%" == "" (
    set output=*** Variable tempDir not set!
    echo %output%
    echo %output% >> %logFile%
    set success=false
)
```

The batch processor was never able to use the **%output%** that was set within that scope.

SOLUTION 1

The workaround for this problem is to call a **sub-routine** in the if statement. The following is an example:

```
if "%tempDir%" == "" (
    call :subroutine
  )
  goto :end
:subroutine
  set output=*** Variable tempDir not set!
  echo %output%
  echo %output% >> %logFile%
  set success=false
  goto :eof
:end
```

SOLUTION 2

```
SetLocal EnableDelayedExpansion
if "" == "" (
  set output=*** hello dude
  echo !output!
)
echo !output!
echo %output%
EndLocal
```