MICROSOFT WINDOWS – HOW CAN I PERFORM A BATCH ACTION ON A LIST OF FILES FROM THE COMMAND LINE?

You can use the built-in "**for**" command to loop through a list of files. If you type the command:

```
for /f "tokens=*" %a in ('dir /b *.*') do echo %a
```

The command outputs only the name of each file in the current folder, which the **'dir /b *.*'** component can do all by itself.

However, you can edit the "**do**" portion of the command to perform a secondary task.

For example, you can add the name of a batch file and the **%** a parameter to call the batch file on each **.msg** file:

```
for /f "tokens=*" %a in ('dir /b *.msg') do datetime.bat %a
```

In addition to outputting the name of each file in the specified folder, this command adds the current date and time to the end of each **.msg** filename. If you use the command in a batch file, you need to add **two percent (%)** signs instead of one to access the parameters.

For example, if you incorporate the above command into a batch file, you would type it as:

```
for /f "tokens=*" %%a in ('dir /b *.msg') do datetime.bat %%a
```

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