# C:\Users\stefano.maggi.CONBIPELSPA\hbfaceopt.pngC:\Users\stefano.maggi.CONBIPELSPA\Desktop\prom38.png[**What is a Redirection Operator?**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2015/what-is-a-redirection-operator/)

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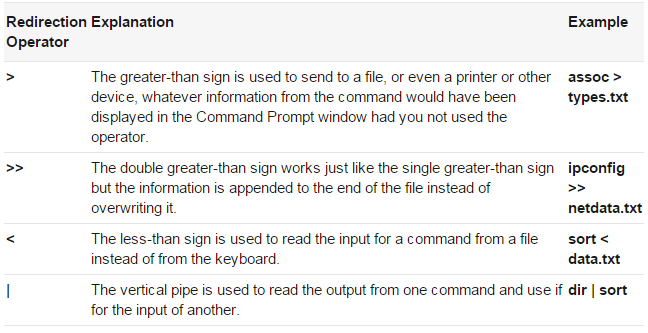
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A **redirection operator** is a special character that can be used with a command, like a **Command Prompt** command or DOS command, to either redirect the input to the command or the output from the command.

By default, when you execute a command, the input comes from the keyboard and the output is sent to the **Command Prompt** window. Command inputs and outputs are called**command handles**.

The table below lists all of the available redirection operators for commands in **Windows**and **MS-DOS**. However, the > and >> redirection operators are, by a considerable margin, the most commonly used.

[](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2015/what-is-a-redirection-operator/7823y4herw/)

**NOTE**: Two other redirection operators, **>&** and **< &**, also exist but deal mostly with more complicated redirection involving command handles.

**TIP**: The **clip**command is worth mentioning here as well. It’s not a redirection operator but it is intended to be used with one, usually the vertical pipe, to redirect the output of the command before the pipe to the **Windows Clipboard**. For example, executing **ping 192.168.1.1 | clip** will copy the results of the ping command to the clipboard, which you can then paste into any program.