Merge concatenate files in windows

Autor:
Data de publicació: 28-11-2020

MS DOS copying several files to one file

Ask Question

Asked 9 years, 4 months ago

Active 2 years, 10 months ago

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I am trying to take a folder that has several .csv files in it and combine all of these files and the information in them, into one file using MS DOS. Any suggestions?

dos

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asked Jul 20 '11 at 15:36

edmon
221 22 gold badges 66 silver badges 1010 bronze badges

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7 Answers

ActiveOldestVotes

41

copy *.csv new.csv

No need for /b as csv isn't a binary file type.

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answered Jul 20 '11 at 15:48

marto
4,0962121 silver badges1515 bronze badges

how do you undo this? See my question here: stackoverflow.com/questions/37357481/… – papiro May 25 '16 at 21:30

2

Note. This does not work in powershell so make sure you're using cmd. Works perfectly using classic command prompt! – Prime By Design Jul 29 '18 at 14:39

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20

copy /b file1 + file2 + file3 newfile

Each source file must be added to the copy command with a +, and the last filename listed will be where the concatenated data is copied to.

share improve this answer follow

answered Jul 20 '11 at 15:38

Marc B
335k3333 gold badges373373 silver badges455455 bronze badges

1

there isnt a copy all (*) command? BC i have like 30 to 40 files. – edmon Jul 20 '11 at 15:45

This version lets you specify the exact order in which you'd like the files copied. with the *.csv method above, you'll get the files in random-ish order. – Marc B Jul 20 '11 at 18:19

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5

If this is part of a batch script (.bat file) and you have a large list of files, you can use a multi-line ^, and optional /Y flag to suppresses prompting to confirm you want to overwrite an existing destination file.

```
REM Concatenate several files to one
COPY /Y ^
   this_is_file_1.csv + ^
   this_is_file_2.csv + ^
   this_is_file_3.csv + ^
   this_is_file_4.csv + ^
   this_is_file_5.csv + ^
   this_is_file_6.csv + ^
   this_is_file_7.csv + ^
   this_is_file_8.csv + ^
   this_is_file_9.csv ^
      output_file.csv
```

This is tidier than performing the command on one line.

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answered Oct 30 '14 at 23:55

Mike T
32.5k1515 gold badges122122 silver badges164164 bronze badges

This format is much cleaner. And I can easily format and prepare thousands of file names in VS Code. Thanks! – jinhr Aug 13 '19 at 14:59

this doesn't work in DOS (as this question is tagged) because DOS doesn't support ^ as an escape character – phuclv Dec 14 '19 at 10:30

add a comment

4

filenames must sort correctly to combine correctly!

file1.bin file2.bin ... file10.bin wont work properly

file01.bin file02.bin ... file10.bin will work properly

c:>for %i in (file*.bin) do type %i >> onebinary.bin

Works for ascii or binary files.

share improve this answer follow

edited Feb 1 '18 at 6:06

Aleks Andreev
6,60488 gold badges2525 silver badges3636 bronze badges

answered Feb 1 '18 at 5:36

James Foote
4111 bronze badge

This worked for me with double quotes. for %i in (*.csv) do type "%i" >> onefile.csv – Warwick Foster Mar 7 at 5:57

add a comment

1

for %f in (filenamewildcard0, filenamewildcard1, ...) do echo %f >> newtargetfilename_with_path

Same idea as Mike T; might work better under MessyDog's 127 character command line limit

share improve this answer follow

answered Oct 23 '15 at 17:20

ColdFultonBSD
1111 bronze badge

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1

type data1.csv > combined.csv
type data2.csv >> combined.csv
type data3.csv >> combined.csv
type data4.csv >> combined.csv

etc.

Assume that your using files without headers and all files have the same columns.

share improve this answer follow

answered Aug 11 '16 at 23:36

Codebeat
5,96555 gold badges4848 silver badges8585 bronze badges

Windows batch - concatenate multiple text files into one
Ask Question

Asked 5 years, 6 months ago

Active 11 days ago

Viewed 151k times

49

10

I need to create a script, which concatenates multiple text files into one. I know it's simple to use

type *.txt > merged.txt

But the requirement is to "concatenate files from same day into file day_YYYY-DD-MM.txt" I am a Linux user and Windows batch is hell for me. It's Windows XP.

windowsbatch-filescripting

share improve this question follow

edited Jul 28 at 14:41

Null
1,532 66 gold badges 2424 silver badges 2828 bronze badges

asked May 26 '15 at 18:41

SpeedEX505
1,546 33 gold badges 1919 silver badges 3232 bronze badges

You should tell us if it needs to be done in a "real" batch file or if powershell / Windows Scripting host is available. For starters you should mention which Windows version needs to be supported (minimum / maximum) – Marged May 26 '15 at 18:47

Its windows XP so there is no powershell – SpeedEX505 May 26 '15 at 18:48

You are going to need a lovely FOR command to do this: stackoverflow.com/questions/9234207/…. Personally, I would not mess with things like this in batch. Even if you can get it to work, the types of object you can use are limited--Powershell is the way to go. – Tony Hinkle May 26 '15 at 18:48

1

You can install Powershell 2.0 on Windows XP. See support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/968929 – Tony Hinkle May 26 '15 at 18:50

1

I did not suggest cygwin because I thought you want a minimal fuzz solution. The title of your question suggests you want a solution based on Windows mechanisms. – Marged May 27 '15 at 6:52

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9 Answers

ActiveOldestVotes

68

Windows type command works similarly to UNIX cat.

Example 1: Merge with file names (This will merge file1.csv & file2.csv to create concat.csv)

type file1.csv file2.csv > concat.csv

Example 2: Merge files with pattern (This will merge all files with csv extension and create concat.csv)

When using asterisk(*) to concatenate all files. Please DON'T use same extension for target file(Eg. .csv). There should be some difference in pattern else target file will also be considered in concatenation

type *.csv > concat_csv.txt

share improve this answer follow

edited Nov 17 at 12:06

answered Oct 31 '18 at 8:29

Shan
2,437 1010 silver badges 3333 bronze badges

5

this is the most straightforward equivalent of the unix command, this should be the accepted answer – Asped Mar 4 '19 at 15:00

It is also the most inefficient way because "type" will do its job in like 4 KiB chunks, making the operation incredibly slow. – Ivan Voras Dec 20 '19 at 19:50

4

DON'T USE THE SAME EXTENSION FOR THE TARGET FILE. I just waited a few minutes when I ran this command until I noticed it got stuck in an infinite loop adding the target file to it-self and creating an ever-growing file (reached 15GB when I noticed it's stuck when trying to combine 2MB of files). – Adam Tal Jan 14 at 0:27

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37

At its most basic, concatenating files from a batch file is done with 'copy'.

copy file1.txt + file2.txt + file3.txt concattedfile.txt

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answered May 26 '15 at 18:55

Lance
3,343 44 gold badges 1515 silver badges 2929 bronze badges

1

I tried copy *.xyz all.bin but the resulting file all.bin only contained a subset of the xyz files in that directory. I can't see why it didn't include all of them. Is the plus syntax necessary? If so that is inconvenient for a large number of files.
– UuDdLrLrSs Nov 9 '17 at 13:16

1

I just created an example per your specs and it behaved as expected. I created "1.xyz", "2.xyz", and "3.xyz". Then ran "copy *.xyz all.bin" and the resulting "all.bin" contained the contents of all 3 files. So I don't know why it's not working for you. – Lance Nov 9 '17 at 14:42

thank you for testing that out. I will have to experiment further to try and find the reason! – UuDdLrLrSs Nov 9 '17 at 19:15

9

You should also mention the "/b" (binary) operator. Using it with text files also copies the BOM header (eg. UTF8+BOM, UCS2+BOM) of each file together and produces massive complications later on... – Bernhard Jul 12 '18 at 14:16

add a comment

10

Place all files need to copied in a separate folder, for ease place them in c drive.

Open Command Prompt - windows>type cmd>select command prompt.

You can see the default directory pointing - Ex : C:[Folder_Name]>. Change the directory to point to the folder which you have placed files to be copied, using ' cd [Folder_Name] ' command.

After pointing to directory - type 'dir' which shows all the files present in folder, just to make sure everything at place.

Now type : 'copy *.txt [newfile_name].txt' and press enter.

Done!

All the text in individual files will be copied to [newfile_name].txt

share improve this answer follow

answered Mar 7 '17 at 8:20

Kingsman
125 11 silver badge 88 bronze badges

5

This appears to append an extra 0x1A character to the end of the resulting file, which if I recall from the way-back-bad-old-days was "control Z", an end of file mark. – ALEXintlsos Jun 5 '17 at 23:30

don't forget to remove the extra caracter 0x1A at the end of the file – Mimouni Sep 27 at 10:55

add a comment

6

In Win 7, on the command prompt use:

copy *.txt combined.txt

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answered Dec 19 '19 at 10:37

Ghoul Fool
4,03477 gold badges5151 silver badges9696 bronze badges

add a comment

5

I am reiterating some of the other points already made, but including a 3rd example that helps when you have files across folders that you want to concatenate.

Example 1 (files in the same folder):

copy file1.txt+file2.txt+file3.txt file123.txt

Example 2 (files in same folder):

type *.txt > combined.txt

Example 3 (files exist across multiple folders, assumes newfileoutput.txt doesn't exist):

for /D %f in (folderName) DO type %f/filename.txt >> .newfileoutput.txt

share improve this answer follow

edited Dec 18 '18 at 17:45

Tobias Wilfert
86433 gold badges1313 silver badges2222 bronze badges

answered Dec 18 '18 at 16:58

Gigasoup

5111 silver badge11 bronze badge

add a comment

3

We can use normal CAT command to merge files..

D:> cat *.csv > outputs.csv

share improve this answer follow

answered May 17 '16 at 10:38

Sadheesh
63766 silver badges66 bronze badges

2

There is no CAT on Windows. – Yarik Jun 6 '17 at 0:19

3

Some packages like Git come with cat, maybe he mistook it for a DOS command. – UuDdLrLrSs Nov 9 '17 at 13:15

1

for sure microsoft released cat.exe -> its included in the nt4 resource kit - see news.microsoft.com/1996/10/29/…
– Bernhard Jul 12 '18 at 14:19

add a comment

1

Try this:

```
@echo off
set yyyy=%date:~6,4%
set mm=%date:~3,2%
set dd=%date:~0,2%

set /p temp= "Enter the name of text file: "
FOR /F "tokens=* delims=" %%x in (texto1.txt, texto2.txt, texto3.txt) DO echo %%x >> day_%temp%.txt
```

This code ask you to set the name of the file after "day_" where you can input the date. If you want to name your file like the actual date you can do this:

```
FOR /F "tokens=* delims=" %%x in (texto1.txt, texto2.txt, texto3.txt) DO echo %%x >> day_%yyyy%-%mm%-%dd%.txt
```

share improve this answer follow

answered May 26 '15 at 19:14

Fernando Madriaga
35833 silver badges1515 bronze badges

1

The result from your answer depends on system's local setting. – Endoro May 26 '15 at 19:31

add a comment

1

cat "input files" > "output files"

This works in PowerShell, which is the Windows preferred shell in current Windows versions, therefore it works. It is also the only version of the answers above to work with large files, where 'type' or 'copy' fails.

share improve this answer follow

answered Jul 2 '18 at 15:38

Stephen
1911 bronze badge

OP edited their post: Its Windows XP. Is there also a solution for Win XP? – CodeF0x Jul 2 '18 at 16:05

use resource kit nt 4.0 - there is an cat.exe (still working on win10) – Bernhard Jul 12 '18 at 14:20

add a comment

1

You can do it using type:

type"C:<Directory containing files>*.txt"> merged.txt

all the files in the directory will be appendeded to the file merged.txt.