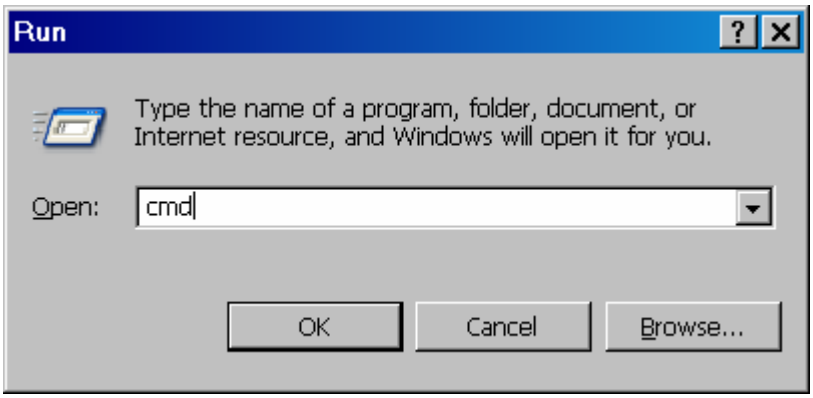
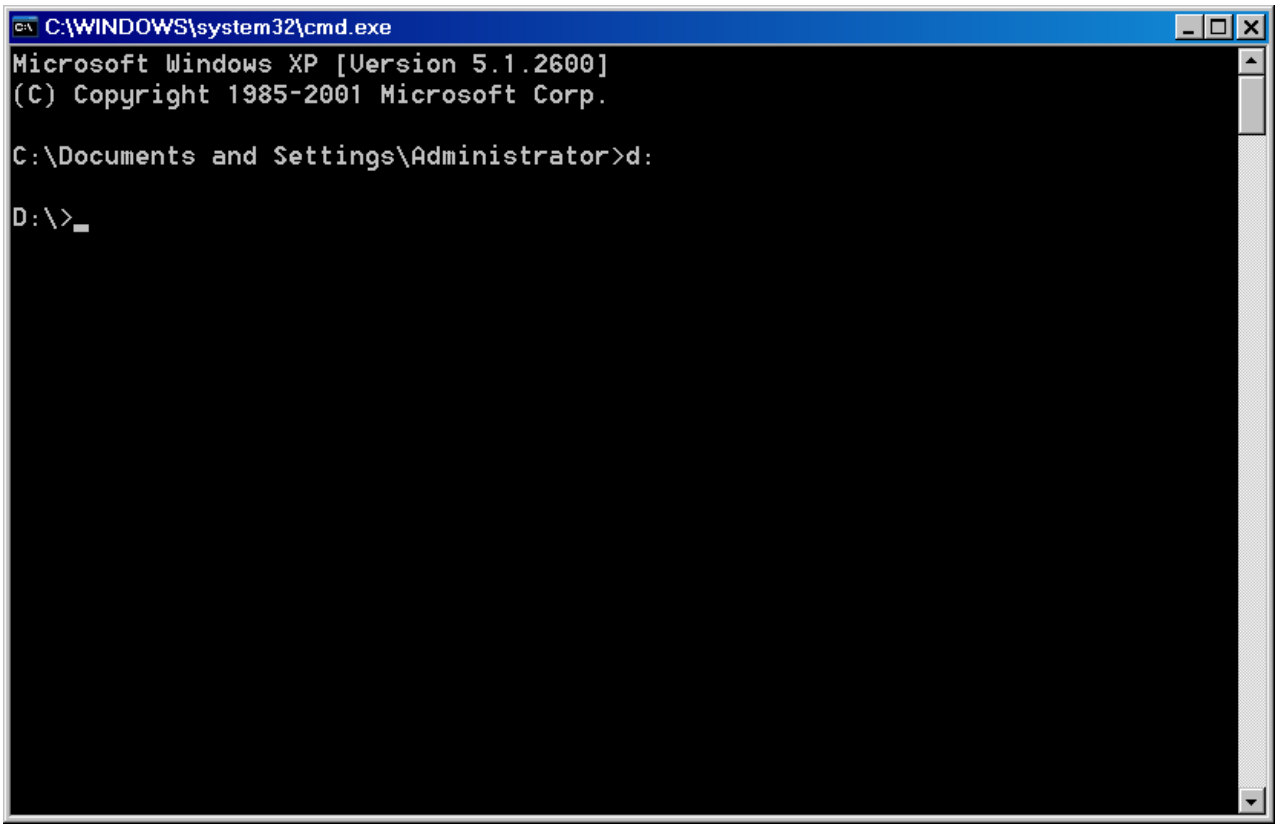
An Exercise Using MS-DOS

The following is an on-line exercise using MS-DOS commands.

To begin, click on the Command Prompt Icon or use the pull down menus Start/Run. This will open a dialog box to run your prefer program, as follow. Then type cmp in the open text box and click OK button.



You should see the following MS-DOS prompt



In the steps below we will create a simple text file called hello.txt, make two directories, mydir and mysubdir and copy hello.txt into the subdirectories. We will then delete the copies of hello.txt and remove the directoires ending up where we started.

Begin! Enter the MS-DOS commands exactly as given below

Make sure you type each MS-DOS command exactly as presented. Each command terminates with the (Enter) key. Use backspace (<-) to delete the last character typed or (Esc) to cancel the command. Hitting (F3) will recall the last MS-DOS command which can be edited.

Note: **Alt+Enter** will allow you to toggle between full screen mode and window mode for a command window.

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1. Use the **dir** command to list the contents of the root directory on the d: drive

```
d:\> dir
```

2. Invoke the MS-DOS full screen text editor utility EDIT to create a text file called hello.txt. Follow the instructions given on the screen. The "Survival Guide" gives instructions for using EDIT.

```
d:\> edit hello.txt
```

Enter the line

```
Hello World!
```

Use File|Save and File|Exit to save your work and to quit EDIT

3. Use the **type** command to display contents of hello.txt

```
d:\> type hello.txt
```

You should see

```
Hello World!
```

4. Use the **md** command to create (make) a new directory called mydir

```
d:\> md mydir
```

5. Use the **cd**command to change the default directory to mydir

```
d:\> cd mydir
```

6. Use **dir** to display the contents of mydir. It should contain no files except for "pointers" to itself and it's parent.

```
d:\mydir> dir
```

7. Use the **copy** command to copy the file hello.tx in the root directory to mydir. The target name defaults to hello.txt

```
d:\mydir> copy d:\hello.txt
```

8. Use **dir** to display the contents of mydir. You should see hello.txt listed.

```
d:\mydir> dir
```

9. Use **md** to create (make) a subdirectory for mydir called mysubdir.

```
d:\mydir> md mysubdir
```

10. Use **cd** to change the default directory to mysubdir

```
d:\mydir> cd mysubdir
```

11. Copy hello.txt to mysubdir. Use the mydir directory copy of hello.txt

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> copy d:\mydir\hello.txt
```

Alternately use **..** (two dots) to refer to mysubdir parent directory

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> copy ..\hello.txt
```

12. Make a second copy of hello.txt but call it hello1.txt

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> copy d:\hello.txt hello1.txt
```

13. Use the **ren** command to rename hello.txt as hello2.txt

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> rename hello.txt hello2.txt
```

14. Check your work - display the contents of mysubdir. You should see two files : hello1.txt and hello2.txt

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> dir
```

15. Check that the contents of hello2.txt has not changed by displaying it.

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> type hello2.txt
```

16 Using a wildcard **del**ete all files in mysubdir. Be careful. Using wildcards in dangerous so hit N to cancel the command!

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> del *.*
```

Instead use a wild card to delete all files with a .txt extension

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> del *.txt
```

Use the dir command to check that both files are gone

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> dir
```

17. Return to the mydir directory

```
d:\mydir\mysubdir> cd \mydir
```

Alternately you could have typed cd ..

18. Use the dir command to view the contents of the mydir directory.

```
d:\mydir> dir
```

19. Use the **rd** command to remove the mysubdir directory.

```
d:\mydir> rd mysubdir
```

20. Use the dir command to check that the mysubdir subdirectory is gone

```
d:\mydir> dir
```

21. Return to the root directory

```
d:\mydir> cd \
```

22. Delete the mydir copy of hello.txt

```
d:\> del \mydir\hello.txt
```

Then check that it's gone

```
d:\> dir mydir
```

But the root copy of hello.txt is still there

```
d:\> dir
```

23. Remove the mydir from the root directory

```
d:\> rd mydir
```

24. And delete hello.txt from the root directory

```
d:\> del hello.txt
```

Ok, you are back where you started! Type

```
d:\> exit
```

to close the MS-DOS command prompt window.