Auto Deleting Temporary Files

A. Win 9x

1. In the Windows 9x directory, find the executable **Command.com**. Drag a copy to the desktop.

2. Click Advanced and choose **MS-DOS Mode**. Deselect Warn..., and select Current MS-DOS configuration.

3. Don't click this yet, as it will shut down your system to a DOS prompt, (from where you will be able to safely switch off in due course.)

4. Across the top of the Command.com properties box click the Program tab. The system should now have named it MS-DOS Prompt.

5. After the path on the command line (eg. C:\Windows\Command.com) leave a single space and type :

/k C:\cleartemp9x.bat

6. You will now need to make the 'C:\cleartemp9x.bat' batch file

7. Open Notepad and type these lines (not the REMs) :

```
@ECHO OFF
CD C:\Windows\Temp
del *.tmp        REM : alternatively  del /q *.*  (That's  del_/q_*.* where _ = a space
del *.~mp        REM : or del /q  *.*
CD\CLS
```

8. Remember that at the end of a session *any* file with the *.tmp extension is just a waste of disc space.

9. Save this file as C:\cleartemp9x.bat, which the /k switch causes to run when the MS-DOS icon is clicked.

10. If you typed just del *.* in the batch file, it would clear out all the *files* in the root your of Temp folder, but would halt the shut-down process and ask for confirmation. To prevent this, use the /q switch (ie. del /q *.*). This is a more powerful implementation of the idea.

11. Change the icon to something more suitable.

12. Give it an appropriate name.

13. Click it to Shut down your system and simultaneously to permanently remove temp files.

B. Win 2000 Professional

In Windows NT based-systems, such as Windows 2000 Professional, there is no genuine DOS. However, there is still the DOS box in Windows, and we can make use of it. The Temp folder is automatically emptied of files without halting your system.

1. In the Windows NT\ System 32 directory, find **cmd.exe** and drag a shortcut to the desktop.

2. This time the path on the command line will be something like :

C:\WINNT\system32\CMD.EXE /k C:\cleartemp2k.bat

3. Open up Notepad and type in these lines (without the REMs) :

 @ECHO OFF

CD C:\Documents and Settings\{User Name}\Local Settings\Temp
del *.tmp   REM : or del /q *.* (That's del_/q_*.* where _ = a space
del * **.~**mp   REM : or del /q *.*
CD\
exit

4. Save it as C:\cleartemp2k.bat

5. When you click it, the temp folder will be cleared of the file types specified.

6. For a more powerful cleansing process, the alternative lines will delete all the *files* in the root of your temp folder, and will not halt to ask for confirmation. Sub-folders will not be affected. It is probably better to remove these manually.

7. If you choose to run the program minimized, there is no visual interruption of your current display – unless you have your Temp folder open, in which case the files disappear before your eyes.

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