



Bulk Rename Command

Jim Willsher 2007

Bulk Rename Command

A command-line utility to rename files and folders with ease!

by Jim Willsher

This is the PDF Manual for Bulk Rename Command. A Windows Help File (.CHM) is included with the downloaded utility, but this manual might be useful you wish to read the help information cover to cover.

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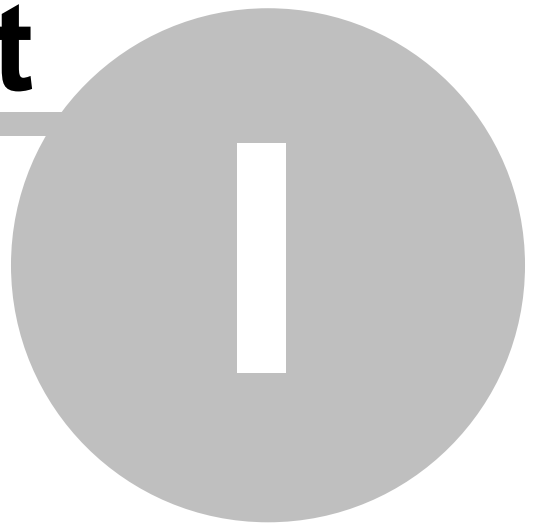
Please do not make any changes to this PDF file. Any mistakes in this manual are due to my lousy typing skills!

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Application Overview

1.1 Overview

Bulk Rename Command (BRC) is a simple command-line utility which allows you to rename multiple files and folders, based upon flexible criteria. BRC is a natural alternative from my existing Bulk Rename Utility software, as it allows you to rename files without the use of a Graphical User Interface. This makes it ideally suited to batch environments and server environments, or where you need to rename files on a regular basis with the same requirements.

Please see the main chapters in this help file for guidance on the different commands and parameters.

This utility is continually being enhanced. If you like the utility, but have some suggestions for enhancements or improvements, then please [get in touch](#). If you don't like the utility then please tell me what you don't like!

This help file is accurate as of version 1.3.3.0 (or later) of the Utility.

1.2 About Bulk Rename Command

The Bulk Rename Command is developed by Jim Willsher using Visual C++ with the Microsoft Foundation Classes (MFC) architecture. It is a true 32-bit application, designed and built for 32-bit platforms. A 64-bit version is also available.

The Regular Expression logic uses the excellent PCRE Library available [here](#).

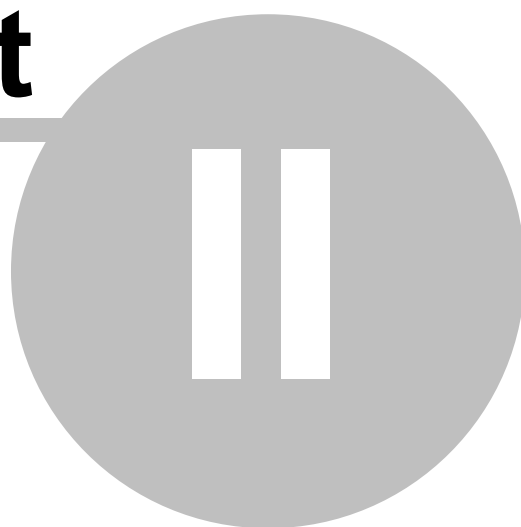
If you have any comments or suggestions about the utility, or find any errors in the application, then please get in touch. The latest version of the application can always be downloaded from my website - many mirror sites are out of date, so always use the latest version if you can.

The support website is www.bulkrenameutility.co.uk

Application updates are available from www.bulkrenameutility.co.uk. Alternatively, just click [here](#) to visit the application's homepage.

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Part



Using the Utility

2.1 Launching the Utility

The utility is invoked from a command line simply by typing BRC.exe. This in itself will not yield much, just a simple prompt to tell you to supply arguments! These arguments (parameters) are detailed within this help file, and they are grouped according to what you are trying to do.

Unless *otherwise stated*, these arguments take effect in the sequence in which they are specified. So for example, you'll get different results by specifying **/APPENDDATE:N:P:--:1 /STRIPDIGITS** than if you specify **/STRIPDIGITS /APPENDDATE:N:P:--:1**. This means the opportunities for BRC are endless, and the power is immense.

Arguments are not case-sensitive.

2.2 File and Folder Selection

The commands detailed below all affect the entire renaming process, and their position within the command-line arguments is not important.

/DIR:Directory - The directory to process (or parent directory, if processing recursively. If omitted then the current directory is used. NB Use quotes if the directory contains spaces, e.g. **/DIR:"C:\My Documents"**

/IGNOREFILEX - This will cause any rename operations to be performed on the entire filename, and not just on the "bit before the extension". Use this with care, as Windows relies heavily on filename extensions.

/IGNOREFOLDERX - This will cause any rename operations to be performed on the entire folder name, and not just on the "bit before the extension". This is for the rare occasions that you encounter a folder name containing a full stop (e.g. "holiday.pics"). This command can be used safely, as Windows doesn't care about folder-name extensions.

/INCLH - Include Hidden files/folders. By default, these are excluded.

/INCLR - Include read-only files/folders. By default, these are excluded.

/INCHS - Include System files/folders. By default, these are excluded.

/MAXLEN - Include only those files whose name is *nnn* characters or less

/MINLEN - Include only those files whose name is *nnn* characters or more

/NOFILES - This will cause BRC to ignore files, e.g. to operate on folders only.

/NOFOLDERS - This will cause BRC to ignore folders, e.g. to operate on files only. However if you are processing folders recursively then they will still be traversed.

/PATTERN:<Patterns> - the patterns of files to match (with multiple values). e.g. **/PATTERN:"*.jpg *.tif *.bmp"**. If omitted then "*" is used.

/QUIET - This option will cause the command to execute with minimal display output. Without this argument, files will be listed as they are processed.

/RECURSIVE - process the selected (or current) folder and any subfolders. Use this option with great care, especially if you are processing a high-level folder

/SORTDIR:Mode - Specify the sort-sequence. Mode is as follows:

- N -Filename (the default)
- C -Changed date
- M - Modified date
- A -Accessed date
- S - Size (n/a for folders)
- R -Random

/SORTDESC - Sort the files in descending sequence (default is ascending)

2.3 Manipulating the Names

There are lots of different ways to manipulate the file/folder names, allowing you a high level of control over the new filenames. The arguments listed below all take effect in the sequence in which they are specified, so you are sure to be able to achieve the desired end result if you apply careful thought to the sequence.

/APPENDDATE:Type:Mode:Separator:Segment:Format:Custom - append a date automatically to the name. The parameters are as follows:

Type - The type of date to append, these being **Created Date**, **Modified Date**, **Accessed Date** or the date **Now**

Mode - **Prefix**, **Suffix**, or **Both**

Separator - the text to place between the name and the autodate text. Can be blank.

Segment - the text to place between each of the sub-elements of the text Can be blank.

Format - 1-9

Custom - A custom date format. This can be omitted if you are not specifying Format=10.

Formats 1-9 are:

- 1 - DayMonthYear
- 2 - DayMonthYearHourMinute
- 3 - DayMonthYearHourMinuteSecond
- 4 - MonthDayYear
- 5 - MonthDayYearHourMinute
- 6 - MonthDayYearHourMinuteSecond
- 7 - YearMonthDay
- 8 - YearMonthDayHourMinute
- 9 - YearMonthDayHourMinuteSecond
- 10 - Custom

If you specify Format as 10 then you need to specify a custom format. More details are [here](#).

/APPENDFOLDER:Mode:Separator:Levels - Append the parent folder name(s) to the name. The parameters are as follows:

Mode - **Prefix**, **Suffix**, or **Both**

Separator - the text to place between the name and the folder text. Can be blank.

Levels - How many levels of folders to append (e.g. 1 would be the parent, 2 would be the parent and its parent).

/AUTONUMBER:Start:Increment:Mode:Separator:Base:Pad - this allows you to append an

incrementing number to the filename. The parameters are as follows:

Start - the number at which to begin

Increment - how many to increment by each time

Mode - Prefix, Suffix, or Both

Separator - the text to place between the name and the autonumber text. Can be blank.

Base - The base number to use. Normally 10, but can be 2 (binary) to 36. There are also two special bases, 37 and 38, which will cause only letters A-Z to be used.

Pad - you can choose to pad the autonumber. e.g. a pad value of 3 would result in 001, 002, 003, 004 etc.

/CHANGECASE:Mode - Change the case of the filename. Mode is as follows:

L -Change to Lower case

U -Change to Upper case

T -Change to Title case

S -Change to Sentence case

/COPYFIRSTN:n - Copy the first *n* characters from the name and store them into a buffer for later paste.

/COPYLASTN:n - Copy the last *n* characters from the name and store them into a buffer for later paste.

/CUTFIRSTN:n - Remove the first *n* characters from the name and store them into a buffer for later paste.

/CUTLASTN:n - Remove the last *n* characters from the name and store them into a buffer for later paste.

/FIXEEXT:<New Ext> - This will completely remove the filename extension, and replace it with the specified extension.

/FIXEDNAME:<New Name> - This will completely remove the filename, and replace it with the specified name.

/INSERT:Text:Pos - Insert text at the specific position in the name. If the position is before the start (or after the end) of the name then it will be treated as a prefix or suffix accordingly.

/PASTEATEND - Paste the buffer (created by a previous cut/copy command) to the end.

/PASTEATPOS:n - Paste the buffer (created by a previous cut/copy command) to position *n*.

/PASTEATSTART - Paste the buffer (created by a previous cut/copy command) to the start.

/PREFIX:<Prefix> - Prepend a fixed prefix to the existing filename.

/REGEXP:<Match>:<Replace> - Perform a Regular Expression replacement, using () () and \1\2 notation.

/REMOVECHARS:<Chars> - Remove all the characters specified, e.g. **/REMOVECHARS:A@\$^9**

/REMOVEEXT - This will completely remove the filename extension.

/REMOVEFIRSTN:n - Remove the first *n* characters from the name.

/REMOVEFROMTO:n:n - Remove characters from position *n* to position *n*.

/REMOVELASTN:n - Remove the last *n* characters from the name.

/REMOVENAME - This will completely remove the filename.

/REMOVEWORDS:<"Words"> - Remove all the specified words, e.g. **/REMOVEWORDS:"Cat Sat Mat"**

/REPLACECI:<Replace:With> - Perform case-insensitive search and replace, e.g.
/REPLACECI:Cat:Dog

/REPLACECS:<Replace:With> - Perform case-sensitive search and replace, e.g.
/REPLACECS:Cat:Dog

/STRIPACCENTS - this will remove all accented characters, attempting to replace them with non-accented characters. For further details please see [here](#).

/STRIPCHARS - this will remove all characters (A-Z) from the name

/STRIPDIGITS - this will remove all digits (0-9) from the name

/STRIPHIGH - this will remove all characters beyond ASCII value 127 from the name

/STRIPSYMBOLS - this will remove all symbol characters according to the following list:

`!£$%^&*()-_+=[]{};:'"@#~.,<>/?\|`~¡`

/SUFFIX:<Suffix> - Append a fixed suffix to the existing filename.

/TIDYDS - This will replace all occurrences of two spaces with a single space.

/TRIM - Trim leading and trailing spaces.

2.4 Removing Accented Characters

Many filenames contain accented characters, e.g. French filenames might contain à and á, whereas English language speakers are happy to use the Latin alphabet. Bulk Rename Command provides a facility to replace accented characters with non-accented characters.

If you are using a Unicode build of Bulk Rename Command (Windows NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista) then you should find that virtually all accented characters are converted into their non-accented equivalents (à becomes a, etc.).

If you are using Windows 98 then this has to be done using a hard-coded list of characters, which is as follows:

ASCII	SHOWS	HEX	CONVERTED TO
131	<i>f</i>	83	f
138	Š	8A	S
142	Ž	8E	Z
154	š	9A	s
158	ž	9E	z
159	Ÿ	9F	Y
162	¢	A2	c
165	¥	A5	Y
170	ª	AA	a
181	µ	B5	u
192	À	C0	A
193	Á	C1	A
194	Â	C2	A
195	Ã	C3	A
196	Ä	C4	A
197	Å	C5	A
199	Ç	C7	C
200	È	C8	E
201	É	C9	E
202	Ê	CA	E
203	Ë	CB	E
204	Ì	CC	I
205	Í	CD	I
206	Î	CE	I
207	Ï	CF	I
208	Ð	D0	D
209	Ñ	D1	N
210	Ò	D2	O
211	Ó	D3	O
212	Ô	D4	O
213	Õ	D5	O

214	Ö	D6	O
215	×	D7	x
216	Ø	D8	O
217	Û	D9	U
218	Ú	DA	U
219	Û	DB	U
220	Ü	DC	U
221	Ý	DD	Y
224	à	E0	a
225	á	E1	a
226	â	E2	a
227	ã	E3	a
228	ä	E4	a
229	å	E5	a
231	ç	E7	c
232	è	E8	e
233	é	E9	e
234	ê	EA	e
235	ë	EB	e
236	ì	EC	i
237	í	ED	i
238	î	EE	i
239	ï	EF	i
240	ð	F0	o
241	ñ	F1	n
242	ò	F2	o
243	ó	F3	o
244	ô	F4	o
245	õ	F5	o
246	ö	F6	o
248	ø	F8	o
249	ù	F9	u
250	ú	FA	u
251	û	FB	u

252	ü	FC	u
253	ý	FD	y
255	ÿ	FF	y

2.5 Changing File Attributes

BRC allows you to change the attributes on files and folders. So for example, you can quickly and easily make a file read-only, or conversely you can remove the read-only flag.

The commands detailed below all take place after any renaming operation, and their position within the command-line arguments is not important.

/SETR - Set the Read-only attribute

/CLEARR - Clear the Read-only attribute

/SETA - Set the Archive attribute

/CLEARA - Clear the Archive attribute

/SETS - Set the System attribute

/CLEAR S - Clear the System attribute

/SETH - Set the Hidden attribute

/CLEARH - Clear the Hidden attribute

2.6 Custom Date Formats

You can append a variety of dates to the filenames, either at the beginning or the end. For example, you could prefix the filenames with their *Modified* date, or you could suffix them with the *Creation* date.

A new feature, introduced in version 2.0.4.8, is the ability to add date and time information in a very flexible manner, using standard formatting codes. The full list of codes is defined below. So for example, if you wanted to suffix the filename with the day name and the month you could enter a custom code of "%a%M".

The full list of codes is:

Code	Meaning
%a	Abbreviated weekday name
%A	Full Weekday name
%b	Abbreviated month name
%B	Full month name
%d	Day of Month (01-31)
%H	Hour in 24-hour format (00-23)
%I	Hour in 12-hour format (01-12)
%j	Day of Year (01-366)
%m	Month number (01-12)
%M	Minute (00-59)
%p	AM/PM Indicator
%S	Seconds (00-59)

%U	Week number of year (00-53), with Sunday as the first day of the week.
%w	Weekday (0-6), with Sunday=0.
%W	Week number of year (00-53), with Monday as the first day of the week.
%y	Year, with no century indicator (00-99)
%Y	Year, with century indicator (e.g. 2004)
%z	Time zone name
%%	Percentage sign

You can enter other text in the filename, and the symbols above will be substituted with the values. So, you could enter a custom value of "Created on %a, %d %B, %Y" to get "Created on Tuesday, 25th March, 2004"

2.7 Controlling Duplicates

Windows doesn't allow duplicate filenames to exist within a folder, and filenames in Windows are not case-sensitive. BRC does not attempt to resolve duplicates until the actual point of renaming - it's simply too complex to try to do this in the preview mode! The Utility provides a single option to allow you to quietly ignore duplicate filenames or to resolve them.

The commands detailed below all take place after any renaming operation, and their position within the command-line arguments is not important.

/NODUP - If this argument is specified, when the rename results in a duplicate filename then the software will attempt the rename again but with `_1` appended to the filename. If this fails it will try with `_2`, then `_3`, then `_4` etc. until a unique name is found.

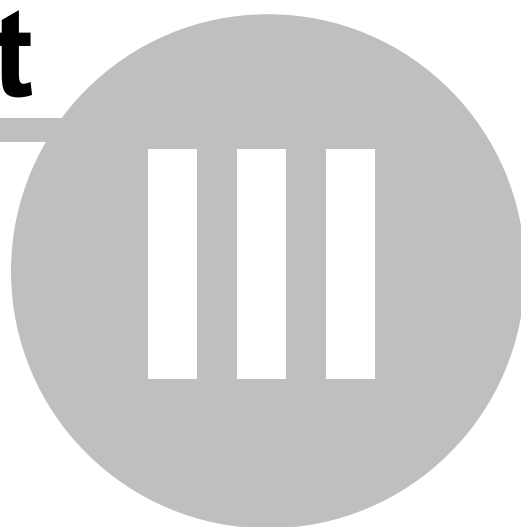
2.8 Performing the Rename

Ok, so you've specified all your arguments, but nothing's happening. Well, you need to pass one last argument, and this is described below.

The commands detailed below all take place after any renaming operation, and their position within the command-line arguments is not important.

/EXECUTE - this command actually invokes the rename. It's a safety-measure, allowing you to refine all your arguments before actually making any changes.

Part



Support

3.1 Support

If you have any comments or suggestions about the utility, or find any errors, then please get in touch. The latest version can always be downloaded from my website. If you aren't using the latest version then please upgrade before getting in touch, as your specific issue might already be addressed in the latest release.

The application's homepage is at www.bulkrenameutility.co.uk. The Support [forums](#) are available at the same website.

If you get in touch with a problem then please email the following details:

- Your version of Windows (e.g. 98SE, XP Home, Vista Ultimate etc.)
- The version of the utility
- How to recreate the problem. The more details you can include, the better chance I have of finding the problem.

Please use the support forums in the first instance - they have good search facilities and will be your quickest source of information.

Please don't send large screen prints unless I request them - though small screen prints are fine. Please also note that my firewall automatically deletes emails with .ZIP attachments (I'm fed up getting bombarded with viruses!)

I will normally respond to emails the same day, subject to holidays etc.

With persistent problems I might ask you to install a special "debug enabled" version of the program. This will generate a trace file which I can use to analyse the problem.

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