

Critical File Backups for Win95, Part 2

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Last month we saw how to back up the critical Win95 Registry using a simple batch file (MYREGBAK.BAT) from the DOS command line. Now lets look at the next backup of important system files. I won't go into what these various files do; perhaps that is a subject for future articles. However, several of these files are ASCII files, capable of being read by a human being using any text editor, and you might well find it instructive to study them a bit to learn something about how Win95 is controlled. This batch file, MYBASBAK.BAT, backs up files found in your root directory. Don't bother looking for them with a DIR command, though. All but two are completely hidden from your prying eyes by the gurus at Microsoft! However, the copies that this batch file makes will be available for your perusal.

```
        echo off
rem     MYBASBAK.BAT (type in the date you created the batch file here)
echo    Copying BOOTLOG.PRV and BOOTLOG.TXT
        attrib -h bootlog.*
        copy bootlog.* e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +h bootlog.*
pause
echo    Copying DETLOG.TXT
        attrib -s -h detlog.txt
        copy detlog.txt e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +s +h detlog.txt
pause
echo    Copying MSDOS.---
        attrib -h msdos.---
        copy msdos.--- e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +h msdos.---
pause
echo    Copying MSDOS.SYS
        attrib -s -r -h msdos.sys
        copy msdos.sys e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +s +r +h msdos.sys
pause
echo    Copying NETLOG.TXT
        attrib -h netlog.txt
        copy netlog.txt e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +h netlog.txt
pause
echo    Copying SETUPLOG.TXT
        attrib -h setuplog.txt
        copy setuplog.txt e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +h setuplog.txt
pause
echo    Copying SUHDLOG.DAT
        attrib -r -h suhdlog.dat
        copy suhdlog.dat e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +r +h suhdlog.dat
pause
echo Copying SYSTEM.1ST
        attrib -s -r -h system.1st
        copy system.1st e:\backups\basbak
        attrib +s +r +h system.1st
pause
echo    Copying CONFIG.SYS AUTOEXEC.BAT and this batch file
```

```
            copy config.sys e:\backups\basbak
            copy autoexec.bat e:\backups\basbak
            copy mybasbak.bat e:\backups\basbak
echo        All done!
```

You can see that this batch file repeats a similar procedure with each file or set of files it handles. The echo command prints a notice to your screen telling you what it is doing. Next, the attrib command is used to remove the r (read only), s (system file) or h (hidden file) status, or some combination of these attributes, from the file or files to be worked on. Then the file(s) are copied to the appropriate backup subdirectory. Finally, the attrib command is used to restore the attributes of the original files, so that everything is just as it was before starting. The pause command is used in several places to freeze the screen (allowing a moment for you to read what is going on), and giving you the opportunity to continue with processing by showing you the "Press any key to continue..." prompt.

When you run this batch file, do not panic if you get an on-screen message stating "File not found." Depending on the setup of your particular system, one or more of the files you are trying to back up may not be present, giving you this error message. However, the message is informative only and describes a harmless situation; the rest of the batch file should execute as planned.

As mentioned last month, be sure to change the path statement in the batch file from: e:\backups\basbak to whatever fits your system. Following last month's example, your path statement might be: c:\safety\basebak or some other arrangement to your liking. Don't forget to create the subdirectory *before* running this batch file. If you have a c:\safety directory already, then go to it in DOS and give the command: md basebak to make the basebak subdirectory.

All of the files handled by this batch file are Win95 files, except for the last two. CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT are DOS files, which may or may not be present depending upon your particular setup. In mine, they control the boot process and are critical, just as they are in a pure DOS or Windows 3.1 machine. Therefore, I have included them in this scheme, called MYBASBAT because it is the most basic backup of important files.

Finally, all of the files except SUHDLOG.DAT and SYSTEM.1ST are in ASCII format, and therefore readable with any text editor. I encourage you to look through them. Again, you can learn more about how processes are controlled by doing so. Don't modify or save them with your editor, though. When finished reading, just exit your editor to prevent any modification of the files. That way, these copies will be pristine and ready to replace any real system files that become damaged. If you think you may have modified one or more of the files accidentally, just run MYBASBAK.BAT again and fresh copies will be created.

That's it for this month. Next time, we will look at the last batch file, which copies some essential files found in the actual windows subdirectory. Happy computing!