
ComputerFAQs

weekly

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions in the world of computers

Issue #12

July 10, 1995

Welcome to another issue of *ComputerFAQs Weekly*, the only **free** publication faxed directly to your home or office with helpful information on surviving in the information age. Recently, we have received a few calls from people asking where we obtain our fax numbers. We acquire lists of fax numbers from various sources, including scanning the phone book and purchasing mailing lists. We have even contracted a small firm to research as many fax numbers as possible from various publications. If, for any reason, you would like to be removed from our fax list, please contact us. If you get our machine, don't forget to include your fax number in your message, since that's how our list is sorted. We have also received a lot of positive feedback, and have helped many people with our *800 HelpDesk* service. We look forward to serving you, our readers, in the future. If you are need of help, give us a call. Thanks for reading *ComputerFAQs Weekly*.

"I love your newsletter! It's filled with what an experienced computer user would consider simple questions, but it's *perfect for me*. Most magazines are too high-tech. Your newsletter fills a commonly overlooked need. Thank you!" - *Mark P., International Chimney, Buffalo NY.*

Q: I am receiving an error message, "bad or missing command interpreter," when I turn on my computer. What does this mean, and how can I fix it? - *Helen C., Rabec Design, Lancaster NY.*

A: When you receive this error, it means that the file **COMMAND.COM**, which DOS requires, is not present in the root directory of your hard drive. The "root directory" of your hard drive is the upper-most directory on the drive, designated by **C:** in this case. You may have lost your **COMMAND.COM** file by accidentally deleting all of the files in your root directory. First, you'll need a bootable floppy diskette to gain access to your system. If you don't have a boot disk (or don't even know what a boot disk is), consult your

vendor or call our *ComputerFAQs HelpDesk* for more help. Place the boot diskette in your **A:** drive and reset your machine. Once your machine reboots, you should be at an **A:>** prompt. Go to the **C:** drive and see if you have a directory called **C:\DOS**. If you do, then your DOS files are still on your hard drive. If not, you'll need a copy of your DOS diskettes. Copy the file **COMMAND.COM** from your DOS directory (or diskettes) into the root directory of your hard drive by typing **COPY C:\DOS\COMMAND.COM**. Now, try rebooting your machine. If this doesn't work, chances are you may have to reformat your hard drive. Consult your vendor, DOS manual, or call our *HelpDesk* for more help.

TIP: To prevent losing your command interpreter in the future, type **ATTRIB +R COMMAND.COM** from the **C:>** prompt. This causes your **COMMAND.COM** file to become "read only" and it cannot be deleted by accident in the future.

FREE DATABASE SOFTWARE: We are giving away free copies of our *Small Business Database For Windows* software. It can track customers, contacts, products/services, employees, invoices, and much more. For a free copy of this software, call now! You are under absolutely no obligation. (If you've already requested a copy you should receive it by July 17th, 1995.)

Q: One of the things that annoys me most about DOS 6.2 is whenever I go to copy a file, and I'm overwriting an existing file, DOS asks me if I'm sure I want to perform the copy. This is irritating. Do you know of any way to turn it off? - *Alex T., Los Angeles, CA*

A: Most people like that feature, Alex, because it prevents them from copying over important files by accident. However, if you'd like to turn that feature off, you can add the following command to your **AUTOEXEC.BAT** file: **SET COPYCMD=/Y**. This will force all of those annoying "are you sure" commands off.

If you would like to **stop** receiving *ComputerFAQs Weekly* for any reason, please call 716-668-5788. Be sure to leave your fax number!

MOTHER OF TWO will watch your children in my Depew home. *Plenty of toys.* Call Michele at 716-668-5788.

MISS A COPY OF *ComputerFAQs Weekly*? If you would like to request a *free* copy of any previous issue of the newsletter, please contact us. We have issues 7 through 11 available. Also, we're preparing an *online* version of *all* issues, to be updated monthly. It's designed as a context-sensitive Windows-based help system. If you're interested in a *free* copy, let us know!

NEW! 486 DX/4 100 MHz computer with 8 MB RAM, 540 MB hard drive, 1.44 MB floppy drive, mini-tower case, DOS, Windows, and a 2-year warranty for only **\$1,142**. Includes delivery, installation, and a one-hour private training course on *Personal Computer Basics* from Amicron Technology Services. Call us now for a free brochure.

ComputerFAQs Weekly is published by **Amicron Technology Services**. Mail: PO Box 1453, Buffalo NY 14225-1453. Phone: 716-369-6235 or 716-668-5788 (please leave a message). BBS or fax: 716-656-2054. *HelpDesk*: 800-283-2255 ID# 20996 (we'll call you right back). Internet: 1-12172@wwivnet.org. Call us if you need custom software or computer training for your company.