

## Issue #26

### December 25, 1995

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From everyone here at *ComputerFAQs Weekly*, we would like to send a warm **Seasons Greetings** to all of our readers, and we look forward to serving you in the new year. We know that many of you probably purchased or received new computers for Christmas. If you need help, you can call our technical support department at 716-668-0838 extension 3. This is a free service from Amicron Technology Services.

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**Q:** Looking through my AUTOEXEC.BAT file, I notice that some commands have a "@" in front of them. What is this, and what does it do? > *Eugene, Williamsville NY*

**A:** Eugene, DOS has a command called "echo" which can be used to change whether or not batch files display the commands they process. If you put "echo on" in a batch file, each line will be displayed (or "echoed") to the screen. Likewise, if you put "echo off" in a batch file, the commands will not be displayed. Most batch file programmers will put "echo off" as the first line in the batch file, so none of the following commands are displayed (makes things nice and pretty). Up until DOS version 3.3, however, this "echo off" itself would be echoed (since the echo defaults to "on") which looked silly. So, the boys at Microsoft developed the "@" or "one-line echo off" command. Basically, any line that has the @ in front of it will not be echoed. So, you can put "@echo off" at the first line of a batch file and it will turn off the echo while the line itself will not be echoed." You can also use the @ in front of any other line in the batch file.

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**TRICK:** We shouldn't really tell you how to do this (because, after all, it is cheating), but if you have a friendly rivalry in your office with *MineSweeper*, you can modify your scores and winners' names by editing the file WINMINE.INI in your Windows directory. We won't tell you how, though, but it's real easy to figure out.

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Many people call us on a regular basis just to ask, "what, exactly, is it that guys you do?" We reply that we provide hardware, software, service, consulting, and all kinds of custom solutions for our clients. I guess you could call us a "full-service" computer company. We specialize in *learning* our client's business, recommending ways in which computer technology can *improve* that business, implementing a *custom* solution, and then maintaining a strong *relationship* with that client to ensure the effectiveness of the solution. If you would like to learn more about how we can help your business, give us a call. We would be happy to schedule an appointment to discuss your needs. *Amicron Technology Services* 716-668-0838 extension 1.

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**Q:** It seems to me that sometimes Windows' File Manager will *copy* a file, and then other times it will *move* the file. How do I know what it's going to do, and how can I change it? > *Gary, Blasdell NY*

**A:** Sometimes the Windows File Mangler... er... Manager does odd things. Generally, if you're working on the *same* disk drive, Windows will *move* the file. If you're working across two different drives, Windows will *copy* the file. It's odd, we know. We generally recommend that you use the good old DOS command prompt to do your copying and moving. Here's a tip, though: when you're dragging the file that you want to copy/move, if there is a *plus sign* on the cursor, you are *copying* the file. If there is no plus sign, you're moving it. While you're dragging, you can also press the ALT key to force a *move* or press the CTRL key to force a *copy*.

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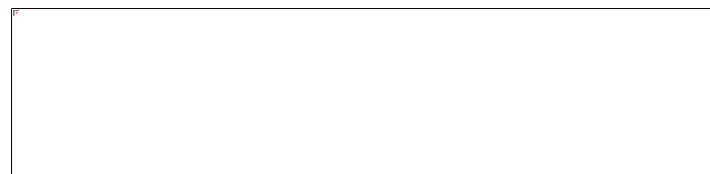
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**Q:** When I subtract 4 from 4.01 in the Windows Calculator, I get 0.00 for an answer. Do I have a flawed Pentium chip? My vendor assured me that it wasn't.

**A:** No, you probably don't have a flawed Pentium. The problem is a bug in Windows' Calculator application. This problem actually occurs with any number ending in ".01." Also, try typing in the number "5.0001." You'll notice another bug. The zeros don't appear until you press the 1 key. Microsoft actually released a fix for Calculator. You can call Microsoft for instructions on how to get it.

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This week's **SURVEY QUESTION:** "What word processor, or office suite does your company use?" Fax your survey answer back to us at 716-668-0838. All entries received by 1/5/96 will be entered into a drawing to receive a free on-site preventative maintenance service package from PCDoctor.

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