

Purpose

PathUtil is a utility which can add and remove paths to the environment variable 'PATH'. The utility is a 32bit executable with a simple command line interface. The utility is also able to add and remove new environment variables (name value pairs).

Compatibility

PathUtil can add, and remove paths and variables on Windows NT 3.51, NT4, 2000 and XP systems (all versions) providing write access to the appropriate registry hive/keys is available.

At present PathUtil can also amend autoexec.bat to add paths and variables on Windows 95, 98 and ME but is not able to automatically remove them. As no user-level security exists on these non-NT based operating systems the only requirement will be that the autoexec.bat file is not marked 'read only'.

PathUtil is written in VB6.0 and has dependencies on the standard VB6 runtime DLL's. These DLL's should be available on the target system prior to execution.

Version History

23/06/2002 – Initial implementation

07/07/2002 – Change default operation of appending to PATH so that new path is added to the start of PATH rather than the end and added an optional switch to revert this back to 'normal' behaviour. Also added the ability to add a new environment variable with users choice of name and value.

TODO

1. Add variable remove function
2. Add confirmation prior to updating either autoexec.bat or registry.
3. Test access writes on registry for NT platform operating systems and sensibly report error.
4. Add removal ability for non-NT platform operating systems.

Support & Contact

PathUtil is provided free of charge and may be used for any purpose.

Please exercise care when modifying autoexec.bat or your computers registry as no liability can be accepted from any damage arising from the use of this software.

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PATH Amendments

Syntax

General: Pathutil -x: "<path>"

Where '**x**' is the command type and **<path>** is the path to add or remove from the environment variable 'PATH'. New paths are added to the start of the PATH variable (to support workaround for ImageMagick where the IM util convert clashes with convert.exe in %system32%).

Commands:

Command	Purpose
-a:"<path>"	Adds specified path to the PATH variable if it is not already present
-r:"<path>"	Removes the specified path from the PATH variable

Optional Switches:

The following optional switches may be used to modify the operation of PathUtil

Switch	Purpose
-silent	Prevents PathUtil from displaying any messages. This includes confirmations and error messages as well as status messages.
-debug	Displays a debug window which will contain detailed information on progress including the exact contents of the PATH variable during changes. When debug is displayed the process will not terminate until the user closes the debug window.
-e	Append new paths to the end of the PATH variable rather than the beginning.

Examples

```
Pathutil -a:"c:\imagemagick\" -debug
```

Launches PathUtil to add the path 'c:\imagemagick\' to the PATH environment variable, full debug diagnostics will be displayed.

```
Pathutil -r:"c:\imagemagick\" -silent
```

Launches PathUtil to remove the path 'c:\imagemagick\' from the PATH environment variable and display nothing in the progress whether it succeeds or not.

Notes

- Only a single **-r** **or** **-a** command will be processed per execution (where multiple commands are provided the first one will be processed).
- All paths are converted to lower case prior to appending to the PATH environment variable, this is to ensure that differences in case between original path specified in add command and later specified in remove command do not prevent the remove command from operating successfully.

Additional Variables

Syntax

General: Pathutil -vx: "<name>^<value> "

Where '**vx**' is the command type, **<name>** is the variable to add and **<value>** is the value to set the variable to. If a variable already exists with the same name then it's current contents will be replaced with the new contents.

Commands:

Command	Purpose
-va:"<name>^<value> "	Adds specified variable (or updates it's value if already present).

Optional Switches:

The following optional switches may be used to modify the operation of PathUtil

Switch	Purpose
-silent	Prevents PathUtil from displaying any messages. This includes confirmations and error messages as well as status messages.
-debug	Displays a debug window which will contain detailed information on progress including the exact contents of the PATH variable during changes. When debug is displayed the process will not terminate until the user closes the debug window.

Examples

```
Pathutil -va:"MAGIC_HOME^c:\imagemagick\" -debug
```

Launches PathUtil to add the variable MAGIC_HOME with the value 'c:\imagemagick'.

Notes

- Only a single **-vr** **or** **-va** command will be processed per execution (where multiple commands are provided the first one will be processed).
- All names and values are converted to lower case prior to adding to autoexec.bat or the registry so that it is possible to accurately match existing variables for remove commands.