

Can MS Bing AI Replace Software Engineers?

It has been over 12 years since I have written any DOS scripts or any other code to automate tasks on a computer. So, today, I decided to see just how smart Bing's AI (a.k.a. Copilot) would be when I put it to the test to help me rename some files, etc.; so I could more easily add them to my web site. As it turned out Bing AI got an A+ for a job well done. Keep in mind that for it to help with tasks like this the person asking the questions must be very specific when supplying the specifications of said task at hand. But, as it turns out, two heads (one head and one AI) are better than one. I can only wonder how many man-hours will be saved by future software engineers from now on.

Me

Is there an easy way, perhaps via a program using DOS commands, to rename every .jpg file in a folder in ascending order by replacing the last 9 digits (or last part) of the file name with a 3 digit number starting with 001, then 002, etc., where the first file name in the directory/folder is IMG_20240531_093402216.jpg (for example) and once renamed it would become IMG_20240531_001.jpg, etc.?

Bing AI

Certainly! You can use a batch script to rename the files in ascending order.

Here's a simple script that you can save as a .bat file and run in the folder containing your .jpg files:

```
@echo off
setlocal EnableDelayedExpansion

set "prefix=IMG_20240531_"
set "counter=1"

for %%f in (*.jpg) do
(
    set "num=00!counter!"
    set "newname=!prefix!!num:~-3!.jpg"
    ren "%%f" "!newname!"
    set /a counter+=1
)

echo Renaming complete.
pause
```

This script will rename all .jpg files in the current directory/folder, replacing the last 9 digits (or last part) with a 3-digit number starting from 001. Make sure to change the set "prefix=IMG_20240531_" line to match the initial part of your file names before the numbering starts.

Note: Always make sure to back up your files before running scripts that modify them, to prevent any accidental data loss.

Me

If I store that script code within a file named **Rename.bat** will the script file also have to be stored in the current directory/folder? How will I execute the script once I have changed the current directory/folder to be the target folder with the files to be renamed?

Bing AI

Yes, you can store the script in a file named **Rename.bat**. It does not necessarily have to be in the same directory/folder as the files you want to rename. However, it's often more convenient to have it in the same directory/folder.

To execute the script after you've navigated to the target directory/folder with the files to be renamed, you can follow these steps:

1. Open the Command Prompt.
2. Use the `cd` command to change the directory/folder to the target directory/folder where your `.jpg` files and `Rename.bat` are located. For example: `cd C:\Path\To\Your\Target\Folder`
3. Once you're in the correct directory/folder, execute the script by typing: `Rename.bat` and then press Enter.

The script will then run and rename the files according to the pattern specified in the batch file.

If you have the script in a different directory/folder, you would need to specify the full path to the script when executing it, like so: `C:\Path\To\Script\Rename.bat`

Always ensure that you have the necessary permissions to execute scripts in your target directory; one way is to open the DOS command window as an administrator.

Me

That was an AWESOME script that just saved me an hour of renaming the files manually. I love you! :)

Bing AI

I'm thrilled to hear the script worked out well for you! If you have any more tasks or questions, feel free to ask. I'm here to help! 😊

Me

Actually, maybe you can help some more. Now that the files are renamed, is there another script that can be used to scan or read all the file names within the same directory/folder but this time output a list of the actual file names into an empty target file named **FileList.txt**, stored on the same directory/folder?

Bing AI

Absolutely, you can use another batch script to generate a list of all the `.jpg` file names in the directory/folder and output them to a file named **FileList.txt**. Here's a script that does just that:

```
@echo off
dir *.jpg /b > FileList.txt
```

This script uses the `dir` command to list all files with the `.jpg` extension in the current directory/folder, in bare format (without heading information or summary), and redirects the output to **FileList.txt**.

To execute this script:

1. Save the above code in a `.bat` file, for example, **CreateFileList.bat**.
2. **Place CreateFileList.bat** in the same directory/folder as your `.jpg` files.
3. Open Command Prompt and navigate to the directory/folder containing your files and the batch file.
4. Type **CreateFileList.bat** and press Enter.

The **FileList.txt** will be created in the same directory/folder, containing the names of all `.jpg` files.

Me

Wow!! You just saved me another hour of work. Pretty soon I will not need to take any classes to learn how to get a programming job done. I can just ask you. THANKS!

Bing AI

You're very welcome! I'm glad I could assist you. Remember, while I'm here to help with tasks and provide guidance, taking classes can offer a structured learning experience and a deeper understanding of programming concepts. If you ever have more questions or need further assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Happy coding!