What this batch file needs is more escape characters

devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20091029-00

October 29, 2009

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(Employing the snowclone "What this X needs is more Y.")

Each time you add a parsing pass to the batch processor, you have to add another layer of escaping. This is just a special case of the more general rule of thumb: any problem in quoting can be solved by adding another layer of escaping.

(Okay, it's not actually true, nor is it a rule of thumb, but it's still something to keep in mind.)

When you enable delayed variable expansion, you add another parsing pass to the batch processor. It used to expand % variables at the time the line is ready, but now you told it that, oh wait, just before executing the command, expand it a second time (this time looking for ! variables.)

Which means that if you want to echo an exclamation point, you have to protect the exclamation point so the parser won't treat it as a delayed expansion.

```
echo Error^^!
```

The `^^` collapses to a `^` during the first parsing pass. On the second parsing pass, the `^!` turns into a `!`

Remember, the batch language was not designed; it evolved. I admire the approach taken by commenter Nick, in a tip of the hat to Douglas Adams:

> Much like the universe, if anyone ever *does* fully come to understand Batch then the language will instantly be replaced by an infinitely weirder and more complex version of itself. This has obviously happened at least once before

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