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PowerShell

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PowerShell Get-Help on command 'Copy-Item'

PS C:\Users\wahid> Get-Help Copy-Item

NAME

Copy-Item

SYNOPSIS

Copies an item from one location to another.

SYNTAX

```
Copy-Item [[-Destination] <System.String>] [-Container] [-Credential  
<System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>] [-Exclude <System.String[]>]  
[-Filter <System.String>] [-Force] [-FromSession  
<System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PSSession>] [-Include  
<System.String[]>] [-LiteralPath <System.String[]>] [-PassThru] [-Recurse]  
[-ToSession <System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PSSession>]  
[-UseTransaction] [-Confirm] [-WhatIf] [<CommonParameters>]
```

```
Copy-Item [-Path] <System.String[]> [[-Destination] <System.String>]  
[-Container] [-Credential <System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>]  
[-Exclude <System.String[]>] [-Filter <System.String>] [-Force] [-FromSession  
<System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PSSession>] [-Include  
<System.String[]>] [-PassThru] [-Recurse] [-ToSession
```

<System.Management.Automation.Runspace.PSSession>] [-UseTransaction]
[-Confirm] [-WhatIf] [<CommonParameters>]

DESCRIPTION

The `Copy-Item` cmdlet copies an item from one location to another location in the same namespace. For instance, it can copy a file to a folder, but it can't copy a file to a certificate drive.

This cmdlet doesn't cut or delete the items being copied. The particular items that the cmdlet can copy depend on the PowerShell provider that exposes the item. For instance, it can copy files and directories in a file system drive and registry keys and entries in the registry drive.

This cmdlet can copy and rename items in the same command. To rename an item, enter the new name in the value of the Destination parameter. To rename an item and not copy it, use the `Rename-Item` cmdlet.

PARAMETERS

`-Container` <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that this cmdlet preserves container objects during the copy operation. By default, the Container parameter is set to True .

`-Credential` <System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>

> [!NOTE] > This parameter isn't supported by any providers installed with PowerShell. > To impersonate another user, or elevate your credentials when running this cmdlet, > use `Invoke-Command` ([../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/Invoke-Command.md](#)).

`-Destination` <System.String>

Specifies the path to the new location. The default is the current directory.

To rename the item being copied, specify a new name in the value of the Destination parameter.

-Exclude <System.String[]>

Specifies one or more path elements or patterns, such as ``"*.*.txt"`, to limit this cmdlet's operation. The value of this parameter filters against the wildcard-matching result of the Path parameter, not the final results. This parameter is only effective when the Path is specified with one or more wildcards. Since this parameter only filters on the paths resolved for the Path parameter, it doesn't filter any items discovered when recursing through child folders with the Recurse parameter.`

-Filter <System.String>

Specifies a filter to qualify the Path parameter. The FileSystem (`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_FileSystem_Provider.md`) provider is the only installed PowerShell provider that supports the use of filters. You can find the syntax for the FileSystem filter language in `about_Wildcards (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Wildcards.md)`. Filters are more efficient than other parameters, because the provider applies them when the cmdlet gets the objects rather than having PowerShell filter the objects after they're retrieved.

-Force <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that this cmdlet copies items that can't otherwise be changed, such as copying over a read-only file or alias.

-FromSession <System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PSSession>

This is a dynamic parameter made available by the FileSystem provider.

Specify the PSSession object from which a remote file is being copied.

When you use this parameter, the Path and LiteralPath parameters refer to the local path on the remote machine.

For more information, see about_FileSystem_Provider
(../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_FileSystem_Provider.md).

-Include <System.String[]>

Specifies one or more path elements or patterns, such as ``"*.*.txt"`, to limit this cmdlet's operation. The value of this parameter filters against the wildcard-matching result of the Path parameter, not the final results. This parameter is only effective when the Path is specified with one or more wildcards. Since this parameter only filters on the paths resolved for the Path parameter, it doesn't filter any items discovered when recursing through child folders with the Recurse parameter.`

-LiteralPath <System.String[]>

Specifies a path to one or more locations. The value of LiteralPath is used exactly as it's typed. No characters are interpreted as wildcards. If the path includes escape characters, enclose it in single quotation marks. Single quotation marks tell PowerShell not to interpret any characters as escape sequences.

For more information, see about_Quoting_Rules
(../Microsoft.Powershell.Core/About/about_Quoting_Rules.md).

-PassThru <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Returns an object that represents the item with which you're working. By default, this cmdlet doesn't generate any output.

-Path <System.String[]>

Specifies, as a string array, the path to the items to copy. Wildcard characters are permitted.

-Recurse <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that this cmdlet does a recursive copy.

-ToSession <System.Management.Automation.Runspace.PSSession>

This is a dynamic parameter made available by the FileSystem provider.

Specify the PSSession object to which a remote file is being copied. When you use this parameter, the Destination parameter refers to the local path on the remote machine.

For more information, see `about_FileSystem_Provider`

(`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_FileSystem_Provider.md`).

-UseTransaction <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Includes the command in the active transaction. This parameter is valid only when a transaction is in progress. For more information, see `about_Transactions`

(`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Transactions.md`).

-Confirm <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Prompts you for confirmation before running the cmdlet.

-WhatIf <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Shows what would happen if the cmdlet runs. The cmdlet isn't run.

<CommonParameters>

This cmdlet supports the common parameters: Verbose, Debug, ErrorAction, ErrorVariable, WarningAction, WarningVariable, OutBuffer, PipelineVariable, and OutVariable. For more information, see `about_CommonParameters` (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=113216>).

----- Example 1: Copy a file to the specified directory -----

```
Copy-Item "C:\Wabash\Logfiles\mar1604.log.txt" -Destination "C:\Presentation"
```

- Example 2: Copy directory contents to an existing directory -

```
Copy-Item -Path "C:\Logfiles\*" -Destination "C:\Drawings" -Recurse
```

> [!NOTE] > If the path `C:\Drawings` doesn't exist the cmdlet copies all the files from the `Logfiles` > folder into a single file `C:\Drawings`.

-- Example 3: Copy directory and contents to a new directory --

```
Copy-Item -Path "C:\Logfiles" -Destination "C:\Drawings\Logs" -Recurse
```

> [!NOTE] > If the Path includes `*`, all the directory's file contents, including the subdirectory > trees, are copied to the new destination directory. For example: > > `Copy-Item -Path "C:\Logfiles*" -Destination "C:\Drawings\Logs" -Recurse`

Example 4: Copy a file to the specified directory and rename the file

```
Copy-Item "\\Server01\Share\Get-Widget.ps1" -Destination  
"\\Server12\ScriptArchive\Get-Widget.ps1.txt"
```

----- Example 5: Copy a file to a remote computer -----

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server01" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "D:\Folder001\test.log" -Destination "C:\Folder001_Copy\" -ToSession  
$Session
```

----- Example 6: Copy a folder to a remote computer -----

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server02" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "D:\Folder002\" -Destination "C:\Folder002_Copy\" -ToSession $Session
```

Example 7: Recursively copy the entire contents of a folder to a remote computer

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server04" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "D:\Folder003\" -Destination "C:\Folder003_Copy\" -ToSession  
$Session -Recurse
```

Example 8: Copy a file to a remote computer and then rename the file

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server04" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "D:\Folder004\scriptingexample.ps1" -Destination  
"C:\Folder004_Copy\scriptingexample_copy.ps1" -ToSession $Session
```

----- Example 9: Copy a remote file to the local computer -----

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server01" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "C:\MyRemoteData\test.log" -Destination "D:\MyLocalData\  
-FromSession $Session
```

Example 10: Copy the entire contents of a remote folder to the local computer

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server01" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "C:\MyRemoteData\scripts" -Destination "D:\MyLocalData\  
-FromSession $Session
```

Example 11: Recursively copy the entire contents of a remote folder to the local computer

```
$Session = New-PSSession -ComputerName "Server01" -Credential "Contoso\User01"  
Copy-Item "C:\MyRemoteData\scripts" -Destination "D:\MyLocalData\scripts"  
-FromSession $Session -Recurse
```

Example 12: Recursively copy files from a folder tree into the current folder

```
PS C:\temp\test> (Get-ChildItem C:\temp\tree -Recurse).FullName
```

```
C:\temp\tree\subfolder
```

```
C:\temp\tree\file1.txt
```

```
C:\temp\tree\file2.txt
```

```
C:\temp\tree\file3.txt
```

```
C:\temp\tree\subfolder\file3.txt
```

```
C:\temp\tree\subfolder\file4.txt
```

```
C:\temp\tree\subfolder\file5.txt
```

```
PS C:\temp\test> Get-Content C:\temp\tree\file3.txt
```

```
This is file3.txt in the root folder
```

```
PS C:\temp\test> Get-Content C:\temp\tree\subfolder\file3.txt
```

```
This is file3.txt in the subfolder
```

```
PS C:\temp\test> Copy-Item -Path C:\temp\tree -Filter *.txt -Recurse
```

```
-Container:$false
```

```
PS C:\temp\test> (Get-ChildItem . -Recurse).FullName
```

```
C:\temp\test\subfolder
```

```
C:\temp\test\file1.txt
```

```
C:\temp\test\file2.txt
```

```
C:\temp\test\file3.txt
```

```
C:\temp\test\file4.txt
```

```
C:\temp\test\file5.txt
```

```
PS C:\temp\test> Get-Content .\file3.txt
```


This is file3.txt in the subfolder

The `Copy-Item` cmdlet has the `Container` parameter set to `$false`. This causes the contents of the source folder to be copied but doesn't preserve the folder structure. Notice that files with the same name are overwritten in the destination folder.

-- Example 13: Using filters to copy items without recursion --

```
PS D:\temp\test\out> Copy-Item -Path D:\temp\tree\* -Include ex*
```

```
PS D:\temp\test\out> (Get-ChildItem -Recurse).FullName
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.ps1
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.txt
```

The `Include` parameter is applied to the contents of `D:\temp\tree` folder to copy all items that match `ex*`. Notice that, without recursion, the `D:\temp\out\examples` folder is copied, but none of its contents are copied.

---- Example 14: Using filters to copy items with recursion ----

```
D:\temp\out> Copy-Item -Path D:\temp\tree\* -Include ex* -Recurse
```

```
D:\temp\out> (Get-ChildItem -Recurse).FullName
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.ps1
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.txt
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples\subfolder
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples\example_1.txt
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples\example_2.txt
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples\subfolder\test.txt
```

The `Include` parameter is applied to the contents of `D:\temp\tree` folder to copy all items that match `ex*`. Notice that, with recursion, the `D:\temp\out\examples` folder is copied along with all the files and subfolders. The copy includes files that do not match the include filter. When

using `Copy-Item`, the filters only apply to the top-level specified by the `Path` parameter. Then recursion is applied to those matching items.

> [!NOTE] > The behavior of the `Exclude` parameter is the same as described in this example, except that > it limits the operation to only those paths that don't match the pattern.

Example 15: Limit the files to recursively copy from a wildcard-specified path

```
D:\temp\out> Get-ChildItem -Path D:\temp\tree -Recurse -Filter ex* | Copy-Item
```

```
D:\temp\out> (Get-ChildItem -Recurse).FullName
```

```
D:\temp\out\examples
```

```
D:\temp\out\example_1.txt
```

```
D:\temp\out\example_2.txt
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.ps1
```

```
D:\temp\out\example.txt
```

Unlike the `Copy-Item`, the `Filter` parameter for `Get-ChildItem` applies to the items discovered during recursion. This enables you to find, filter, and then copy items recursively.

REMARKS

To see the examples, type: "get-help Copy-Item -examples".

For more information, type: "get-help Copy-Item -detailed".

For technical information, type: "get-help Copy-Item -full".

For online help, type: "get-help Copy-Item -online"