

# Redirection and Piping

This section covers **redirection** and **piping**. You can use these features to change how CMD.EXE and some application programs handle input and output.

Internal commands and many external programs get their input from the computer's **standard input\* device and send their output to the standard output device. Some programs also send special messages to the standard error device. Normally, the keyboard is used for standard input and the video screen for both standard output and standard error\*\*.**

Redirection and piping allow you to change these assignments temporarily.

**Redirection** changes the standard input, standard output, or standard error device for a program or command from the default device (the keyboard or screen), to another device or to a file.

**Piping** changes the standard output and / or standard error device so that the output of one command becomes the standard input for another program or command.

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