

**/V** When the format is complete, DOS asks you for a Volume Label. You may enter a label of up to 11 characters in length. This label is strictly for your use in uniquely identifying each diskette (it is not used by any DOS command).

**Examples:**

**C:\DOS FORMAT A:/V**

The Format command is loaded from the directory \DOS on Drive C: and will format the diskette in Drive A:, requesting a Volume Label when it has completed formatting.

**C:\DOS FORMAT**

The Format command is loaded from the directory \DOS on Drive C: and, assuming C: to be the default Drive, **WILL** format Drive C:. However, it will first give you the warning

**Warning, All Data On Non-Removable**

**Disk Drive C: Will Be Lost!**

**Proceed With Format (Y/N)?**

Responding with a **Y** will immediately and irrevocably **DESTROY** all the files on Drive C: and re-format the disk.

## **FASTFACTS**

### *Minimizing FORMAT Misery*

- Format will, of course, format a previously-formatted hard disk or diskette. The following steps will greatly reduce the chances of accidentally formatting your hard disk.
- 1. With the **RENAME** command, change the name of **FORMAT.COM** to something sinister such as **DEADDISK.COM**.
- 2. Using **COPY CON**, create a file called **FORMAT.BAT** that contains the single line  
**DEADDISK A:**
- 3. When you want to format a diskette, simply type **FORMAT**. The batch file will call **DEADDISK** and automatically supply the parameter for Drive A:. Even if you entered **FORMAT C:**, only the diskette in drive A: will be formatted.
- Another approach is to remove the **FORMAT.COM** from your hard disk entirely, and use only the original DOS diskette in Drive A: when you want to format a diskette. However, with this method, if you type **FORMAT C:**, you will get the message warning you that the hard disk will be formatted.
- Either method will minimize your risk, but not entirely.