

/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.