

Microsoft MakeCAB User's Guide

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Abstract

This document describes the Microsoft MakeCAB program, including detailed example applications, and the Microsoft Extract program. MakeCAB can create cabinet files, including sets cabinet files which span multiple cabinets or multiple diskettes. Extract can view or retrieve the files which are stored inside cabinet files.

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1. Overview

MakeCAB is a lossless data compression tool that can be used for a wide variety of purposes. Although it was originally designed for use by setup programs, it can also be used in almost any situation where lossless data compression is required.

MakeCAB has three key features: 1) storing multiple files in a single *cabinet* ("CAB") file, 2) performing compression **across** file boundaries, and 3) permitting files to span cabinets. While existing products such as PKZIP, LHARC, and ARJ, support some of these features, combining all three does not appear to be common practice. MakeCAB also supports self-extracting archives, by simply concatenating a cabinet file to EXTRACT.EXE.

Depending upon the number of files to be compressed, and the access patterns expected (sequential or random access; whether most of the files will be requested at once or only a small portion of them), MakeCAB can be instructed to build cabinet files in different ways. One key concept in MakeCAB is the *folder*. A *folder* is a collection of one or more files which are compressed together, as a single entity.

The cabinet file format is capable of supporting multiple forms of compression. At this time, MSZIP and LZX are the compression formats supported by Microsoft. Other compression formats are possible in the future.

The following sections provide case studies of several *possible* ways that MakeCAB might be used. These are only provided to stimulate your imagination -- they are not the only ways in which MakeCAB can be used!

1.1. Case 1: MakeCAB for Setup Programs

Since MakeCAB was designed with setup programs in mind, it has a great deal of power and flexibility to tradeoff compressed size against speed of random access to files. The primary impact of MakeCAB is to minimize the number of diskettes required to distribute a product, thereby minimizing the Cost of Goods Sold (COGS).

In order for MakeCAB to build the disk images for a product, a *directive file*, or DDF, which specifies the list of files in a product, and any constraints on which disks certain files should be located, must be created. The same directive file can even be used for all the various localized versions of a product, since directive files support parameterization.

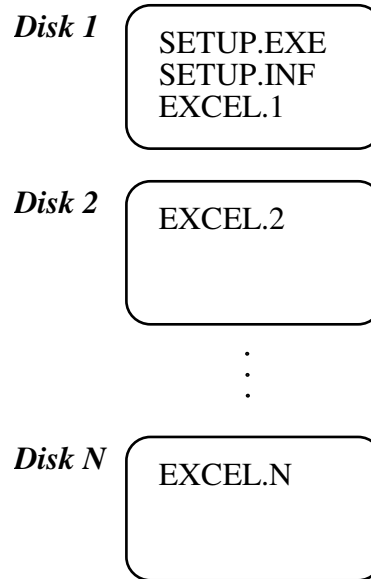
Characteristics of a Setup Program

- 1) Minimizing disk count is very important, since it saves money in production costs
- 2) Files are accessed sequentially
- 3) Most files are accessed

MakeCAB Application

The distribution disks for a typical application product produced by MakeCAB might look similar to the following:

Figure 1: Distribution disk layout



SETUP.EXE is the setup program, and SETUP.INF is a file generated by MakeCAB which guides the operation of the setup program (which files are needed for which options, and on which disk and in which cabinet file a file is contained). All of the remaining product files are contained in the cabinet files EXCEL.1 through EXCEL.N (N might be 7, for example).

To produce this disk layout with MakeCAB, a DDF is prepared which lists all of the files for the product, along with some optional MakeCAB settings to control parameters such as: 1) the capacity of the disks which are being used, 2) the naming convention of the cabinet files, 3) the visible (user-readable) labels on each disk, 4) how much random access is desired for files within a cabinet. The following is an example of a DDF that might be appropriate:

```

;*** MakeCAB Directive file example
;
.OPTION EXPLICIT                ; Generate errors on variable typos

.Set DiskLabel1=Setup           ; Label of first disk
.Set DiskLabel2=Program         ; Label of second disk
.Set DiskLabel3="Program Continued" ; Label of third disk
.Set CabinetNameTemplate=EXCEL.* ; EXCEL.1, EXCEL.2, etc.
.set DiskDirectoryTemplate=Disk* ; disk1, disk2, etc.
.Set MaxDiskSize=1.44M          ; 3.5" disks

; ** Setup.exe and setup.inf are placed uncompressed in the first disk
.Set Cabinet=off
.Set Compress=off
.Set InfAttr=                   ; Turn off read-only, etc. attrs
bin\setup.exe                   ; Just copy SETUP.EXE as is
bin\setup.inf                   ; Just copy SETUP.INF as is

; ** The rest of the files are stored, compressed, in cabinet files
.Set Cabinet=on
.Set Compress=on
bin\excel.exe                   ; Big EXE, will span cabinets
bin\excel.hlp
bin\olecli.dll
bin\olesrv.dll
; ...                           ; Many more files
;*** <the end>                  ; That's it
  
```

Now, you run MakeCAB to create the disk layout:

```
MakeCAB /f excel.ddf
```

MakeCAB will create directories Disk1, Disk2, etc. to hold the files for each disk, and will copy uncompressed files or create cabinet files (as appropriate) in each directory. The file SETUP.RPT will be written to the current directory (this can be overridden) with a summary of what MakeCAB did, and the file SETUP.INF will contain details on every disk and cabinet created, including a list of where each file was placed.

1.2. Case 2: MakeCAB for a 200Mb Source Code Archive

The Microsoft Developers Network (MSDN) CD includes over 200Mb of source code. While uncompressed this is only 1/3rd of the CD, that is still too much space, so tight compression is desired. This is slightly different from the Setup case, however, since there is a front-end tool that allows users to select sample programs and expand them onto the hard disk.

Characteristics of a Source Code Archive

- 1) Minimizing space usage is slightly less important
- 2) Files are accessed somewhat randomly, though in groups
- 3) Only a small portion of the files will be accessed at any one time

MakeCAB Application

The cabinet files produced for the source archive need to be big enough to provide good compression, but not so big that random access speed is sacrificed. The challenge is to obtain a good tradeoff between compression and access time.

```

;*** MSDN Sample Source Code MakeCAB Directive file example
;
.OPTION EXPLICIT                                ; Generate errors on variable typos

.Set CabinetNameTemplate=MSDN.*                  ; MSDN.1, MSDN.2, etc.
.set DiskDirectoryTemplate=CDROM                  ; All cabinets go in a single directory
.Set MaxDiskFileCount=1000                        ; Limit file count per cabinet, so that
                                                    ; scanning is not too slow
.Set FolderSizeThreshold=200000                  ; Aim for ~200K per folder
.Set CompressionType=MSZIP

; ** All files are compressed in cabinet files
.Set Cabinet=on
.Set Compress=on
foo.c
foo.h
....
;*** <the end>                                ; That's it

```

1.3. Case 3: MakeCAB over a network

Many times, a software developer will want to ship executables, libraries, or the like across an Intranet or the Internet. They need a small package and an easy way for users to extract data. For example, Java[™] developers may want to ship large libraries of classes, so that home and business developers can use those classes in their software.

EXTRACT.EXE, which extracts files from CAB files, recognizes when it has been copied to the front of a cabinet file, and will automatically extract the files in that cabinet file (and any continuation cabinet files). Here is how this is accomplished:

- 1) Create a cabinet file (or set of cabinet files)
- 2) Prepend EXTRACT.EXE to the first cabinet file (do not prepend EXTRACT.EXE to any other cabinet files in the set)
- 3) Distribute the self-extracting cabinet (and any subsequent cabinets)

Example 1:

```
MakeCAB /f self.ddf      ; Build cabinet file set self1.cab, self2.cab
copy /b extract.exe+self1.cab self.exe ; self.exe is self-extracting
```

1.4. MakeCAB Deliverables

The following table is a list of all the libraries and programs that are part of MakeCAB:

File	Contents
MAKECAB.EXE	Command-line tool to perform disk layout (uses FCI.LIB)
FDI.LIB	File Decompression Interface library.
EXTRACT.EXE	Command-line tool to expand files (uses FDI.LIB)
FCI.LIB	File Compression Interface library.

1.5. MakeCAB Goals

- o Provide excellent compression ratio and decompression speed
- o Simplify production of disk layouts for products
- o Provide command-line tools and link libraries for all Microsoft platforms

2. MakeCAB Optimizing and Tuning

2.1. Saving Diskettes

For a product shipped on floppy disks, it is very important to minimize the number of disks shipped per product! As a back-of-the-envelope calculation, if each disk cost a dollar and one million units were shipped, then each disk saved would save \$1 million. The following pseudo-code suggests a process you might follow as you strive to keep your Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) to a minimum:

```
get initial product files;
while (have not yet shipped)
    Compress file set using:
        CompressionType=LZX
        CompressionMemory=21
    If near a disk boundary
        Consider tossing files to save a disk (especially clipart & samples!)
    If near shipping
        Relax FolderSizeThreshold to
            improve access time at decompress.
end-while
Ship it!
```

2.2. Tuning Access Time vs. Compression Ratio

MakeCAB introduces the concept of a *folder* to refer to a contiguous set of compressed bytes. To decompress a file from a cabinet, FDI.LIB (called by your SETUP.EXE and EXTRACT.EXE) finds the folder that the file starts in, and then must **read and decompress** all the bytes in that folder from the start up through and including the desired file.

For example, if the file FOO.EXE is at the end of a 1.44Mb folder on a 1.44M diskette, then FDI.LIB must read the entire diskette and decompress all the data. This is about the worst access time possible. By contrast, if FOO.EXE were at the start of a folder (regardless of how large the folder is), then it would be read and decompressed with no extra overhead.

So, why would one not always Set FolderFileCountThreshold=1? Because doing so would reset the compression history after each file, resulting in a poor compression ratio. MakeCAB provides several variables and directives to provide very fine control over these issues:

Variable/Directive	More Compression; Slower Access Time	Less Compression; Faster Access Time
CabinetFileCountThreshold	Bigger numbers	Lower numbers
FolderFileCountThreshold	Bigger numbers	Lower numbers
FolderSizeThreshold	Bigger numbers	Lower numbers
MaxCabinetSize	Bigger numbers	Lower numbers
.New Folder	Don't use	Use often
.New Cabinet	Don't use	Use often

The MakeCAB defaults are configured for a floppy disk layout, with the assumption that the most common scenario is a full setup that will extract most of the files, so these are the settings:

Variable/Directive	Value
CabinetFileCountThreshold	Unlimited
FolderFileCountThreshold	Unlimited
FolderSizeThreshold	Same as MaxCabinetSize
MaxCabinetSize	Same as MaxDiskSize

For the MSDN source archive (>200Mb of sample source code, >30,000 files) that ships on a CD-ROM, the following values might be a reasonable tradeoff between compression and access time:

Variable/Directive	Value
CabinetFileCountThreshold	2000 (Since we have to call FDICopy() on a cabinet and walk through all the FILE headers, we want this small enough so that isn't too much overhead, but large enough to keep the number of cabinets down.)
FolderFileCountThreshold	Unlimited (Let FolderSizeThreshold control folder size!)
FolderSizeThreshold	200K (Represents 600K-800K of source (assuming 3:1 or 4:1 compression ratio))
MaxCabinetSize	Unlimited (Let CabinetFileCountThreshold control the cabinet size!)

Of course, if you are tight for space on your CD-ROM, you'll probably boost the **FolderSizeThreshold** and **CompressionMemory** settings!

2.3. Piecemeal DDFs for Localization and Different Disk Sizes

MAKECAB.EXE was designed to minimize the amount of duplicate information needed to generate product layouts for different languages and disk sizes. A key feature is the ability to specify more than one DDF on the MAKECAB.EXE command line. For example:

```
acme.ddf      Some standard definitions to control the format of the output INF file
lang.ddf     Sets language-specific settings (SourceDir, for example)
disk.ddf     Sets the diskette sizes (CDROM, 1.2M, 1.44M, etc.)
product.ddf  Lists all the files in the product, and uses variables set in the previous DDFs to customize its operation
```

The following command line would be used to process this set of DDFs:

```
MakeCAB /f acme.ddf /f lang.ddf /f disk.ddf /f product.ddf
```

3. MakeCAB Concepts

The key feature of MakeCAB is that it takes a set of files and produces a *disk layout* while at the same time attempting to minimize the number of disks required. In order to understand how MakeCAB does this, three terms need to be defined: *cabinet*, *folder*, and *file*. MakeCAB takes all of the *files* in the product or application being compressed, lays

the bytes down as one continuous byte stream, compresses the entire stream, chopping it up into *folders* as appropriate, and then fills up one or more *cabinets* with the *folders*.

Cabinet A normal file that contains pieces of one or more files, usually compressed. Also known as a "CAB file".

Folder A decompression boundary. Large folders enable higher compression, because the compressor can refer back to more data in finding patterns. However, to retrieve a file at the end of a folder, the entire folder must be decompressed. So there is a tradeoff between achieved compression and the quickness of random access to individual files.

File A file to be placed in the layout..

3.1. Decoupling File Layout and INF Layout

MakeCAB has two "modes" for generating the INF file; *unified mode* and *relational mode*. In *unified mode*, the INF file is generated as file copy commands are processed in the DDF file. This is the default, and minimizes the amount of effort needed to construct a DDF file. However, this forces the INF file to list the files in the layout in exactly the same order as they are placed on disks/cabinets.

Example of a Unified DDF:

```

; ** Set up INF formats before we do the disk layout, because MakeCAB
; writes Disk and Cabinet information out as it is generated.
.OPTION EXPLICIT ; Generate errors for undefined variables

.Set InfDiskHeader="[disk list]"
.Set InfDiskHeader1=";<disk number>,<disk label>"
.Set InfDiskLineFormat="*disk#*,*label*"

.Set InfCabinetHeader="[cabinet list]"
.Set InfCabinetHeader1=";<cabinet number>,<disk number>,<cabinet file name>"
.Set InfCabinetLineFormat="*cab#*,*disk#*,*cabfile*"

.Set InfFileHeader=";*** File List ***"
.Set InfFileHeader1=";<disk number>,<cabinet number>,<filename>,<size>"
.Set InfFileHeader2=";Note: File is not in a cabinet if cab# is 0"
.Set InfFileHeader3=""
.Set InfFileLineFormat="*disk#*,*cab#*,*file*,*date*,*size*"

.set GenerateInf=ON ; Unified mode - create the INF file as we go

; ** Setup files. These don't need to be in the INF file, so we put
; /inf=NO on these lines so that MakeCAB won't generate an error when
; it finds that these files are not mentioned in the INF portion of
; the DDF.

.set Compress=OFF
.set Cabinet=OFF
setup.exe /inf=NO ; This file doesn't show up in INF
setup.inf /inf=NO ; This file doesn't show up in INF

; ** Files in cabinets
.set Compress=ON
.set Cabinet=ON

; * Put all bitmaps together to help compression
a1.bmp ; Bitmap for client1.exe
b1.bmp ; Bitmap for client1.exe
c1.bmp ; Bitmap for client1.exe
d1.bmp ; Bitmap for client1.exe

```



```
a2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
b2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
c2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
d2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
shared.dll /date=10/12/93 ; File needed by client1.exe and client2.exe
client1.exe      ; needs shared.dll
client2.exe      ; needs shared.dll

;*** The End
```

In *relational mode* the DDF has *file reference* lines to specify the exact placement of file information lines, including the ability to list the same file multiple times. This feature is important for INF structures which use section headers (e.g. “[clipart]”, “[screen savers]”) to identify sets of files for particular functionality, and for which the same file may need to be included in more than one section. For example, a product may have several optional features, all of which require a DLL file named “shared.dll”. Rather than having “shared.dll” stored multiple times (once for each section which uses the file), a waste of disk space, a single copy of the file can be stored, and then referenced by all of the sections which require it.

A relational mode DDF is similar to a unified mode DDF, with the exception that a “.set GenerateInf=OFF” line must be inserted before the product’s files are listed (as shown below). Once all of the files have been listed, the INF file generating portion of the DDF begins, and a “.set GenerateInf=ON” line must be inserted, followed by the section definitions.

Example of a Relational DDF:

```
;** Set up INF formats before we do the disk layout, because MakeCAB
; writes Disk and Cabinet information out as it is generated.
.OPTION EXPLICIT ; Generate errors for undefined variables

.Set InfDiskHeader="[disk list]"
.Set InfDiskHeader1=";<disk number>,<disk label>"
.Set InfDiskLineFormat="*disk#*,*label*"

.Set InfCabinetHeader="[cabinet list]"
.Set InfCabinetHeader1=";<cabinet number>,<disk number>,<cabinet file name>"
.Set InfCabinetLineFormat="*cab#*,*disk#*,*cabfile*"

.Set InfFileHeader=";*** File List ***"
.Set InfFileHeader1=";<disk number>,<cabinet number>,<filename>,<size>"
.Set InfFileHeader2=";Note: File is not in a cabinet if cab# is 0"
.Set InfFileHeader3=""
.Set InfFileLineFormat="*disk#*,*cab#*,*file*,*date*,*size*"

;
; *** Here is where we list all the files
;

.set GenerateInf=OFF ; RELATIONAL MODE - Do disk layout first

;** Setup files. These don't need to be in the INF file, so we put
; /inf=NO on these lines so that MakeCAB won't generate an error when
; it finds that these files are not mentioned in the INF portion of
; the DDF.

.set Compress=OFF
.set Cabinet=OFF
setup.exe /inf=NO ; This file doesn't show up in INF
setup.inf /inf=NO ; This file doesn't show up in INF

;** Files in cabinets
```

```
;
.set Compress=ON
.set Cabinet=ON

;* Put all bitmaps together to help compression
a1.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
b1.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
c1.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
d1.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
a2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client1.exe
b2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
c2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
d2.bmp           ; Bitmap for client2.exe
shared.dll /date=10/12/93 ; File needed by client1.exe and client2.exe
client1.exe      ; needs shared.dll
client2.exe      ; needs shared.dll

;
; *** Now we're generating the INF file
;
.set GenerateInf=ON

;* Feature One files
.InfBegin File
[feature One]
;Files for feature one
.InfEnd
client1.exe
shared.dll /date=04/01/94 ; Override date
a1.bmp
b1.bmp
c1.bmp
d1.bmp

;* Feature Two files
.InfBegin File

[feature Two]
;Files for feature Two
;Note that shared.dll is also required by Feature One
.InfEnd
client1.exe
shared.dll
a2.bmp
b2.bmp
c2.bmp
d2.bmp

;*** The End
```

The generated INF file would look something like this:

```
[disk list]
;<disk number>,<disk label>
1,"Disk 1"

[cabinet list]
;<cabinet number>,<disk number>,<cabinet file name>
1,1,cabinet.1

;*** File List ***
;<disk number>,<cabinet number>,<filename>,<size>
;Note: File is not in a cabinet if cab# is 0
```

```
[feature One]
;Files for feature one
1,1,client1.exe,12/12/93,1234
1,1,shared.dll,04/01/94,1234
1,1,a1.bmp,12/12/93,573
1,1,b1.bmp,12/12/93,573
1,1,c1.bmp,12/12/93,573
1,1,d1.bmp,12/12/93,573

[feature Two]
;Files for feature Two
;Note that shared.dll is also required by Feature One
1,1,client1.exe,12/12/93,1234
1,1,shared.dll,10/12/93,1234
1,1,a2.bmp,12/12/93,643
1,1,b2.bmp,12/12/93,643
1,1,c2.bmp,12/12/93,643
1,1,d2.bmp,12/12/93,643
```

Notes:

- (1) In "relational" mode, only the last setting of a particular **InfXxx** default parameter variable (both standard parameters like **InfDate**, **InfTime**, etc. and custom parameters) in the layout portion (i.e. the first part) of the DDF is respected.

Example:

If you did ".set **InfDate**=12/05/92" at the start of the layout portion, and then did ".set **InfDate**=01/01/94" in the middle of the layout portion, the latter value would be used for the entire INF file.

- (2) Any parameters on a reference line will override parameters on the corresponding file copy line.

Example:

```
; * layout portion
bar /x=1
...
; * INF portion
bar /x=2 ; INF file will have value 2
```

- (3) In "relational" mode, each file copy command in the layout portion of the DDF must be referenced at least once in a reference command in the INF portion of the DDF. Any files that are not referenced will cause an error during pass 1. The **/inf=no** parameter must be specified on any file copy commands for files which are going to be omitted from the INF file (such as SETUP.EXE and SETUP.INF).
- (4) In "relational" mode, **UniqueFiles** must be **ON**, because the destination file name is used in the INF portion of the DDF to refer back to file information.

4. MAKECAB.EXE

MAKECAB.EXE is designed to produce the final distribution files and cabinets for an entire product in a single run. The most common way to use MAKECAB.EXE is to supply a *directives file* that controls how files are compressed and stored into one or more cabinets.

4.1. MAKECAB.EXE Syntax

There two primary forms of MAKECAB.EXE usage. The first is used for compressing a single file, while the second is used for compressing multiple files.

```
MAKECAB [/Vn] [/D variable=value ...] [/L directory] source [destination]
MAKECAB [/Vn] [/D variable=value ] /F directives_file [...]
```

the parameters are described below

Parameter	Description
<i>source</i>	A file to be compressed.
<i>destination</i>	The name of the file to receive the compressed version of the source file. If not supplied, a default destination name is constructed from the source file name according to the rules defined by the CompressedFileExtensionChar variable on page 22. You can use /D CompressedFileExtensionChar=c on the command line to change the appended character.
/D <i>variable=value</i>	Set <i>variable</i> to be equal to <i>value</i> . Equivalent to using the .Set command in the directives file. For example, a single directive file could be used to produce layouts for different disk sizes by running MakeCAB once with different values of MaxDiskSize defined: /D MaxDiskSize=1.44M. Both standard MakeCAB variables and custom variables may be defined in this way. If .Option Explicit is specified in a directive file, then <i>variable</i> must be defined with a .Define command in a directive file.
/L <i>directory</i>	Specifies an output directory where the compressed file will be placed (most useful when <i>destination</i> is not supplied).
/F <i>directives_file</i>	A file containing commands for MAKECAB.EXE to execute. If more than one directive file is specified (/F file1 /F file2 ...), they are processed in the order (left to right) specified on the command line. Variable settings, open cabinets, open disks, etc. are all carried forward from one directive file to the next (just as if all of the files had been concatenated together and presented as a single file to MakeCAB). For example, this is intended to simplify the work for a product shipped in multiple languages. There would be a short, language-specific directives file, and then a single, large master directives file that covers the bulk of the product.
/Vn	Set debugging verbosity level (0=none, ..., 3=full)

4.2. MAKECAB.EXE Directive File Syntax

Before diving into the details of the syntax of the directives file, provided here is an example of what the Excel directives file might look like:

```

;*** EXCEL MAKECAB Directive file
;
.Set DiskLabel1=Setup                ; Label of first disk
.Set DiskLabel2=Program              ; Label of second disk
.Set DiskLabel3="Program Continued"  ; Label of third disk
.Set CabinetNameTemplate=EXCEL*.CAB  ; EXCEL1.CAB, EXCEL2.CAB, etc.
.Set MaxDiskSize=1.44M               ; 3.5" disks

;** Setup.exe and setup.inf are placed uncompressed in the first disk
.Set Cabinet=off
.Set Compress=off
bin\setup.exe                        ; Just copy SETUP.EXE as is
bin\setup.inf                        ; Just copy SETUP.INF as is
;** The rest of the files are stored, compressed, in cabinet files
.Set Cabinet=on
.Set Compress=on
bin\excel.exe                        ; Big EXE, will span cabinets
bin\excel.hlp
bin\olecli.dll
bin\olesrv.dll
...
```

Here are some additional notes on the general syntax and behavior of MakeCAB Directive Files

1. MakeCAB will place files on disks (and in cabinets) in the order they are specified in the directive file(s).

2. When ever a filename or directory is called for, you may supply either a relative (e.g., foo\bar, ..foo) or an absolute (e.g., c:\banana, x:\slm\src\bin) path.
3. Optimal compression is achieved when files with similar types of data are grouped together.
4. MakeCAB is controlled in large part by setting *variables*. MakeCAB has many predefined variables, all of which have default values chosen to represent the most common case. You can modify these variables, and you can define your own variables as well.
5. The value of a variable is retrieved by enclosing the variable name in percent (%) signs. If the variable is not defined, an error is generated. If you want an explicit percent sign, use two adjacent percent signs (%%). MakeCAB will collapse this to a single percent sign (%).
6. Variable substitution is only done once. For example, .Set A=One [A is "One"]; .Set B=%A% (B is "%A%"); .Set C=%B% (C is "%A%", **not** "One").
7. Variable substitution is done before any other line parsing, so variables can be used anywhere.
8. Variables values may include blanks. Quote (") or apostrophe(') marks may be used in .Set statements to capture blanks. If you want an explicit quote(") or apostrophe('), you can intermix these two marks (use one for bracketing so that you may specify the other), or, as with the percent sign above, you can specify two adjacent marks (""") and MakeCAB will collapse this to a single mark("").
9. All sizes are specified in bytes.
10. There are a few special values for common disks sizes (CDROM, 1.44M, 1.2M, 720K, 360K) that can be used for any of the predefined MakeCAB variables that describe the attributes of a disk (**MaxDiskSize**, **ClusterSize**, **MaxDiskFileCount**). MakeCAB has built-in knowledge about the correct values of these attributes for these common disk sizes.
11. MakeCAB does not check for 8.3 filename limitations directly, but rather depends upon the underlying operating system to do filename validity checking (this will allow MakeCAB to work with long file names.)
12. MakeCAB makes two passes of the directive file(s). On the first pass, MakeCAB checks for syntax errors and makes sure that all of the files can be found. This is very fast, and reduces the chance that the second pass, where the actual data compression occurs, will have any problems. This is important because compression is very time consuming, so MakeCAB wants to avoid, for example, spending an hour compressing files only to find that a file toward the end of the directive file(s) cannot be found.

4.2.1. Command Summary

The following table provides a summary of the MakeCAB Directive File syntax. Directives begin with a period ("."), followed by a command name, and possibly by blank delimited arguments. Note that a File Copy command is distinguished from a File Reference command by the setting of the **GenerateInf** variable.

Syntax	Description
;	Comment (anywhere on a DDF line)
src [dest] [/inf=yes no] [/unique=yes no] [/x=y ...]	File Copy command
dest [/x=y ...]	File Reference command
.Define variable=[value]	Define <i>variable</i> to be equal to <i>value</i> (see .Option Explicit)
.Delete variable	Delete a variable definition
.Dump	Display all variable definitions
.InfBegin Disk Cabinet Folder	Copy lines to specified INF file section
.InfEnd	End an .InfBegin section
.InfWrite string	Write "string" to file section of INF file
.InfWriteCabinet string	Write "string" to cabinet section of INF file
.InfWriteDisk string	Write "string" to disk section of INF file
.New Disk Cabinet Folder	Start a new Disk, Cabinet, or Folder
.Option Explicit	Require .Define first time for user-defined variables
.Set variable=[value]	Set <i>variable</i> to be equal to <i>value</i>
%variable%	Substitute value of <i>variable</i>
<blank line>	Blank lines are ignored

4.2.2. Variable Summary

Standard Variables	Description
Cabinet=ON OFF	Turns Cabinet Mode on or off
CabinetFileCountThreshold=count	Threshold count of files per Cabinet
CabinetName_n=filename	Cabinet file name for cabinet number <i>n</i>

CabinetNameTemplate =template	Cabinet file name template; * is replaced by Cabinet number
ChecksumWidth =1 2 ... 8	Max low-order hex digits displayed by INF csum parameter
ClusterSize =bytesPerCluster	Cluster size on diskette (default is 512 bytes)
Compress =ON OFF	Turns compression on or off
CompressedFileExtensionChar =char	Last character of the file extension for compressed files
CompressionType =MSZIP	Compression engine
DestinationDir =path	Default path for destination files (stored in cabinet file)
DiskDirectory <i>n</i> =directory	Output directory name for disk <i>n</i>
DiskDirectoryTemplate =template	Output directory name template; * is replaced by disk number
DiskLabel <i>n</i> =label	Printed disk label name for disk <i>n</i>
DiskLabelTemplate =template	Printed disk label name template; * is replaced by disk number
DoNotCopyFiles = ON OFF	Controls whether files are actually copied (ACME ADMIN.INF)
FolderFileCountThreshold =count	Threshold count of files per Folder
FolderSizeThreshold =size	Threshold folder size for current folder
GenerateInf =ON OFF	Control Unified vs. Relation INF generation mode
InfXxx =string	Set default value for INF Parameter Xxx
InfCabinetHeader <i>[n]</i> =string	INF cabinet section header text
InfCabinetLineFormat <i>[n]</i> =format string	INF cabinet section detail line format
InfCommentString =string	INF comment string
InfDateFormat =yyyy-mm-dd mm/dd/yy	INF date format
InfDiskHeader <i>[n]</i> =string	INF disk section header text
InfDiskLineFormat <i>[n]</i> =format string	INF disk section detail line format
InfFileHeader <i>[n]</i> =string	INF file section header text
InfFileLineFormat <i>[n]</i> =format string	INF file section detail line format
InfFileName =filename	Name of INF file
InfFooter <i>[n]</i> =string	INF footer text
InfHeader <i>[n]</i> =string	INF header text
InfSectionOrder =[D C F]*	INF section order (disk, cabinet, file)
MaxCabinetSize =size	Maximum cabinet file size for current cabinet
MaxDiskFileCount =count	Maximum count of files per Disk
MaxDiskSize <i>[n]</i> =size	Maximum disk size
MaxErrors =count	Maximum errors allowed before pass 1 terminates
ReservePerCabinetSize =size	Base amount of space to reserve for FCRESERVE data
ReservePerDataBlockSize =size	Amount of space to reserve in each data block
ReservePerFolderSize =size	Amount of additional space in FCRESERVE for each folder
RptFileName =filename	Name of RPT file
SourceDir =path	Default path for source files
UniqueFiles =ON OFF	Control whether duplicate desintation file names are allowed

4.2.3. InfDisk/Cabinet/FileLineFormat Syntax and Semantics

The **InfDiskLineFormat**, **InfCabinetLineFormat**, and **InfFileLineFormat** variables are used to control the formatting of the “detail” lines in the INF file. The syntax of the values assigned to these variables is as follows:

- 1) The “*” character is used to bracket replaceable parameters.
- 2) Two “*” characters in a row (“**”) are replaced by a single “*”.
- 3) A replaceable parameter name may be one of the standard ones defined by MakeCAB, or it may be a custom parameter. The value used for a parameter is found in the following order:
 - a) If a parameter is specified on a File Copy or File Reference command, the specified value is used.
 - b) If a variable InfXxxx is defined for this parameter, its value is used.
 - c) The parameter is a standard paramater, and its defined value is used.
- 4) Braces “{ }” may be used to indicate portions of text plus exactly one parameter that are omitted if the parameter value is blank. For example, “{*id*,}*file*,*size*” will generate the following strings, depending upon the values of id, file, and size:

id	file	size	Output String
	foo.da	23	foo.dat,23
	t		
17	foo.da	23	17,foo.dat,23
	t		
17		23	17,,23

4.2.4. INF Parameters

The following table lists the standard parameters that may be specified in INF line formats and on File Copy and File Reference commands. The Disk, Cab, and File columns indicate which parameters are supported in the **InfDiskLineFormat**, **InfCabinetLineFormat**, and **InfFileLineFormat**, respectively. In addition, the File column also indicates which parameters may be specified on the File Copy and File Reference commands.

Parameter	Disk	Cab	File	Description
attr			Yes	File attributes (A=archive, R=read-only, H=hidden, S=system)
cab#		Yes	Yes	Cabinet number (0 means not in cabinet, 1 or higher is cabinet number)
cabfile		Yes		Cabinet file name
csum			Yes	Checksum
date			Yes	File date (mm/dd/yy or yyyy-mm-dd, depending upon InfDateFormat)
disk#	Yes	Yes	Yes	Disk number (1-based)
file			Yes	Destination file name in layout (in cabinet or on a disk)
file#			Yes	Destination file number in layout (first file is 1, second file is 2, ...); the order of File Copy Commands controls the file number, so in relational INF mode the order of File Reference Commands has no affect on the file number.
label	Yes			Disk user-readable label (value comes from DiskLabeln , if defined, and otherwise is constructed from DiskLabelTemplate).
lang			Yes	Language (i.e., VER.DLL info) in base 10, blank separated if multiple values
size			Yes	File size (only affects value written to INF file)
time			Yes	File time (hh:mm:ss[alp])
ver			Yes	Binary File version (n.n.n.n base 10 format)
vers			Yes	String File version -- can be different from ver !

Just as custom INF parameters can be defined by using the **.Define** and **.Set** command (e.g., **.Set InfCustom=default** value), the **.Set** command can also be used to override the values of these parameters. This is most obviously useful for the **date** and **time** parameters, as it provides a simple way to "date stamp" all the files in a layout; and for the **attr** parameter, this provides a way to force a consistent set of file attributes (commonly used to clear the read-only and archive attribute bits).

4.2.5. Command Details

;

A comment line.

A comment may appear anywhere in a directive file. In addition, any line may include a comment at the end. Any text on the line following the comment is ignored.

source [destination] [/INF= YES | NO] [/UNIQUE=YES | NO] [/x=y [/x=y ...]]

A File Copy Command; specifies a file to be placed onto a disk or cabinet. If **GenerateInf** is **OFF**, then lines without leading periods are interpreted as File Copy Commands.

source is a file name, and may include a relative or absolute path specification. The **SourceDir** variable is applied first, if specified.

destination is the name to store in the cabinet file (if **Cabinet** is **On**), or the name for the destination file (if **Cabinet** is **Off**). The **DestinationDir** variable is used as a prefix.

/INF=YES | NO controls whether *destination* must be specified in a Reference command in the INF section of the DDF. If **YES** is specified (the default), then *destination* must be specified in at least one Reference command. If **NO** is specified, then *destination* does not have to be specified in any Reference command. This parameter is used only if Relational INF mode is selected (see the **GenerateInf** variable), as Unified mode does not support Reference commands.

/UNIQUE=YES | NO controls whether *destination* must be unique throughout the layout. Specifying this parameter on the file copy command overrides the default setting controlled by the **UniqueFiles** variable (which defaults to YES). If Relational INF mode is selected (see the **GenerateInf** variable), then **UniqueFiles** must be **YES**.

/x=y permits standard and custom INF parameters to be applied to a file copy command. These parameters are carried along with the file by MakeCAB and used to format file detail lines in the INF file. In addition, the **/Date**, **/Time**, and **/Attr** parameters also control the values that are placed in the cabinet files or on the disk layout (for files outside of a cabinet). This permits a great deal of flexibility in customizing the INF file format. A parameter "x" is defined to have the value "y" (which may be empty). Quotes can be used in "y" to include blanks or other special characters. If a parameter "x" is also defined on a File Reference command, that setting overrides any setting for "x" specified on the referred to File Copy command. See "INF Parameters" on page 15 for a list of standard parameters.

NOTE: You must define a variable InfX if you are going to use /X=y on a File Copy (or File Reference) command. If no such variable is defined, then /X=y will generate an error. This behavior ensures that there is a default value for every parameter, and makes it easier to catch inadvertent typing errors.

If the *destination* is not specified, its default value depends upon the **Cabinet** and **Compress** variables, as indicated by the following table, using BIN\EXCEL.EXE as a sample source file name. Note that the variable **CompressedFileExtensionChar** controls the actual character used to indicate a compressed file. Note also that the **DestinationDir** variable is prefixed to the destination name before it is stored in the cabinet file.

	Compress = OFF	Compress = ON
Cabinet = OFF	EXCEL.EXE -- uncompressed, not in a cabinet.	EXCEL.EX_ -- compressed, not in cabinet (actually, this is a cabinet with a single file!) ¹
Cabinet = ON	EXCEL.EXE -- uncompressed, in a cabinet.	EXCEL.EXE -- compressed, in a cabinet

Examples:

```
.Set Compress=OFF           ; Turn off compression
.Set Cabinet=OFF             ; No cabinet file
setup.exe /inf=no            ; Setup is put on disk 1, won't be in INF
setup.inf                   ; Classic chicken & the egg problem

.Set Compress=ON             ; Turn compression on
readme.txt                  ; Placed on disk 1 as README.TXT_
.Set Cabinet=ON              ; Turn cabinet file creation on
bin\excel.exe               ; Placed in cabinet as EXCEL.EXE
msdraw.exe msapps\msdraw.exe ; Placed in cabinet as MSAPPS\MSDRAW.EXE
a.txt dup.txt /unique=no     ; Another dup.txt is allowed
b.txt dup.txt /unique=no     ; And here it is
```

destination [/x=y [/x=y ...]]

¹ Compressing a single file is generally not a good idea, as better compression is achieved by compressing across file boundaries (hence cabinet files). However, MakeCAB supports this in case clients used to the old way of writing a setup program need this feature. Instead of having two different file formats, though, we simply create a cabinet that has just the one file in it.

A File Reference Command; specifies that information for a file (previously specified in a File Copy command) is to be written to the File section of the INF file. This command is only supported in Relational INF mode. If **GenerateInf** is **ON**, then lines without leading periods are interpreted as File Reference Commands.

destination is the name of a file previously specified in a File Copy command as the **destination** in the layout (not the source!). Therefore, **UniqueFiles** is required to be **ON**.

/x=y permits standard and custom INF parameters to be applied to a file reference command. These parameters are merged with any parameters specified on the referenced File Copy command, with parameters on the File Reference command taking precedence.

A parameter "x" is defined to have the value "y" (which may be empty). Quotes can be used in "y" to include blanks or other special characters. . See "INF Parameters" on page 15 for a list of standard parameters.

NOTE: You must define a variable InfX if you are going to use /X=y on a File Reference (or File Copy) command. If no such variable is defined, then /X=y will generate an error. This behavior ensures that there is a default value for every parameter, and makes it easier to catch inadvertent typing errors.

Examples:

```
.Set GenerateInf=OFF           ; Relational INF mode; file layout
setup.exe /inf=no              ; Setup is put on disk 1, won't be in INF
readme.txt
shared.dll /special=yes        ; Custom parameter

.Set GenerateInf=ON            ; INF section of DDF
.InfWrite [Common]
readme.txt
.InfWrite [One]
shared.dll /special=no         ; Override parm on file copy command
.InfWrite [Two]
shared.dll                     ; Use /special value from file copy
```

.Define variable=[value]

Define *variable* to be equal to *value*.

To use *variable*, surround it with percent signs (%) -- %*variable*%.

Using an undefined variable is an error, and will cause MakeCAB to stop before pass 2.

value may include references to other variables.

Leading and trailing blanks in *value* are discarded.

Blanks may be enclosed in quote (") or apostrophe (') marks.

Explicit percent signs (%), quotes ("), or apostrophes (') must be specified twice.

NOTE: If **.Option Explicit** is specified, then you must first use **.Define** to define any user-defined variables before you can use **.Set** to modify them. For standard MakeCAB variables, **.Define** is not permitted, and only **.Set** may be used on. If **.Option Explicit** is not specified, then **.Define** is equivalent to **.Set**.

Examples

```
.Define lang=ENGLISH           ; Set language
.Define country=USA            ; Set country
.Define SourceDir=%lang%\%country% ; SourceDir = [ENGLISH\USA]
.Define join=%lang%%country%    ; join = [ENGLISHUSA]
.Define success=100%           ; success = [100%]
.Define SourceDir=              ; SourceDir = []
.Define contraction="don't"     ; contraction = [don't]
.Define contraction=don't      ; contraction = [don't]
.Define someSpaces= hi there    ; someSpaces = [hi there]
```

```
.Define someMore=" blue dog " ; someMore = [ blue dog ]
```

.Delete variable

Delete a variable definition.

You may only delete variables that have been created by **.Define** or **.Set** commands. Standard MakeCAB variables may not be deleted.

Examples:

```
.Set myVariable=raisin
.Delete myVariable ; Delete myVariable
```

.Dump

Display the entire MakeCAB variable table.

This command can be used to aid debugging of complicated (or not so complicated) MakeCAB directive files. Note that the dump will be displayed during pass 1 and again during pass 2.

Examples:

```
.Dump ; Dump variable table to stdout
```

.InfBegin DISK | CABINET | FILE

Start a block of one or more lines to write to the specified area of the INF file.

The lines in the block will be copied unmodified to the specified section of the INF file, so no MakeCAB variable substitution will be performed. Similarly, MakeCAB will not strip comments.

Use **.InfWrite**, **.InfWriteCabinet**, or **.InfWriteDisk** if you need variable substitution.

Examples:

```
.InfBegin disk ; Text for disk section of INF file
;This is a comment for the disk section. MakeCAB will not process
;this line, so, for example, %var% will not be substituted.
.InfEnd
```

.InfEnd

Terminate an .InfBegin block.

Examples:

```
.InfEnd ; Close an .InfBegin block
```

.InfWrite string

Write *string* to the file area of the INF file.

Note that lines will have MakeCAB comments removed and variable values substituted. If you want to avoid this processing, use the **.InfBegin File** command. Leading whitespace is normally removed, but you can override this by placing whitespace in quotes (see examples below)

Examples:

```
.InfWrite [A Section Header] ; Text for file section, this comment
; will not appear.

.InfWrite ;<disk>,<file> ; MakeCAB strips off the comments, so this
; command just writes a blank line!
```

```
.InfWrite "<disk>,<file>" ; Get that comment in the INF file

.InfWrite " "%someVar% ; Get leading space on the INF line
```

.InfWriteCabinet string

Write *string* to the cabinet area of the INF file.

Note that lines will have MakeCAB comments removed and variable values substituted. If you want to avoid this processing, use the **.InfBegin Cabinet** command.

Examples:

```
.InfWriteCabinet 40%% off your favorite furniture ; %% collapse down to
; one %, because MakeCAB does variable
; substitution on the string.
```

.InfWriteDisk string

Write *string* to the disk area of the INF file.

Note that lines will have MakeCAB comments removed and variable values substituted. If you want to avoid this processing, use the **.InfBegin Disk** command.

Examples:

```
.InfWriteDisk The Rain in Spain falls Mainly on the Plain
```

.New Disk | Cabinet | Folder

Force a disk, cabinet, or folder break.

This is used to complete the current disk, cabinet, or folder, and start a new one.

Examples:

```
.New Disk ; Start a new disk
.New Cabinet ; Start a new cabinet
.New Folder ; Start a new folder
```

.Set variable=value

Set *variable* to be equal to *value*.

To use *variable*, surround it with percent signs (%) -- %*variable*%.

Using an undefined variable is an error, and will cause MakeCAB to stop before pass 2.

value may include references to other variables.

value may be empty, in which case *variable* is set to the empty string.

Leading and trailing blanks in *value* are discarded.

Blanks may be enclosed in quote (") or apostrophe (') marks.

Explicit percent signs (%), quotes ("), or apostrophes (') must be specified twice.

NOTE: If **.Option Explicit** is specified, then you must first use **.Define** to define any user-defined variables before you can use **.Set** to modify them. For standard MakeCAB variables, **.Define** is not permitted, and only **.Set** may be used on.

Examples

```
.Set lang=ENGLISH ; Set language
.Set country=USA ; Set country
.Set SourceDir=%lang%\%country% ; SourceDir = [ENGLISH\USA]
.Set join=%lang%%country% ; join = [ENGLISHUSA]
.Set success=100%% ; success = [100%]
```

```
.Set SourceDir=                ; SourceDir = []
.Set contraction="don't"       ; contraction = [don't]
.Set contraction=don't         ; contraction = [don't]
.Set someSpaces= hi there     ; someSpaces = [hi there]
.Set someMore=" blue dog "    ; someMore = [ blue dog ]
```

4.2.6. Variable Details

The standard MakeCAB variables are listed below. These variables are predefined, and each of them have default value, which is used if you do not set the variable from the command line (/D var=value) or prior to the time you explicitly set the variable with a **.Define** or **.Set** command in a directive file.

You can create your own variables as well, using the **.Define** command if you specify **.Option Explicit**, and the **.Set** command otherwise.

Cabinet=On | Off

Turns *cabinet mode* on or off.

Default: .Set Cabinet=On ; Cabinet mode is ON

When cabinet mode is **On**, the following applies:

- 1) Files are stored in a cabinet, whose name is taken from the **CabinetNameTemplate** variable
- 2) If the compressed size of a file would cause the current Cabinet to exceed the current **MaxCabinetSize** variable, then as much of the compressed file as possible is stored in the current Cabinet, that Cabinet is closed, and a new Cabinet is created. Note that it is possible for a large file to span multiple Cabinets!
- 3) If the compressed size of a file (or set of files, if the files are small) would cause the current Folder to exceed the current **MinFolderSize** variable, these files are the last ones added to the current Folder, a new Folder is started for any subsequent files.² Note that if the current Folder cannot fit in the current Cabinet, as much as possible of the Folder is stored in the current Cabinet, and the remainder of the Folder is stored in the next Cabinet. This means that it is possible for *several* files to be continued from one Cabinet file to the next Cabinet file!

When cabinet mode is **Off**, the following applies:

- 1) Files are stored in individual files
- 2) If the destination file is not supplied, the default name is controlled by the *compression mode* (see the **Compress** variable)

Examples

```
.Set Cabinet=OFF                ; Files not in cabinets...
.Set Compress=OFF               ; ...and no compression.
setup.exe                      ; Setup program is simply copied to disk.
.Set Cabinet=ON                 ; Use a cabinet...
.SET Compress=ON                ; ...and compress remaining files.
```

CabinetFileCountThreshold=count

Sets a goal for the maximum number of files in a cabinet.

Default: .Set CabinetFileCountThreshold=0 ; Default is no threshold

count is a threshold for the number of files to store in a cabinet. Once this count has been reached, MakeCAB will close the current cabinet as soon as possible. Due to the blocking of files for compression purposes, it is possible that the cabinet will contain more files than specified by this variable.

If *count* is 0, then there is no limit on the number files per cabinet.

² The motivation here is that a Folder is a decompression boundary, and so is advisory. To access a file in a Folder, you must start decompressing from the beginning of a Folder, potentially decompressing (and discarding) many files until you arrive at the desired file. If we made the current folder larger, then this file just added would take longer to access. In general, the **MinFolderSize** variable should be several times larger than 32K, to be of any utility.

Examples:

```
.Set CabinetFileCountThreshold=100 ; Shoot for 100 files per cabinet
```

CabinetNamen=filename

The cabinet file name for the specified cabinet.

Default: ; By default none of these variables are defined

If this variable is not defined for a particular disk, then MakeCAB uses the **CabinetNameTemplate** to construct the cabinet name.

Examples:

```
.Set CabinetName1=one.cab
```

CabinetNameTemplate=template

Sets the cabinet file name template.

Default: .Set CabinetNameTemplate=*.CAB ; 1.CAB, 2.CAB, ...

This template is used to construct the file name of each cabinet. The "*" in this template is replaced by the cabinet number (1, 2, etc.). This variable is used only if no variable **CabinetName_n** exists for cabinet *n*.

NOTE: Be sure that the expanded cabinet name does not exceed the limits for your file system! For example, if you used "CABINET*.CAB", and MakeCAB had to create 10 or more cabinets, then you would have cabinet names like CABINET10.CAB, which is 9.3, which is an invalid name in the FAT file system. Unfortunately, MakeCAB would not detect this until it had already created 9 cabinets!

Examples:

```
.Set CabinetNameTemplate=EXCEL*.DIA ; EXCEL1.DIA, EXCEL2.DIA, etc.
.Set CabinetNameTemplate=*. ; 1, 2, 3, etc.
```

ChecksumWidth=1 | 2 | ... | 8

Sets the maximum number of low-order hex digits displayed by **InfFileLineFormat csum** parameter.

Default: .Set ChecksumWidth=8 ; Default is all 8 hex digits (csum is a 32-bit value)

The presence of the **csum** parameter in the **InfFileLineFormat** variable causes MakeCAB to compute a 32-bit CRC for each file and write that checksum to the INF file. While leading zeros are not written out, the presence of these checksums can significantly increase the size of the INF file. You can use **ChecksumWidth** to restrict the size of the checksum written to the INF file. If a value less than 8 is specified, then MakeCAB will mask off the high-order bits of the 32-bit checksum to produce a value for the INF file that is at most the number of hex digits specified.

Examples:

```
.Set ChecksumWidth=4 ; Only display the low order 4 hex digits
```

ClusterSize=bytesPerCluster

The cluster size of the distribution media.

Default: .Set ClusterSize=512 ; 1.44M and 1.2M floppies have 512-byte clusters

This is used by MakeCAB to round up the sizes of files and cabinets to a cluster boundary, so it can determine when to switch to the next disk.

You can use a standard disk size from the following list, and MakeCAB will supply the known cluster size for that disk size:

1.44M
1.25M (Japanese NEC 3.5" drive capacity)

1.2M
720K
360K
CDROM

Examples:

.Set ClusterSize=1.44M ; Use known 1.44M floppy info

Compress=ON | OFF

Turn file compression on or off.

Default: .Set Compress=On ; Compression is on

While compression is usually on, you generally turn it off for the first few files on disk 1 (SETUP.EXE, for example). This applies regardless of the **Cabinet** setting, so it is valid to store one or more uncompressed files in a Cabinet File.

Examples:

```
.Set Cabinet=OFF           ; Files not in cabinets...
.Set Compress=OFF          ; ...and no compression.
setup.exe                  ; Setup program is simply copied to disk.
.Set Cabinet=ON            ; Use a cabinet...
.SET Compress=ON           ; ...and compress remaining files.
```

CompressedFileExtensionChar=char

Last character in file name used when compressing an individual file.

Default: .Set CompressedFileExtensionChar=_ ; Default is an underscore ("_")

If **Cabinet=OFF** and **Compress=ON**, then MakeCAB will compress an individual file. While the compressed file is stored in a Cabinet File, it has only a single file. To maintain some consistency with existing setup compression products, the default compressed file name is constructed by taking the source file name and replacing the last character of the file extension with the setting of this variable.

Examples:

```
.Set CompressedFileExtensionChar=$ ; SAMPLE.EXE => SAMPLE.EX$
                                   ; SAMPLE.EX  => SAMPLE.EX$
                                   ; SAMPLE.E   => SAMPLE.E$
                                   ; SAMPLE.    => SAMPLE.$
                                   ; SAMPLE     => SAMPLE.$
```

CompressionType=MSZIP

Select compression engine.

Default: .Set CompressionType=MSZIP ; Default is MSZIP compressor

MSZIP is the default compression type supported by Microsoft. This version of MakeCAB.EXE also supports the LZX compression method, which can achieve higher compression ratios.

Using MSZIP compression and FolderSizeThreshold=1 will generate a cabinet file approximately the same size as a PKZIP-compatible compression engine. LZX compression requires more time, but LZX decompression is typically faster.

Examples:

```
.Set CompressionType=MSZIP ; MSZIP compressor
```

DestinationDir=path

Path prefix to store in cabinet file for each file in the cabinet.

Default: .Set DestinationDir= ; Default is no path prefix

path is concatenated with a path separator (“\”) and the target file name on File Copy Commands to produce the file name that is stored in cabinet file. EXTRACT.EXE will use this file name as the default name when the file is extracted.

Examples:

```
.Set DestinationDir=SYSTEM      ; Following files get SYSTEM prefix
bin\ARIAL.TTF                  ; Name in cabinet is SYSTEM\ARIAL.TTF
.Set DestinationDir=            ; No prefix
bin\ARIAL.TTF                  ; Name in cabinet is ARIAL.TTF
```

DiskDirectoryn=directory

The output directory name for the specified disk.

Default: ; By default none of these variables are defined

If this variable is not defined for a particular disk, then MakeCAB uses the **DiskDirectoryTemplate** to construct the disk directory.

Examples:

```
.Set DiskDirectory1=disk.one
```

DiskDirectoryTemplate=template

Set the output directory name template. One directory is created for each disk of the layout.

Default: .Set DiskDirectoryTemplate=DISK* ; Default is DISK1, DISK2, etc.

As MakeCAB processes a directive file, it will create one or more disk “images”. Rather than using some specific disk format, however, MakeCAB simply creates one subdirectory for each disk and places the files for each disk in the appropriate directory. If a “*” exists in this variable, then it is replaced with the disk number. If no “*” is specified, then all files are placed in the single directory specified by this variable.

This variable is used only if no variable **DiskDirectoryn** exists for disk *n*.

Examples:

```
.Set DiskDirectoryTemplate=C:\EXCEL6\DISK* ; Put files in separate dirs
.Set DiskDirectoryTemplate=C:\EXCEL6      ; Put all files in C:\EXCEL6
.Set DiskDirectoryTemplate=                ; Put all files in current dir
```

DiskLabeln=label

The user-readable text string for the specified disk.

Default: ; By default none of these variables are defined

This *label* is stored in cabinet files that contain files that are split across disk boundaries, to simplify prompting for the appropriate disk to insert into the drive. For example, if EXCEL.EXE started in 1.CAB and finished in 2.CAB, and a user asked to extract EXCEL.EXE from 2.CAB, EXTRACT.EXE can retrieve the printed label for the disk containing 1.CAB (say, Excel Program Disk 1) and tell the user to insert that disk and try again.

If this variable is not defined for a particular disk, then MakeCAB uses the **DiskLabelTemplate** to construct the disk label.

Examples:

```
.Set DiskLabel1="Excel Setup Disk 1"
.Set DiskLabel2="Excel Setup Disk 2"
```

DiskLabelTemplate=template

Set the printed disk label. Used if individual **DiskLabeln** variables are not defined

Default: .Set DiskLabelTemplate="Disk *"; Default is "Disk 1", "Disk 2", etc.

Sets the default user-readable disk label. If a "*" exists in this variable, then it is replaced with the disk number. This variable is used only if no variable **DiskLabeln** exists for disk *n*.

Examples:

.Set DiskLabelTemplate="Excel Disk *"

DoNotCopyFiles=On | Off

Controls whether File Copy Commands actually copy files.

Default: .Set DoNotCopyFiles=Off ; Files *are* copied

This option is intended to be used when Cabinet is OFF and Compress is OFF, as a means of generating an INF file very quickly. It has no affect when Cabinet is ON or Compress is ON.

Examples

.Set DoNotCopyFiles=ON ; Make MakeCAB create the INF file quickly

FolderFileCountThreshold=count

Set the threshold on the number of files to store in a folder.

Default: .Set FolderFileCountThreshold=0 ; Default to no limit on count of files in a folder

Sets the threshold file count for the current folder. When this threshold is exceeded, then the current folder is closed. If any more files are to be processed, they will go into a new folder.

If **Cabinet** is **OFF**, this variable is ignored.

If *count* is 0, then there is no limit on the count of files in a folder.

Examples:

.Set FolderFileCountThreshold=50 ; No more than 50 files per folder

FolderSizeThreshold=size

Set the threshold size for the current folder.

Default: .Set MinMaxFolderSize=0; Default to the maximum cabinet size

Sets the threshold size for the current folder. When this threshold is exceeded, then the current folder is closed. If any more files are to be processed, they will go into a new folder. MakeCAB attempts to limit folders to the size specified by this variable, but in most cases folders will be a bit larger than this threshold.

If **Cabinet** is **OFF**, this variable is ignored.

If *size* is 0, then the threshold is the same as the maximum cabinet size.

Folders are compression/encryption boundaries. The state of the compressor and cryptosystem are reset at folder boundaries. To access a file in a folder, the folder must be decrypted and decompressed starting from the **front** of the folder and continuing through to the desired file. Thus, smaller folder thresholds are appropriate for a layout where a small number of files needs to be randomly accessed quickly from a cabinet. On the other hand, larger folder thresholds permit the compressor to examine more data, and so generally yield better compression results. For a layout where the files will be accessed sequentially and most of the files will be accessed, a larger folder threshold is best.

Examples:

.Set FolderSizeThreshold=1M ; Aim for 1Mb folders

GenerateInf=ON | OFF

Controls Unified vs. Relational INF generation mode.

Default: .Set GenerateInf=ON ; Default to "unified" INF mode

If **GenerateInf** is **ON** when the first file copy command is encountered, then Unified INF mode is selected. In this mode, file detail lines are written to the INF file as file copy commands are processed, so the order of file lines in the INF is exactly the same as the order of the files in the layout.

If **GenerateInf** is **OFF** when the first file copy command is encountered, then Relational INF mode is selected. In this mode, file copy commands are processed, but INF file generation is delayed until **GenerateInf** is set to **ON**, and File Reference commands are used to select information on files in the layout to be placed in the INF file.

Unified mode is easier to use, since each file is specified only once, and is most appropriate for quick usage of MakeCAB.

Relational mode is more complicated, since each file must be specified (at least) twice, but it provides very fine control of both the disk layout **and** the format of the INF file. In particular, some INF files want to have sections to list the files associated with a certain feature, there may be many such sections, and some files may be required in more than one section. Unified mode does not provide any method to generate such an INF file, but Relational mode does via the File Reference command.

By separating the disk layout order from the INF file order, MakeCAB permits optimization of the file layout for compression vs. access time. The *layout section* of the DDF contains file copy commands that control precisely where files are in the layout. The *INF section* of the DDF contains INF formatting information, including File Reference commands to pull in information about specific files from earlier File Copy commands in the layout section.

Notes:

- (1) Once **GenerateInf** is set to **ON** and at least one File Copy command has been processed, **GenerateInf** may not be set to **OFF** (i.e., in Relational Mode, all File Copy commands must be processed before any File Reference commands)

Examples:

```

; ** Layout section - File Copy commands
.Set GenerateInf=OFF
foo.exe
bar.exe other.exe
foo.exe fool.exe
....

; ** INF section -- FileReference commands
.Set GenerateInf=ON
.WriteInf "[a section]"
foo.exe
other.exe
fool.exe /rename=sys\foo.exe ; pass custom parameter
....

```

InfXxx=string

Sets the default value for an INF parameter.

Default: [Not applicable]

Variables of this form (other than the standard ones in this list) can be used for two purposes:

- a) To override the usual value of a standard INF parameter (like **date**, **time**, **attr**, etc.) for all the files (or a set of files) in the layout.
- b) To define a custom INF parameter, and specify its default value.

Notes:

- (1) When in Relation INF mode, only the **last value** for a particular **InfXxx** variable will be carried over from the layout section to the INF section of the DDF. In the following example:

```

; ** Layout section - File Copy commands
.Set GenerateInf=OFF      ; Select Relational INF
.Set InfCustom=apple
file.1
.Set InfCustom=pear
file.2
; ** INF section - File Reference commands
.Set GenerateInf=ON
file.1                    ; *custom* value is "pear", not "apple"!
file.2

```

Examples:

```

.Set InfDate=05/02/94      ; Date stamp all files
.Set InfTime=06:00:00a     ; Time stamp all files
.Set InfAttr=              ; Turn off all attributes (esp. read-only)
.Set InfCustom=yes        ; Define custom INF parameter

```

InfCabinetHeader[*n*]=string

Sets the header text for the cabinet section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfCabinetHeader="[cabinet list]"

This string is written to the INF prior to any cabinet detail lines. MakeCAB will also use any variables of the form **InfCabinetHeader***n* where *n* is an integer with no leading zeros (0). These additional lines will be printed out in increasing order after the **InfCabinetHeader** line. Any **.InfBegin Cabinet/.InfEnd** lines will be printed as they are encountered, but in any event after all of these header lines.

Examples:

```

.Set InfCabinetHeader=";Lots o' cabinets"

.Set InfCabinetHeader=      ; No cabinet header

.Set InfCabinetHeader=";Line 1 of cabinets"
.Set InfCabinetHeader1=";Line 2 of cabinets"
.Set InfCabinetHeader2=";Line 3 of cabinets"

```

InfCabinetLineFormat[*n*]=format string

Sets the detail line format for the cabinet section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfCabinetLineFormat=*cab#*,*disk#*,*cabfile*

This format is used to generate a line in the "cabinet" section of the INF. If a numeric suffix *n* is specified in the variable name, then the specified format is used for cabinet number *n*. If no such cabinet number-specific format is defined, then the value of the **InfCabinetLineFormat** variable is used.

See "InfDisk/Cabinet/FileLineFormat Syntax and Semantics" on page 14 for details on the format string..

See "INF Parameters" on page 15 for a list of the allowed parameter names.

InfCommentString=string

Sets the line comment string for the INF file.

Default: .Set InfCommentString=";"

This is the string MakeCAB will use to prefix comment lines that it generates in the INF (the autogenerated MakeCAB version/date/time lines, for example).

InfDateFormat=YYYY-MM-DD | MM/DD/YY

Sets the date format used for dates written to the INF file.

Default: .Set InfDateFormat=MM/DD/YY ; Default to normal US convention

This format is used to format the **date** parameter for the **InfFileLineFormat** used to write file detail lines to the INF file.

Examples:

.Set InfDateFormat=YYYY-MM-DD ; Use the preferred ACME format

InfDiskHeader[n]=string

Sets the header text for the disk section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfDiskHeader="[disk list]"

This string is written to the INF prior to any disk detail lines. MakeCAB will also use any variables of the form **InfDiskHeader***n* where *n* is an integer with no leading zeros (0). These additional lines will be printed out in increasing order after the **InfDiskHeader** line. Any **.InfBegin Disk/.InfEnd** lines will be printed as they are encountered, but in any event after all of these header lines.

Examples:

.Set InfDiskHeader=";Lots o' Disks"

.Set InfDiskHeader= ; No Disk header

.Set InfDiskHeader=";Line 1 of Disks"

.Set InfDiskHeader1=";Line 2 of Disks"

.Set InfDiskHeader2=";Line 3 of Disks"

InfDiskLineFormat[n]=format string

Sets the detail line format for the disk section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfDiskLineFormat=*disk#*,*label*

This format is used to generate a line in the "disks" section of the INF. If a numeric suffix *n* is specified in the variable name, then the specified format is used for disk number *n*. If no such disk number-specific format is defined, then the value of the **InfDiskLineFormat** variable is used.

See "InfDisk/Cabinet/FileLineFormat Syntax and Semantics" on page 14 for details on the format string..

See "INF Parameters" on page 15 for a list of the allowed parameter names.

InfFileHeader[n]=string

Sets the header text for the file section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfFileHeader="[file list]"

This string is written to the INF prior to any file detail lines. MakeCAB will also use any variables of the form **InfFileHeader***n* where *n* is an integer with no leading zeros (0). These additional lines will be printed out in increasing order after the **InfFileHeader** line. Any **.InfBegin File/.InfEnd** lines will be printed as they are encountered, but in any event after all of these header lines.

InfFileLineFormat[n]=format string

Sets the detail line format for the file section of the INF file.

Default: .Set InfFileLineFormat=*disk#*,*cab#*,*file*,*size*

This format is used to generate a line in the "file" section of the INF. If a numeric suffix *n* is specified in the variable name, then the specified format is used for file number *n* (file numbers start at 1, and are based on the File Copy Commands, not the File Reference Commands). If no such file number-specific format is defined, then the value of the **InfFileLineFormat** variable is used.

See "InfDisk/Cabinet/FileLineFormat Syntax and Semantics" on page 14 for details on the format string..
See "INF Parameters" on page 15 for a list of the allowed parameter names.

InfFileName=filename

Sets the name of the INF output file.

Default: .Set InfFileName=SETUP.INF ; Default file name is SETUP.INF

Defines the file name for the INF file. This file has disk, cabinet, and file information that is intended for use by a setup program during the setup process.

Examples:

```
.Set InfFileName=EXCEL.INF
```

InfFooter[n]=string

Sets the footer text for beginning of the INF file.

Default: // Run MakeCAB and use the .Dump command to see the default footer

These strings are written to the INF file after all other information. To disable this footer text, set InfFooter to the empty string (.Set InfFooter=). MakeCAB will also use any variables of the form **InfFooter***n* where *n* is an integer with no leading zeros (0). These additional lines will be printed out in increasing order after the **InfFooter** line, starting with **InfFooter1**.

The following special strings may be specified in InfFooter[n] values (note that the two percent signs are required, so that MakeCAB does not interpret these as variable references):

String	Description
%%1	The comment string -- each InfFooter[n] line should probably start with %%1.
%%2	The date and time MakeCAB was run to produce the INF file.
%%3	The version of MakeCAB use to produce the INF file.

Examples:

```
.Set InfFooter=                ; Disable INF footer text
.Set InfFooter="%%1 %2 %3"    ; Short footer
.Set InfFooter="%%1*****"    ; Long footer
.Set InfFooter1="%%1* %2"     ; Long footer continued
.Set InfFooter2="%%1* %3"     ; Long footer continued
.Set InfFooter3="%%1*****"    ; Long footer continued
```

InfHeader[n]=string

Sets the header text for beginning of the INF file.

Default: // Run MakeCAB and use the .Dump command to see the default header.

These strings are written to the INF file prior to any other information. To disable this header text, set InfHeader to the empty string (.Set InfHeader=). MakeCAB will also use any variables of the form **InfHeader***n* where *n* is an integer with no leading zeros (0). These additional lines will be printed out in increasing order after the **InfHeader** line, starting with **InfHeader1**.

The following special strings may be specified in InfHeader[n] values (note that the two percent signs are required, so that MakeCAB does not interpret these as variable references):

String	Description
%%1	The comment string -- each InfHeader[n] line should probably start with %%1.
%%2	The date and time MakeCAB was run to produce the INF file.
%%3	The version of MakeCAB use to produce the INF file.

Examples:

```
.Set InfHeader=                ; Disable INF header text
```

```
.Set InfHeader="%1 %2 %3"      ; Short header
.Set InfHeader="%1*****"      ; Long header
.Set InfHeader1="%1* %2"       ; Long header continued
.Set InfHeader2="%1* %3"       ; Long header continued
```

.Set InfHeader3="%1***" ; Long header continued****InfSectionOrder=[D | C | F]***

Set the generation and relative order of the Disk, Cabinet, and File sections in the INF file.

Default: .Set InfSectionOrder=DCF ; Disk, then Cabinet, and then File

This variable controls what sections of the INF file are generated, and the order in which they appear. Each of the letters "C" (cabinet), "D" (disk), and "F" (file) may be used at most once. Any or all of these letters may be omitted, and the corresponding section of the INF file will not be generated.

Examples:

```
.Set InfSectionOrder=DF ; Disks, then files, omit the cabinet section
```

MaxCabinetSize=size

Set the maximum size for the current cabinet.

Default: .Set MaxCabinetSize=0 ; No limit, except MaxDiskSize

size is the maximum size for the current cabinet. If **Cabinet** is **ON** when this maximum is exceeded, then the current folder being processed will be split between the current cabinet and the next cabinet. If **Cabinet** is **OFF**, then this variable is ignored.

Note that **MaxDiskSize** (or **MaxDiskSize***n*, if specified) takes precedence over this variable. MakeCAB never splits a cabinet file across a disk boundary, so a cabinet file will be no larger than the amount of free space available on the disk at the time the cabinet is created, even if this size is less than **MaxCabinetSize**.

If *size* is 0, then the cabinet size is limited only by the disk size (**MaxDiskSize** or **MaxDiskSize***n*).

Examples:

```
.Set MaxCabinetSize=0 ; Use disk size as limit
```

MaxDiskFileCount=count

Sets the maximum number of files that can be stored on a disk.

Default: .Set MaxDiskFileCount=0 ; Default is no limit

count is the maximum number of files to store on a disk. Once this count has been reached, MakeCAB will close the current disk, even if space remains on the disk. This variable is most useful when cabinet files are not being used (say, to simulate the old style setup where each file is individually compressed), and MakeCAB needs to understand the limit of the number of files that can be stored in the root directory of a floppy.

If *count* is 0, then there is no limit on the number files per disk.

You can use a standard disk size from the following list, and MakeCAB will supply the known FAT root directory limits for that disk size:

1.44M
1.25M (Japanese NEC 3.5" drive capacity)
1.2M
720K
360K

CDROM

The file count does **not** include any files inside cabinets. Each cabinet counts as a single file for purposes of this count.

Examples:

```
.Set DiskFileCountMax=256      ; Limit of 256 files per disk
.Set DiskFileCountMax=1.44M    ; Use limit for 1.44M FAT floppy disk
```

MaxDiskSize[*n*]=size

Set the maximum default size for a disk.

Default: .Set MaxDiskSize=1.44M ; Default is 1.44M floppy

size is the maximum default size for a disk. This variable is used only for disks for which a variable **MaxDiskSize***n* is not defined.

If **Cabinet** is **OFF**, and the next file to be layed out cannot fit on the current disk, then MakeCAB will move to the next disk. If **Cabinet** is **ON**, then the current cabinet will use as much space on the current disk as possible.

If *size* is 0, then the disk size is unlimited.

You can use a standard disk size from the following list, and MakeCAB will use the correct disk size, down to the byte:

1.44M
1.25M (Japanese NEC 3.5" drive capacity)
1.2M
720K
360K

CDROM

Examples:

```
.Set MaxDiskSize=0      ; No limit
.Set MaxDiskSize=CDROM  ; All files are being placed on a CD-ROM

.Set MaxDiskSize1=720K  ; First disk is 720K
.Set MaxDiskSize=1.44M  ; ... rest are 1.44M
```

MaxErrors=count

Set the maximum number of errors allowed before pass 1 terminates.

Default: .Set MaxErrors=20 ; Default is 20 errors

count is the maximum number of errors to permit before terminating pass 1.

If *count* is 0, then an unlimited number of errors is allowed.

Examples:

```
.Set MaxErrors=0      ; No limit
.Set MaxErrors=5      ; Limit to just a few
```

ReservePerCabinetSize=size

Sets a fixed size to reserve in a cabinet for the FCRESERVE structure.

Default: .Set ReservePerCabinetSize=0 ; Default is to reserve no space

size is the amount of space to reserve in a cabinet for the FCRESERVE structure. The total size of the FCRESERVE structure is the value of this variable plus the number of folders in the cabinet times the value of the **ReservePerFolderSize** variable.

size must be a multiple of 4 (to ensure memory alignment on certain systems).

A common use for this variable is to reserve space to store per-folder cryptosystem information, in the case where the cabinet is encrypted. For example, some sort of checksum value might be stored here to permit validation that the key being used to decrypt the cabinet is actually the one that was used to encrypt the cabinet.

MakeCAB fills this reserved section with zeros.

Examples:

```
.Set ReservePerCabinetSize=8 ; For use as a cryptosystem key checksum
```

ReservePerDataBlockSize=*size*

Sets the amount of space to reserve in each Data Block header.

Default: .Set ReservePerDataBlockSize=0 ; Default is to reserve no space

size is the amount of space to reserve in each Data Block header. This space is located after the standard Data Block header and before the data for the data block.

size must be a multiple of 4 (to ensure memory alignment on certain systems).

One possible use for this variable is to reserve space to store a per-data block cryptosystem information, in the case where the cabinet is encrypted.³

MakeCAB fills this reserved section with zeros.

Examples:

```
.Set ReservePerCabinetSize=4 ; Reserve 4 bytes per data block
```

ReservePerFolderSize=*size*

Sets the amount of additional space to reserve in the FCRESERVE structure for each folder in the cabinet.

Default: .Set ReservePerFolderSize=0 ; Default is to reserve no space

size is the amount of space to reserve in the FCRESERVE structure for each folder in the cabinet. The total size of the FCRESERVE structure is the value of this variable times the value of the number of folders in the cabinet, plus the value of the **ReservePerCabinetSize** variable.

size must be a multiple of 4 (to ensure memory alignment on certain systems).

A common use for this variable is to reserve space to store a per-folder cryptosystem key, in the case where the cabinet is encrypted.

MakeCAB fills this reserved section with zeros.

Examples:

```
.Set ReservePerCabinetSize=8 ; Size of an RC4 cryptosystem key
```

RptFileName=*filename*

Sets the name of the RPT output file.

³ [6/6/94] Ali Baba is not using this value, so even though it has been implemented and tested, there are no known customers.

Default: .Set RptFileName=SETUP.RPT ; Default file name is SETUP.RPT

Defines the file name for the RPT file. This file has summary information on the MakeCAB run.

Examples:

.Set RptFileName=EXCEL.RPT

SourceDir=path

The default path used to locate source files specified in File Copy Commands.

Default: .Set SourceDir= ; Default is to look in the current directory

path is concatenated with a path separator (“\”) and the source file name on the File Copy Command to produce the file name used to find the source file.

If *path* is empty, then the source file name specified on the File Copy Command is not modified.

Examples:

.Set SourceDir=C:\PROJECT ; Find all source files in c:\project

UniqueFiles=ON | OFF

Controls whether destination file names in a layout must be unique..

Default: .Set UniqueFiles="ON" ; File names must be unique

If **UniqueFiles** is **ON**, MakeCAB checks that all destination file names (names stored on disks or in cabinets) are unique, and generates an error (during pass 1) if they are not. **ON** is the default, since using the same filename twice usually means that the same file was accidentally included twice, and this would be a waste of disk space.

If **UniqueFiles** is **OFF**, MakeCAB permits duplicate destination file names.

The **/UNIQUE** parameter may be specified on individual File Copy commands to override the value of **UniqueFiles**.

If the **GenerateInf** variable is used to select Relational INF generation, then **UniqueFiles** must always be **ON**, since MakeCAB uses the destination filename as the unique key to link File Reference commands back to File Copy commands.

5. EXTRACT.EXE

Extract supports command-line extraction of files from cabinet files.

```
extract [/y] [/A] [/D | /E] [/L location] cabinet_file [file_spec ...]
extract [/y] compressed_file [destination_file]
```

Switches:

- /A** Process **all** files in a cabinet set, starting with the *cabinet_file*.
- /D** Only produce a directory listing (do not extract).
- /E** Force extraction.
- /L** Use the directory specified by *location*, instead of the current directory, as the default location to place extracted files.
- /Y** Overwrite destination without prompting. The default is to prompt if the destination file already exists, and allow the customer to: a) overwrite the file, b) skip the file, c) overwrite this file and all subsequent files that may already exist, or d) exit.

Parameters:

- compressed_file* This is a cabinet file that contains a single file (example, FOO.EX_ containing FOO.EXE). If *destination_file* is not specified, then the file is extracted and given its original name in the current directory.
- destination_file* This can be either a relative path (".", "..", "c:foo", etc.) or a fully qualified path, and may specify either a file (or files, if wild cards are included) or a directory. If a directory is specified, then the file name stored in the cabinet is used. Otherwise, *destination_file* is used as the complete file name for the extracted file.
- cabinet_file* This is a cabinet file that contains two or more files. If no *file_spec* parameter is specified, then a list of the files in the cabinet is displayed. If one or more *file_spec* parameters are specified, then these are used to select which files are to be extracted from the cabinet (or cabinets). Wild cards are allowed to specify multiple cabinets.
- location* Specifies the directory where extracted files should be placed.
- file_spec* Specifies files to be extracted from the cabinet(s). May contain ? and * wild cards. Multiple *file_specs* may be supplied.

Examples:

Command	Behavior
EXTRACT foo.ex_	Assuming foo.ex_ contained just the single file foo.exe, then foo.exe would be extracted and placed in the current directory.
EXTRACT foo.ex_ bar.exe	Assuming foo.ex_ contained just the single file foo.exe, then foo.exe would be extracted and placed in the current directory in the file bar.exe.
EXTRACT cabinet.1	Assuming cabinet.1 contains multiple files, then a list of the files stored in the cabinet would be displayed.
EXTRACT cabinet.1 *.exe	Extract all *.EXE files from cabinet.1 and place them in the current directory