

Windows compilers aren't designed to be friendly for command-line compiling. Because of that, it's up to you to make the compiler work at every command prompt and in every folder in your computer system. One way to make that happen is to create a batch file that runs the GCC (or whatever) command that runs the compiler. It isn't the easiest thing to do, but, fortunately, it needs to be done only once.

These steps assume that you have installed the Dev-C++ environment on your PC. Furthermore, they assume that you have installed Dev-C++ into the `C:\Dev=C++` folder.

(If you installed Dev-C++ in another folder, you need to make a note of that folder's path. For example, if you installed it in the Program Files folder, the path is `C:\Program Files\Dev-C++`. You *must* remember the path!)

Take a deep breath.

1. Start a command prompt or MS-DOS window.

You know what? Making a shortcut to the MS-DOS window and putting it on the desktop may be a good idea — especially for the duration of time that you use this book. See your favorite book on Windows for detailed instructions.



2. Change to the Windows folder:

```
cd \windows
```

(I'm assuming that `Windows` is the name of your Windows folder. If not — it's `WINNT` or something — substitute the folder's name for `windows` in the `cd \windows` command.)

Inside the `Windows` folder, you create a batch file program — a shortcut to the GCC command used by Dev-C++. You can then use the GCC command at any command prompt in Windows.

3. Carefully type `copy con gcc.bat` and press the Enter key.

4. Carefully type this line:

```
@c:\Dev-C++\bin\gcc %1 %2 %3 %4 %5 %6
```

The line starts with an at sign, `@`. That's followed by the full pathname to Dev-C++'s GCC compiler, either `c:\Dev-C++\bin\gcc`. (If you have installed GCC into another folder, put its path there instead; remember to enclose the path in double quotes if it contains spaces!)

After `gcc` comes a space, and then `%1`, a space, `%2`, space, and so on. This is important!