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.