

MS-DOS is short for **Microsoft Disk Operating System** and is a non-graphical command line operating system, which was eventually replaced by the Windows Operating System. While this original operating system is rarely used nowadays, the command shell known as the Windows Command Line is still used and recommended – particularly for batch processing. LP360 has several command line executable programs which can be run via the Command Line. These executables are located in “Program Files\Common Files\QCoherent”.

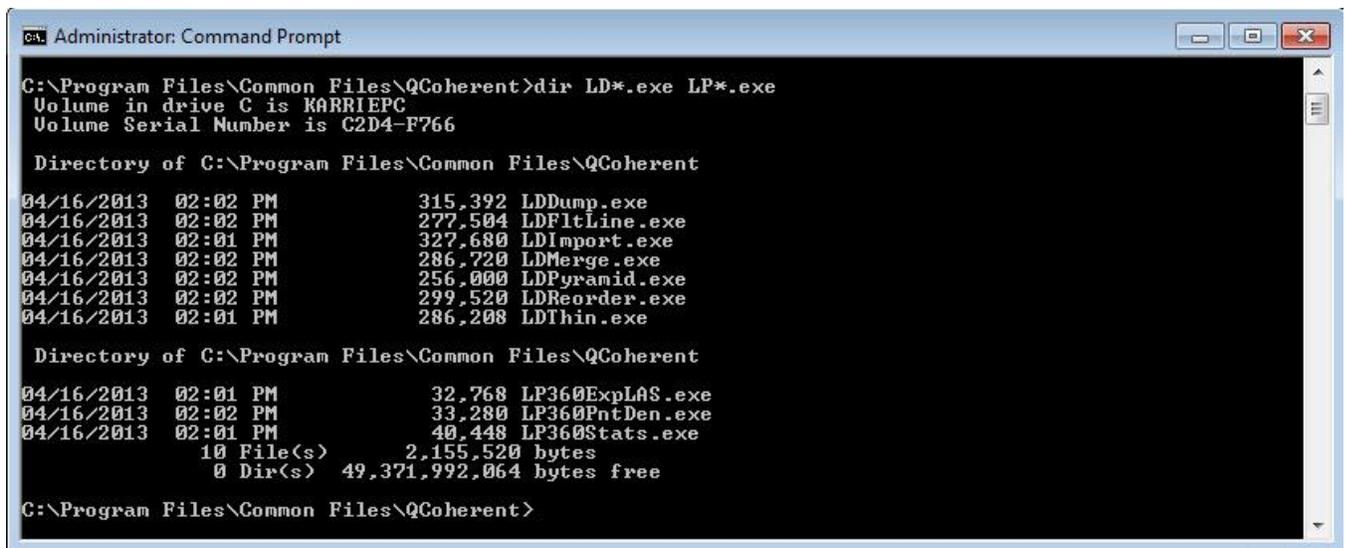


Figure 1 - Windows Command Line: LP360 Executable Programs

The Windows Command Line (known more commonly as the Command Prompt) can be activated in one of the following three ways.

1. **Start Menu » All Programs » Accessories » Command Prompt.**
2. In the **Start Menu** search box type “**cmd**” and press **Enter**.
3. In the **Start Menu**, select the **Run** option (). In the box that appears, type “**cmd**” and press **Enter**.

The following are some basic DOS commands that will come in handy when using the LP360 command line executables:

- **cd** = Change Directory (cd\ change to root directory, cd.. move up a directory)
- **dir** = Directory listing
- **help** = provides information about available commands and the shell environment

The following are some basic tips for using Command Prompt:

- To complete a folder name or program name, start typing the name and then press the **Tab** key on the keyboard. This will complete the name.
- To move through previously executed commands, simply use the arrow up and down keys.
- To paste from another program (such as an address in Windows Explorer) right-click and select paste. The keyboard shortcut **Ctrl+V** will not work correctly in the Command Prompt.
- To activate quick edit and insert modes in the Command Prompt window, right-click on the title bar of the window and select **Properties**. Choose the **Options** tab and then check the boxes for **QuickEdit Mode** and **Insert Mode**. The Insert mode allows the ability to paste a line of text from another program/folder by simply right-clicking within the Command Prompt window (as opposed to having to right-click and select **Paste**).

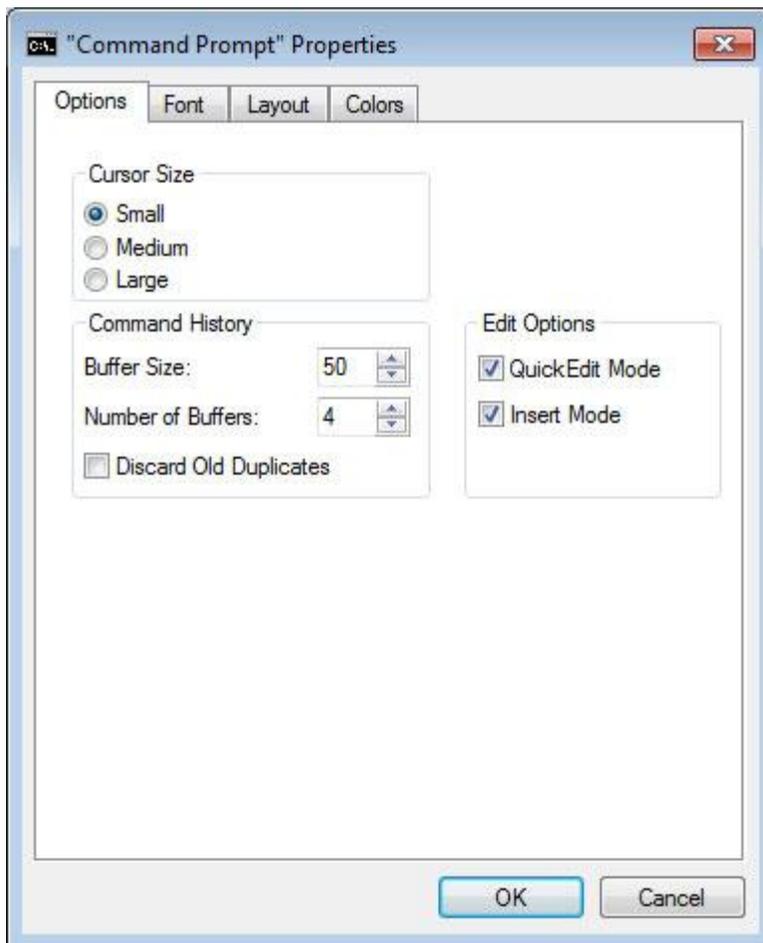


Figure 2- Activate Quick Edit Mode

Working within the Command Prompt offers additional flexibility when running batch processes. A batch file is an execution of a series of programs that can be run via the Command Prompt.

An example of a batch file for LP360 may include the following scenario: a user may have some ASCII XYZ data in a folder that needs to be converted to LAS format. Once converted to LAS format, the user, to save processing time, decides to pyramid the LAS files for use within the LP360 program. A batch file

can be created that would first run the command to convert XYZ data to LAS files (LDImport.exe) and then run the pyramiding command (LDPyramid.exe). Below is an example of how this batch file could be scripted.

```
LDImport.exe -l 1.2 -o E:\Sample_Data\Seattle\LAS -s 1 -fc 2 -t1 x -t2 y -t3  
z -d 1 E:\Sample_Data\Seattle\*.xyz LDPyramid.exe -f 16  
E:\Sample_Data\Seattle\LAS\*.las
```

Once the batch file has been created and saved using the .bat extension, it can be run within the Command Prompt. If the batch file has been saved in a different location than “Program Files\Common Files\QCoherent”, the file address will need to be included as seen in Figure 3.

```
C:\Program Files\Common Files\QCoherent>E:\Sample_Data\Seattle\Export_LAS_Pyramid.bat
```

Figure 3 - Batch Program

Command Line Executables allow more flexibility for batch processing than the GUI interface and in turn frees up ArcGIS licenses, which may be needed elsewhere. Look for future editions of LP360 News for in-depth information about the command line executables that are available within LP360.