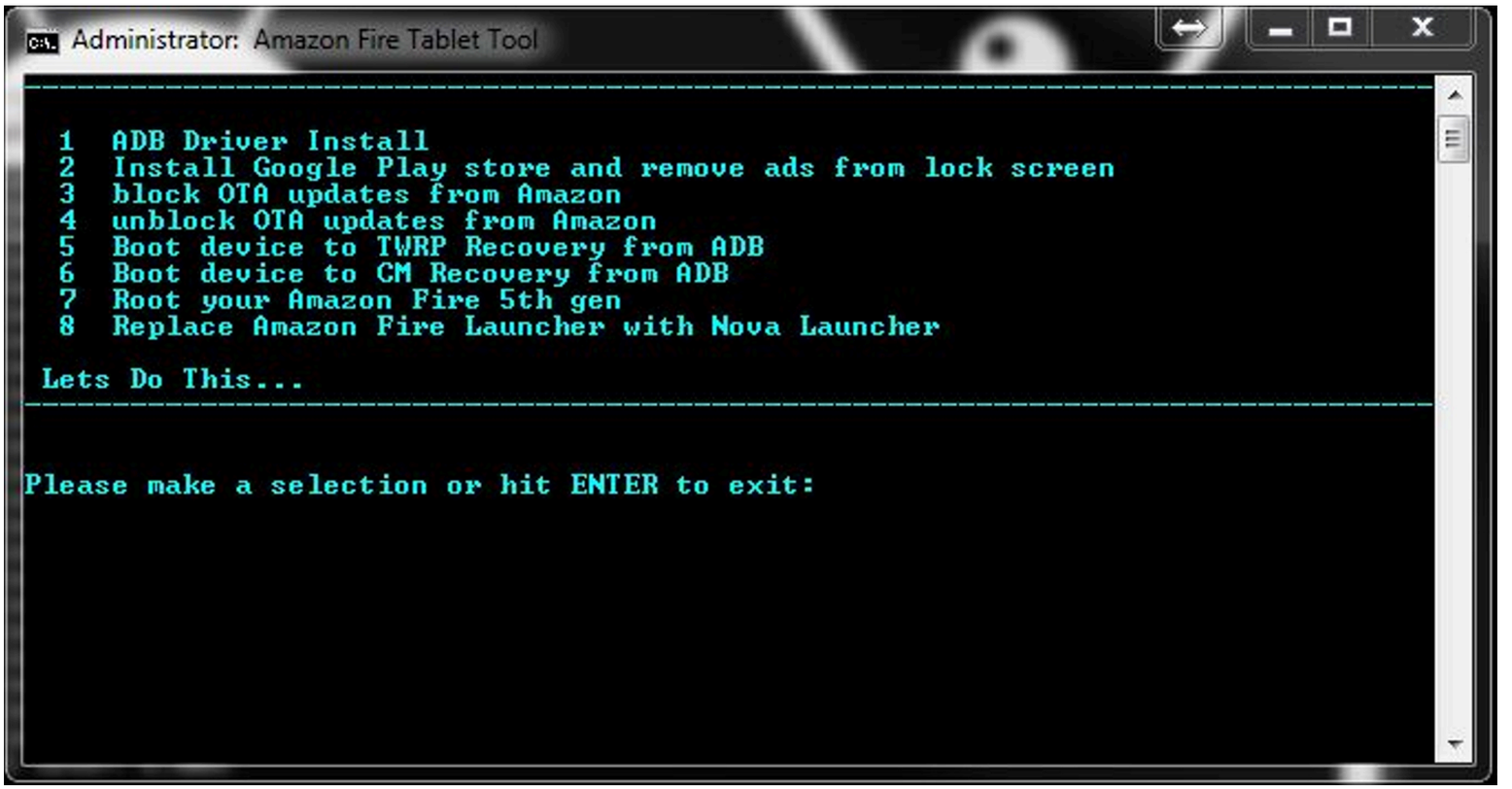
What is a bat / cmd script



A **batch file** is a kind of script file in DOS, OS/2 and Microsoft Windows. It consists of a series of commands to be executed by the command-line interpreter, stored in a plain text file. A batch file may contain any command the interpreter accepts interactively and use constructs that enable conditional branching and looping within the batch file, such as `IF`, `FOR`, and `GOTO` labels. The term "batch" is from batch processing, meaning "non-interactive execution", though a batch file may not process a *batch* of multiple data.

When a batch file is run, the shell program (usually COMMAND.COM or cmd exe) reads the file and executes its commands, normally line-by-line. Linux, has a similar, but more flexible, type of file called a shell script or a sh / bash file.

The filename extension **.bat** is used in DOS and Windows. Windows NT and OS/2 also added **.cmd**. Batch files for other environments may have different extensions, e.g., **.btm** in 4DOS, 4OS2 and 4NT related shells.

The only known difference between .**cmd** and .**bat** file processing is that in a .**cmd** file the ERRORLEVEL variable changes even on a successful command that is affected by Command Extensions (when Command Extensions are enabled), whereas in .**bat** files the ERRORLEVEL variable changes only upon errors.