

Using Output Monitors

Here we use [Output Monitors](#) to solve the problem of finding the most recent file in a directory. In this example, we want to find the most recently changed file in the `c:\builds\source` directory. This DOS command lists the files in order from oldest to newest: "`dir /b /od /a-d c:\builds\source*.*`".

The output is as follows:

```
LOGOSTRS.PAS
```

```
LOGOMAIN.PAS
```

```
ABOUT.PAS
```

```
hello.pas
```

```
BBXAbt.pas
```

```
bbxmain.pas
```

```
ttree.pas
```

```
logging.pas
```

```
servtest.pas
```

We thus simply want to retrieve the last line of that output. An Output Monitor do this.

First, [create a variable](#) to hold the name of the most recent file. Call it "filename".

Next, create a [Run DOS Command / Batch File](#) action.



On the **Runtime** tab, click the **Output Monitors** ellipsis button (...).

Click "Add a New Output Monitor" then set the options as shown:



The **Search String** defines what lines of text are selected. In this case, we don't care what the text is - we just want the last one. So the `*`, combined with **Use Wildcards** matches any text.

The **Behaviour** lets you choose options like failing if the text doesn't match. The **Save Last Match to Variable** option is obviously the appropriate one here.

Lastly, choose the **Variable** you created - Filename.

The final result looks like this:



COMING SOON