DOS: Secrets, Solutions, Shortcuts

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Osborne **McGraw-Hill**
2600 Tenth Street
Berkeley, California 94710
U.S.A.

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DOS: Secrets, Solutions, Shortcuts

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1234567890 DODO 898

ISBN 0-07-881471-5

Acquisitions Editor: Cindy Hudson
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Preface

In 1981, IBM announced the IBM PC, and with the PC came DOS, the operating system for the PC and PC compatibles. DOS, as you will learn, is the overseer of your computer's resources (disks, printers, and so on). In addition, DOS allows your computer to run other programs. Therefore, you must have DOS running on your PC before the computer can perform useful work.

Is This Book for You?

This book is about DOS, both MS-DOS and PC-DOS. By following the chapters in this book as they are presented, novices will become proficient with DOS in no time. Intermediate users will learn the secrets and shortcuts to save time and get the most from DOS that advanced users have found. Advanced DOS users will find many techniques not discussed in the DOS documentation or other DOS books.

Each chapter presents unique pieces of information to DOS users at all levels. By following through the examples in this book, you will learn the secrets, solutions, and shortcuts that I have found by using DOS every day since 1981. If you spend a minute or two reading the tips and traps found in some of the chapters, you will know this book is for you.

A Note to Experienced DOS Users

The first part of this book gets new users familiar with the basics of DOS. Since many readers will be new to DOS, I have provided a solid foundation before examining the advanced material presented in Part II.

If you have been using DOS for some time, skim the tips and traps in the early chapters, then move on to Part II. Have fun!

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Disk Package

One of the greatest frustrations when working with DOS is forgetting a command or command format. Therefore, this book provides a Command Reference section in Appendix B that summarizes each DOS command. However, if you are working at your computer and you do not want to have to reach for your book, a "DOS HELP" package providing a discussion of each DOS command, as well as the tips and traps found in this book, is available on disk.

The disk package costs $17.95 plus $2.00 shipping and handling ($5.00 on foreign orders).

Please send me the disk package that accompanies *DOS Secrets, Solutions, Shortcuts*. My payment for $19.95 ($17.95 plus $2.00 for shipping and handling or $5.00 for foreign orders) is enclosed.

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I

DOS Basics

Over 15 million people currently use DOS. Since each user possesses a different level of DOS experience, the first part of this book lays a foundation that will get everyone up to the same level of expertise. You must thoroughly understand the fundamental DOS concepts before you can exploit the concepts that will be discussed throughout the remainder of the book.

If you have been working with DOS for some time, the information in this first part provides an easy way for experienced users to review important facts that you may have forgotten. As you read these early chapters, keep in mind that much of the discussion is meant for new DOS users.

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