

DOS



Made Easy

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DOS Made Easy

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Berkeley, California

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PREFACE

This book is for anyone who wants to learn how to use DOS. It assumes no prior experience with computers. (More knowledgeable readers can skip the first two chapters.) DOS is a complex program with many commands and options. This book distills the most useful components of DOS and concentrates on getting you started with the program as quickly and easily as possible. By the time you finish this book, you will be using DOS like a pro.

There are many versions of DOS in use. This book covers all versions including 3.30, which is used on IBM's new PS/2 line of computers. No matter what computer you have, if it runs DOS, you can use this book.

You will begin with the basics, including complete discussions of what DOS is and what it does. Then, you will learn the essential DOS commands. Understanding these few commands enables you to begin using the computer. As you continue, you will learn to use the DOS editor and will see how to create custom commands of your own. As you progress, you'll learn the more advanced DOS commands that give you real power over the system. The later chapters explain how to configure your system and how to manage your floppy and fixed drives — including backing up the fixed disk.

This book is tutorial in nature, with many hands-on examples and experiments. It is highly recommended that you have a computer available so that you can work along with the text. Although the examples are applicable to all versions of DOS, they reflect the IBM version of DOS, called PC-DOS, because it is the one with the largest user base. Because the fixed disk is so common, special emphasis has been placed on its use.

However, if you don't have a fixed disk, don't worry. All examples are explained for users with or without fixed disks.

The appendix contains a quick reference to the DOS commands. It will be a lasting resource as you become increasingly proficient with DOS.

— HS

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Foreword by Bill Gates

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DOS Command Card

[drive:][path]APPEND [drive:][path][:[drive:][path]...] or APPEND ;	Define or display the data file search path. MS-DOS version 3.2
[drive:][path]ASSIGN [drive1 [=] drive2 [...]]	Route disk I/O request for drive 1 to drive 2
[drive:][path]ATTRIB [+R -R][+A -A] [drive:][path]filename[.ext]	Set the file's read-only and archive- attribute bits
[drive:][path]BACKUP [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] d: [/S][/M][/A][[/D:mm-dd-yy]]	Back up one or more files to another disk
BREAK [ON OFF]	Allow or inhibit DOS CTRL-BREAK checking when DOS functions finish
CHDIR [drive:][path] or CD [drive:][path]	Change or display the current directory on the specified drive
[drive:][path]CHKDSK [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] [/F]/[V]	Analyze and (optionally) repair directories, files, and the FAT
CLS	Clear the screen display
[drive:][path]COMMAND [drive:][path][[/P][/ string][[/E:nnnnn]]	Invoke a secondary command processor
[drive:][path]COMP [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]]	Compare the contents of the files specified
COPY [/A]/[B] [drive:][path]filename[.ext] [/A]/[B] [+ [..]drive:][path]filename[.ext][[/A]/[B]...] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] [/A]/[B]/[V]	Copy the contents of the source file(s) to the target file(s)
CTTY device__name	Modify standard input (stdin) to point to an alternate device
DATE [mm-dd-yy] [dd-mm-yy] [yy-mm-dd]	Set or display the current system date
DEL [drive:][path]filename[.ext]	Delete the specified file names from disk
DIR [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] [/P]/[W]	List the files as specified
[drive:][path]DISKCOMP [drive1: [drive2:]] [/1]/[8]	Compare the contents of the disks in drive 1 and in drive 2
[drive:][path]DISKCOPY [drive1: [drive2:]] [/1]	Copy the contents of the disk in drive 1 to the disk in drive 2
ECHO [ON OFF message]	Allow or suppress the screen display of DOS command names as the command executes within a BAT file
ERASE [drive:][path]filename[.ext]	Delete the specified file names from disk
[drive:][path]EXE2BIN [drive:][path]filename[.ext] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]]	Convert an EXE file specified by the first file name to a COM file
[drive:][path]FDISK	Define fixed-disk partitions
[drive:][path]FIND [/V]/[C]/[N] "string" [[drive:][path][filename[.ext]]]	Display all of the lines that contain the specified string

FOR %%variable IN (set) DO command

[drive:][path]FORMAT
drive:[/S][/1][/V][/B][/4]

GOTO label__name

[drive:][path]GRAFTABL

[drive:][path]GRAPHICS
[printer__type][/R][/B]

IF [NOT] condition command

[drive:][path]JOIN [drive: /D] | [drive:
path]

[drive:][path]KEYBxx

[drive:][path]LABEL [drive:]
[volume__label]

MKDIR [drive:][path] or MD [drive:][path]

[drive:][path]MODE LPT#[:][n][,m][,P]]

or

[drive:][path]MODE n

or

[drive:][path]MODE [n],m[,T]

or

[drive:][path]MODE
COM#[:][baud[,parity]][,databits]
[,stopbits][,P]]]]

or

[drive:][path]MODE LPT#[:]=COM#

[drive:][path]MORE

PATH [[drive:]path[:[drive:]path]...]

or

PATH ;

[drive:][path]PRINT
[/B:bufferize][/C][/D:device__name]
[/M:maxticks][/P][/Q:maxentries]
[/S:timeslice][T]
[/U:busyticks]
[[drive:][path]filename[.ext]...]

PAUSE [remark]

Allow iterative processing of DOS
commands

Format the disk in the specified drive

Allow branching within BAT files

Load software to support the display of
extended ASCII characters for the
color/graphics adapter

Load software to print graphics

Allow conditional batch processing
condition is one of the following:

ERRORLEVEL number

string1==string2

EXIST [drive:][path]filename[.ext]

Connect a disk drive to a directory

Load software for a foreign keyboard

Create or modify an 11-character volume
label

Create the specified subdirectory

Set the characteristics of the system
printer, monitor, or asynchronous
communications adapter

Display data obtained from standard input
to standard output a screen at a time

Define the optional command search path

Install the DOS print queue and print the
specified file(s)

Suspend BAT processing and display a
prompt for the user to
Strike a key when ready...

DOS Command Card

PROMPT [prompt-string]

Set the system prompt as specified. The following metastrings can be used:

\$\$ Dollar-sign character
\$_ carriage return linefeed
\$B | character
\$D System date
\$E ESCape character
\$G > character
\$H Delete previous character
\$L < character
\$N Default-drive letter
\$P Current directory
\$Q = character
\$T System time
\$V DOS version number

[drive:][path]RECOVER
[drive:][path]filename[.ext] { [drive:]

Recover the specified file(s) or disk drive

REM [remark]

Display remarks from within a BAT file

REN[AME] [drive:][path]filename[.ext]
filename[.ext]

Rename the file provided as specified

[drive:][path]REPLACE
[drive:][path]filename[.ext]
[drive:][path][/A][/P][/R][/S][/W]

Allow selective replacement/addition of files from the source to the target location

[drive:][path]RESTORE drive:
[drive:][path]filename[.ext][/S][/P]

Restore the specified file(s) from the backup device

RMDIR [drive:]path | RD [drive:]path

Remove the specified subdirectory

[drive:][path]SELECT [[A: | [B:]
drive:[path]] country keyboard

Create a DOS disk with the specified foreign-country support

SET [name=[string]]

Define an item in the command environment

[drive:][path]SHARE
[/F:filesystem][/L:numlocks]

Install file-sharing software

SHIFT

Shift the command line parameters %0-%n left one parameter

[drive:][path]SORT [/R][/+ column]

Sort and display data received from standard input

[drive:][path]SUBST [drive: drive:path] |
[drive: /D]

Substitute a DOS path name with a disk-drive specifier

[drive:][path]SYS drive:

Copy the system files to the specified disk, making it bootable

TIME [hh:mm[:ss[.nn]]]

Set or display the system time

[drive:][path]TREE [drive:][/F]

Display all of the directory paths on a disk and (optionally) the files that they contain

TYPE [drive:][path]filename[.ext]

Display the contents of the specified file

VER	Display the DOS version number
VERIFY [ON OFF]	Enable or disable disk-write verification
VOL [drive:]	Display the 11-character volume label of the specified drive
[drive:][path]XCOPY [drive:][path]filename[.ext] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]][/A][/D:mm-dd-yy][/E][/M] [/P][/S][/V][/W]	Provide selective copies of the specified file(s) to the target destination. DOS version 3.2
or	
[drive:][path]XCOPY [drive:][path][filename[.ext]] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]][/A][/D:mm-dd-yy][/E][/M] [P][/S][/V][/W]	
or	
[drive:][path]XCOPY drive:[path][filename[.ext]] [drive:][path][filename[.ext]][/A][/D:mm-dd-yy][/E][/M] [/P][/S][/V][/W]	

CONFIG.SYS Entries

BREAK=[ON|OFF] default OFF
 BUFFERS=n default 2 for PC 3 for AT
 COUNTRY=nnn
 DEVICE=[drive:][path]filename[.ext]
 FCBS=n,n default 4,1
 FILES=n default 8
 LASTDRIVE=letter default E
 SHELL=[drive:][path]filename[.ext]

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