



INTRODUCTION TO MS-DOS



What is DOS Programming?

- DOS stands for **DISK OPERATING SYSTEM**.
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Levels of DOS

- BIOS
 - File System
 - Command Interpreter
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The first Level: BIOS

- It is responsible for managing device like keyboards and disk drives
 - BIOS means Basic Input/Output System
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The second Level: File System

- The system files, which are hidden, perform such basic tasks as reading the keyboard, displaying characters on the screen, opening and closing files etc
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The third Level: Command Interpreter

- The command interpreter reads commands typed at the keyboard and attempts to obey them.
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The DOS Environment

```
Microsoft(R) Windows 98  
  (C)Copyright Microsoft Corp 1981-1998.  
C:\WINDOWS\Desktop>_
```



What is a FILE?

- A file is simply a collection of information that you store on a disk or diskette.
 - In general, each file must have a unique name. However, two files can share the same name provided that they are on different disks, or in different directories.
 - A file name has two parts: the filename itself and an extension.
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Limitations of a FILE

- The only characters you cannot use in filenames are:

`" / \ [ ] < > + = ; : , ? * { }`

- Spaces are not permitted in older MS-DOS
- To be safe, always make your filenames without spaces



What is an EXTENSION?

- Use extensions to make your filenames more descriptive.

There are some extensions to which you computer attaches a special meaning.

- COM, DLL, BAT or EXE are usually programs or application files. Don't use these names for any of the files you make.
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What is a DIRECTORY?

- One way of organizing the files on your computers Hard disk is to put them in different directories.
 - Directories enable you to arrange your files in whatever way you want and get files you need quickly.
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What are PATHNAMES?

- A pathname is a sequence of directory names followed by a filename. Each directory name is separated from the previous one by a backslash

For example the pathname for a file called KILLER.TXT could be:-

C:\DOSTUTOR\DATA\NEATSTUF\KILLER.TXT



WORKING WITH DOS COMMANDS



The BASIC commands

1. VER – it tells what the version of your DOS is.

Syntax: VER <enter>



The BASIC commands

2. TIME – it tells and allows the user to edit the system time

Syntax: TIME <enter>



The BASIC commands

3. DATE - it tells and allows the user to edit the system date

Syntax: DATE <enter>





The BASIC commands

4. CLS – it clears the screen

Syntax: CLS <enter>



The BASIC commands

5. EXIT – exits from DOS and return to Windows environment

Syntax: EXIT <enter>