Common DOS Commands

1. Changing Drives: Type the drive letter followed by a colon.

Example -- A:(enter) switches to the A Drive

2. Formatting Disks: Prepares a disk for use. Also erases any data that was on it.

Example-- Format A:(enter) formats disk in A drive.
Format A:/s(enter) makes it bootable.
Format A:/4(enter) formats a 5.25" DSDD disk
in a DSHD drive
Format A:/t:80 /n:9(enter) formats a 3.5"DSDD
disk in a DSHD drive.

- 3. <u>Directory:</u> Allows you to view file information.
 - Example-- Dir A:(enter) shows directory of Drive A
 Dir A:/p(enter) shows directory one page
 at a time.
 Dir A:/w(enter) shows directory in a multicolumn format.
- 4. Check Disk: Allows you to get information(size, space available, bad sectors, etc.) on a disk.
 - Example-- CHKDSK C: (enter) checks Drive c.
- 5. Wildcards: Allows you to copy or erase a group of files.

Example-- "*.*" means "all the files in this directory."

"*.com" means "all com files in directory."

"config.*" means "all config files in this directory."

- 6. Erase, Delete: Allows you to remove files from a disk. USE CAUTION WHEN USING WILDCARDS!
 - Example-- ERASE CONFIG.SYS(enter) erases config.sys
 ERASE *.*(enter) erases all files from
 current directory.

 DELETE *.COM(enter)deletes all com files
 from current directory.
- 7. <u>Diskcopy:</u> Copies one disk to another in entirety, formats while copying (thus destroying all data on target disk).
 - Example-- DISKCOPY A: A:(enter) copies all data from one disk to another using only Drive A.

8. Copy:

Copies files one at a time (or in bulk if using wildcards) from one disk to another already formatted disk. Does not overwrite, so needs sufficient free space on target drive.

Example -- COPY A:CONFIG.SYS C:(enter) copies the config.sys from current directory of Drive A to current directory of Drive C.

COPY C:*.* A:(enter) copies all files from current directory on Drive C to current directory on Drive A.

COPY C:*.* C:\[directory name](enter)
copies all files from current
directory of Drive C to another
directory.

COPY CON [name.ext](enter) copies from the console (keyboard). Used for creating new config.sys or batch files. Use the F6 key to finish.

9. Make Dir:

Makes a new directory.

Example-- MD\TEMP(enter) makes a new directory called temp under the current directory of the current drive.

10. Change Dir:

Changes to a new directory.

Example -- CD\TEMP(enter) changes current directory to the one named "TEMP."

11. Remove Dir:

Removes a specified directory (only if it contains no files).

Example-- RD\TEMP(enter) removes the directory called "TEMP."

12. Path:

Tells DOS to look in other directories for a specified file.

Example-- PATH=C:\;C:\UTILITY;C:\DOS(enter) says
"If I tell you to run a file
and its not in the current directory, look for it in the
root, and in the directories
named Utility and DOS."

13. Clear Screen

Clears the screen of clutter.

Example -- CLS(enter) clears the screen.

14. Echo off

Says "don't display the following commands on the screen." Usually used only in batch files.

15. Diskcomp:

Compares the contents of two disks.

Example -- DISKCOMP A: A: (enter) tells the PC to check two disks using the A drive to see if they are the same.

16. Prompt:

Usually used to display name of current directory on the screen with the drive designator. A very good command to put in an autoexec.bat file!

Example--

If you are working from the C drive with no special prompt, your prompt will be: "C>" no matter what directory you are in and you can forget where you are.

PROMPT=\$P\$G(enter) says "display my current directory name as part of the prompt". For example, if you are in a directory named "TEMP" the prompt will read: C:\TEMP>

17. TYPE:

Allows you to view the contents of text, batch and config files.

Example -- TYPE AUTOEXEC.BAT(enter) will display the entire autoexec.bat file on the screen. If the file is long, use TYPE AUTOEXEC.BAT MORE (enter) to view it one screen at a time.

18. Version:

Displays version and rev level of DOS you are using.

Example-- VER(enter) PC will respond with version it is using.

CONFIG.SYS COMMANDS

1. MODE: Re-assigns serial and parallel ports.

Example-- MODE COM1=LPT1 says "convert serial data that would normally be sent out on COM1 to parallel, then send it out to LPT1.

2. <u>DEVICE:</u> Allows DOS to use a device it wasn't intended to.

Example-- DEVICE=ANSI.SYS says "use the DOS file ANSI.SYS to manage a hard drive over 32 Megabytes."

3. FILES: Tells DOS how many separate files to handle simultaneously. (Default is 8)

4. BUFFERS Tells DOS how much RAM to allocate for disk read/write operations. (Default is 2).

5. LASTDRIVE: By default, DOS expects only 5 drives. This command allows more.

6. SAMPLE CONFIG.SYS:

Mode coml=com2
Device=ansi.sys
Device=ems.sys
Lastdrive=h
Device=cddrvr.bin(f;g)

Explanation: Ship coml's data out on com2.

Use ansi.sys to manage a 40 meg
hard drive.

Use ems.sys to manage a RAM
upgrade over 640k.

We have over 5 drives.

Use cddrvr.bin to control
two CD-ROM drives and
assign them the letters
F and G.

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EXTENSION

mapped nones: command (main MS-DOS file) autoexec (automatic execute) config (vital system info) gwbasic (switches PC to work with case consect

Turical extensions:

doc (documentation) sus (sustem into) txt (text) bak (backup file) exe (runnoble) bus (written in Section)

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

File manager, etc. Puts you in absolute control of all DOS functions and then XTree Gold:

some.

Diagnostics, hard drive utilities and file Norton Utilities:

manager functions.

Diagnostics, hard drive utilities and file P.C. Tools:

manager functions.

Low-level format of hard drives. Seagate Disk Manager:

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Running MS-DOS, by Van Wolverton (a must!).

Upgrading and Repairing P.C.'s by Scott Mueller.