

Quick Reference for MS-DOS®



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400474-002

DOS COMMANDS

The following notation is used in DOS command descriptions to better show how commands should be entered:

1. Enter any words shown in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS**. These words are called KEYWORDS and must be entered exactly as shown. You can enter these keywords in any combination of upper/lowercase; DOS will convert all keywords to uppercase.
2. Supply the text for any items shown in *lowercase italic letters*. For example, you should enter the name of your file when *filename* is shown in the format.
3. Items in brackets [] are optional or variable. If you want to include this information, do not include the brackets, only the information within the brackets.
4. An ellipsis ... indicates that you may repeat an item as many times as you want.
5. Include all punctuation where shown (with the exception of brackets), such as commas, equal signs, question marks, colons, or slashes.
6. A vertical bar | separates multiple arguments from which you must choose only one; for example, ON|OFF indicates that you may select either ON or OFF as a part of the command.

[d:][\path\] ASSIGN [d-d [...]]

Redirects drive requests.

[d:][\path\] ATTRIB [+/-R][d:][\path\][filename].ext]

Converts a file to read only.

[d:][\path\] BACKUP [d:][\path\][filename].ext] [d:][S][M][A][D:mm-dd-yy]

Backs up hard-disk files on DOS formatted diskettes.

BREAK [ON|OFF]

Sets Break (or Ctrl-C) check.

CHDIR [d:][\pathname]

Changes the directory of the current or designated drive to a different path; displays current (working) directory.

[d:][\path\] CHKDSK [d:][filename][F][V]

Scans the directory of the specified drive and checks for consistency; provides a disk and memory space report.

CLS

Clears the monitor screen.

COPY [/A]/B][d:][\pathname\][filename].ext] [/A] [/B][d:][\pathname\][filename].ext] [/A]/B][V]

Copies one or more files to the same disk or to another disk. You can give the copies different names if you so desire.

CTTY [device]

Allows you to change the device from which you issue commands (TTY represents the video monitor and keyboard).

DATE [mm - dd - yy]

Displays or sets the date. This date will be recorded in the directory for any files you create or alter.

DIR [d:][\pathname][\filename][P][W]

Displays a list or directory or all the files that are on the diskette.

[d:][\path\] DISKCOMP [d:][d:][1][8]

Compares the contents of two diskettes.

[d:][\path\] DISKCOPY [d:][d:][1]

Copies the contents of the disk in the source drive to the disk in the destination drive.

ERASE [d:][pathname][filename]

Erases or deletes any disk file(s) that you designate.

[d:][\path\] EXE2BIN [filename][d:][filename.ext]

Converts .EXE executable files to binary format. This results in a saving of disk space and faster program loading.

EXIT [d:][\pathname]

Exits the program COMMAND.COM (the command processor) and returns to a previous level of COMMAND.COM, if a secondary processor exists.

[d:][\path\] FC [/A]/B][C][L][LB n][W][T] [/n][NNNN][file1][file2]

Matches two files and reports differences between them.

[d:][\path\] FIND [/V][C][N] "string"[d:]

[\pathname] \filename]

Searches for a specific string of text in a file or files.

[d:][\path\] FORMAT [d:][S][8][1][V][I][4][C]

Formats the hard or floppy disk in the specified drive to accept DOS files. Verifies entire diskette for any defective sectors.

[d:][\path\] GRAFTABL

Loads additional character data for color.

[d:][\path\] GRAPHICS

Allows you to dump graphics display images to dot-matrix printer via ☐ Shift + ☐ PrtSc.

[d:][\path\] HD FMT [d:][S][V][E]

Formats the hard-disk partition assigned to DOS.

[d:][\path\] HDSETUP

Divides hard disk into distinct partitions to be used by separate operating systems.

[d:][\path\] JOIN [d:][d:][\directory name]

OR

[d:][\path\] JOIN

OR

[d:][\path\] JOIN [d:] /D

Forms one directory structure from two drives united under a subdirectory that has no files.

[d:][\path\] xxKBD

Replaces U.S. keyboard program with alternate configuration.

[d:][\path\] LABEL [d:][\path\] [volume label]

Allows you to create, change, or delete a disk label.

MKDIR [d:][\pathname]

Makes a new directory.

MODE

OR

MODE LPTn [: [c] [, [/] [, P]]]

OR

MODE [mode] [, [s], [T]]

OR

MODE COMn [: [baud], [parity], [databits], [, stopbits], [, P]

OR

MODE LPTn = COMn

Sets the parameters for the printer, monitor, and asynchronous communication.

PATH [[d:][\pathname] ; [d:] \pathname] ...]

Sets a command search path.

[d:][\pathname] PRINT [/D] [/B] [/U] [/M] [/S] [/Q] [/T] [/C] [/P] [[d:][\pathname] [filename] [.ext] ...]

Prints a text file on a line printer while you are processing other DOS commands (this feature is typically called "background printing").

[d:][\pathname] xxPRT LPTn

Loads printer driver for correct printing of DOS messages; for non-U.S. print wheels.

PROMPT [prompt-text]

Changes the DOS command prompt.

[d:][\pathname] RECOVER [d:][pathname] [filename]

Recovers a file or an entire disk containing bad sectors.

REN [AME] [d:][\pathname\] [filename] [filename]

Changes the name of the first filename that you designate to the second filename.

[d:][\pathname] RESTORE [d:][d:][\pathname] [filename] [.ext] [/S] [/P]

Restores to the hard disk the diskette files previously saved with the BACKUP command.

RMDIR [d:][\pathname]

Removes a directory from a hierarchical directory structure.

[d:][\pathname] SELECT [xxx] [yy]

Creates modified copy of DOS system disk with default country and keyboard layout of your choice.

SET [string = string]

Sets one string value equivalent to another string for use in later programs.

[d:][\pathname] SHARE [/F:filesystem] [/L:locks]

Loads support for file sharing and locking when networking is active.

[d:][\pathname] SPEED [F | N]

OR

SPEED K = nn

OR

SPEED

Sets the processor to fast or normal mode.

[d:][\pathname] SPINDOWN

Prepares the hard disk to be relocated.

[d:][\path\] SUBST [d:] [d:][\pathname] [/D]

Allows programs and the user to access a subdirectory as a separate drive.

[d:][\path\] SYS [d:]

Transfers DOS system files from the disk in the default drive to the disk in the drive specified by d:.

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

Displays or sets the time of day.

[d:][\path\] TREE [d:] [/F]

Displays the disk volume label and each of the subdirectories on the designated drive.

TYPE [d:][\pathname] [\filename]

Displays contents of a file on the video screen.

VER

Prints DOS version number.

VERIFY [ON | OFF]

Turns the verify switch on or off when writing to disk.

VOL [d:]

Prints volume identification name or number, if it exists.

BATCH COMMANDS**ECHO [ON | OFF message]**

Turns batch file echo feature on/off.

FOR % c IN (set) DO [command]

Batch processing command extension.

FOR % c IN (set) DO [command]

Interactive processing command extension.

GOTO [label]

Batch command extension.

IF [condition] [command]

Batch command extension.

PAUSE [comment]

Causes the system to pause and wait for a keystroke from the keyboard.

REM [comment]

Displays remarks that are on the same line as the REM command in a batch file during execution of that batch file.

SHIFT

Allows access to more than ten replaceable parameters in batch file processing.

FILTERS**[command]:MORE**

Displays output on the monitor one screen at a time.

SORT [/R] [/+ n] [oldfilename > newfilename]

Sorts ASCII data forward or backward and then writes the results to your monitor screen or files.

SPECIAL-FUNCTION AND CONTROL KEYS

Alt + **Ctrl** + **Del**

System reset.

Alt + **Ctrl** + **Esc**

Invoke ROM monitor.

Ctrl + **Scroll Lock/Break**

Break-interrupt current operation.

Ctrl + **C**

Break-interrupt current operation.

Shift + **PrtSc**

Print contents of screen display.

Ctrl + **P**

Turn printer echo feature on/off.

Ctrl + **Retrn**

Continue entering line on next display line.

Ctrl + **J**

Continue entering line on next display line.

Esc

Cancels the current line.

Ctrl + **S**

Suspend output to the screen; press any key to continue.

Ctrl + **Num Lock**

Suspend output to the screen; press any key to continue.

Tab

Moves the cursor eight spaces to the right.

Backspace

Deletes character and backspaces.

Ctrl + **H**

Deletes character and backspaces.


Ctrl + **Alt** + **↘**

or



Ctrl + **Alt** + **Tab** (non-U.S.)

Change speed of ITT XTRA XP.

DOS EDITING KEYS

 or F1	Copies one character from the template to the screen.
F2	Copies characters up to the character specified in the template and puts these characters on the screen.
F3	Copies all remaining characters in the template to the screen.
Del	Skips over (does not copy) a character.
F4	Skips over (does not copy) the characters in the template up to the character specified (the opposite of F2).
Esc	Cancels the line currently displayed on the screen; leaves the template unchanged.
Ins	Enters/exits insert mode.
F5	Makes the new line the new template.

EDLIN COMMANDS

[n] A	Appends lines
[line], [line], [line], [count] C	Copies lines
[line] [,line] D	Deletes lines
[line]	Edits line
E	Ends edit
[line] I	Inserts lines
[line] [,line] L	Lists lines
[line], [line], [line] M	Moves lines
[line] [,line] P	Pages 23 lines
Q	Quits edit
[line] [,line] [?] R [string 1] [ string 2]	Replaces text
[line] [,line] [?] S [string] 	Searches text
[line] T [filename]	Transfers lines
[n] W	Writes lines

DEBUG COMMANDS

A [address]	ASSEMBLE—Assembles statements
C [range] [address]	COMPARE—Compares memory
D [range]	DUMP—Displays memory
E [address] [list]	ENTER—Changes memory values at specified address
F [range] [list]	FILL—Fills addresses in the range with values in the list
G [= address [address...]]	GO—Executes program in memory with optional breakpoints
H [value] [value]	HEX—Performs hexadecimal add/subtract
I [value]	INPUT—Inputs/displays input byte from designated port
L [address [drive [record] [record]]]	LOAD—Loads file or absolute diskette sectors into memory
M [range] [address]	MOVE—Moves block of memory to specified address
N [filename] [filename...]	NAME—Defines files and parameters
O [value] [byte]	OUTPUT—Sends byte to designated output port
Q	QUIT—Ends DEBUG program
R [register-name]	REGISTER—Displays CPU registers/flags
S [range] [list]	SEARCH—Searches for characters
T [= address] [value]	TRACE—Executes and displays
U [range]	UNASSEMBLE—Unassembles instructions
W [address [drive [record] [record]]]	WRITE—Writes file or absolute diskette sectors

FXP COMMANDS

/xxx	Allocate xxxK bytes of memory
/ULM	Use Lower Memory as buffers
/CPS	Check the Program Status
/HLP	Display Help Information
/DPB	Disable the Print Buffer
/EPB	Enable the Print Buffer
/CPB	Clear the Print Buffer
/SAP	Suspend All Printing
/RAP	Resume All Printing
/LP1	buffer Line Printer 1
/LP2	buffer Line Printer 2
/LP3	buffer Line Printer 3
/DF1	Disable Floppy 1 buffering
/DF2	Disable Floppy 2 buffering
/DHD	Disable Hard Disk buffering
/EF1	Enable Floppy 1 buffering
/EF2	Enable Floppy 2 buffering
/EHD	Enable Hard Disk buffering
/CF1	Clear the Floppy 1 buffer
/CF2	Clear the Floppy 2 buffer
/CHD	Clear the Hard Disk buffer
/EBW	Enable Buffered Writes
/DBW	Disable Buffered Writes