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| **Lab 01** | **Introduction of DOS (Internal & External Commands)** |

**Microsoft Disk Operating System**, **MS-DOS**, is a non-graphical command line Operating System created for IBM compatible computers that was first introduced by Microsoft in 1981. Unlike Microsoft Windows MS-DOS requires the user to type commands through a simple interface instead of using a mouse. The interface screen prompt to enter a command looks like this:

C:\>-

# Internal Commands

Whenever we are working at the command prompt or the DOS Shell DOS remains reside in memory checking commands and running them. Many commands are built in to DOS and are always ready in memory. These are known as *built in* or *internal commands.*

The internal commands reside in COMMAND.COM, which loads into memory when the computer system is started; these commands do not reside on disk. Command.com is a built in command interpreter. Following are some internal commands:

**c :\> ver : will give the dos version number the output will be like [MS-DOS Version 6.00]**

**External Commands**

Not all DOS commands are understood by COMMAND.COM. There are commands called ***external commands*** that reside in separate files on hard drive, and must be called specifically to use them. The external commands are files that do reside on disk and have an extension of .COM, .EXE, or .BAT. Both command types are executed from the MS-DOS prompt.

The difference between built in commands ad external commands is that built in commands always reside in the memory. They are not associated with any particular disk and so they can always requested. External programs are located on disk

**E.g.: c:\>chkdsk: - This command will scan the disk drive and gives the information.**

Some Internal Commands

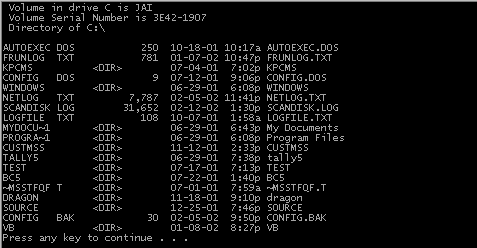
1. **CLS**:- (*Clear the screen*) This command is used to clear the screen or wipe out everything written on the screen.

Syntax:-    C:\> CLS   and press Enter

2. **DIR:-** (*Directory*) Dir command is used for listing files and directories present in the current disk.

Syntax:-  C:\> DIR [/switches]

Example:-   C:\> DIR /P



Switches:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| /P | Page wise |
| /W | Widths wise |
| /S | List all files and directory of subdirectories |
| /AH | Display directory with hidden files |
| /AS | Display directory with system files |
| /AD | Display only directories present in current drive |

3. **VER:-**(*Version)* Version numbers indicates that which edition of DOS we are working on.

Syntax:-  C:\> VER   press enter

Output:-  
C:\>VER  
  
Windows 98 [Version 4.10.2222]

4. **VOL:-**(*Volume*) Displays the disk volume label and serial number, if it exist.

Syntax:- C:\> VOL  press enter  
Output:-C:\>VOL

Volume in drive C is JAI  
Volume Serial Number is 3E42-1907

5. **DATE:-**Display the current Date

Syntax:-  C:\> DATE  
C:\>DATE  
Current date is Fri 02-15-2002  
Enter new date (mm-dd-yy):

Type DATE without parameters to display the current date setting and  
a prompt for a new one. Press ENTER to keep the same date.  
Note:- We enter new date in the format of MM-DD-YY.

6. **TIME:-** Display current time

Syntax:- C:\> TIME  
C:\>TIME  
Current time is 8:38:47.70a  
Enter new time:  
Type TIME with no parameters to display the current time setting and a prompt for a new one. Press ENTER to keep the same time.

Note:- We enter the time in the format of 24 hour clock.

File related commands

7. **COPY CON:-** This command gives the facility to create a new text file.

Syntax:-  C:\> COPY CON <Filename>  
C:\>COPY CON Rose.txt  
A clock in a office can never get stolen  
Too many employees watch it all the time  
^Z  
1 file(s) copied

After copy con we must specify a suitable file name. Press enter. Start typing the information of the file. After gathering the information we press ^Z (CTRL+Z) button or F6 button to save the file. After pressing enter key computer will show a message like 1 file(s) copied. This means that file is stored in the disk. Suppose we don't want to save the file or we just want to abort from file creation job, then we simply press ^C (CTRL+C) button to abort without saving the file, intend of pressing ^Z button.

Notes:-  1. Never forget to give a suitable filename  
              2. You can use extension as .TXT for denoting the file as Text file.

8. **TYPE:-** This command is used to display the contents or text of any file to the display device.

Syntax:- C:\> TYPE <Filename>  
A:\>TYPE GULAB.TXT  
A clock in a office can never get stolen  
Too many employees watch it all the time

9. **COPY :-**  Copy command is used for copy any file to another location or to copy the files to another directory. This command may also be used for copying any file to another disk with different file name.

Syntax:-  C:\> COPY <Source filename> <Target file name>  
 C:\>COPY ROSE.TXT ROSE.MSG  
         1 file(s) copied

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TO copy a file from *hard disk* to *floppy disk* C:\>COPY Rose.txt A:       1 file(s) copied |  |
| To copy a file from *Floppy Disk* to *Hard disk* A:\>COPY LOTUS.TXT C:\ 1 file(s) copied |  |

10. **DEL:-**This command is used for erasing any file from the disk.

Syntax:- C:\> DEL <Filename>  
C:\>DEL LOTUS.TXT  
If it successfully erase the file from dosk then C:\> prompt will be appear, either computer will show an error message.

Note:- /P option is used for permission before deleting the file.

Directory related commands

11. **MD:-** (*Make Directory*)- This command allows to create a new directory.

Syntax:- C:\> MD <Dirname>  
C:\> MD REPORT  
C:\>

Now this directory can be used for keeping various sort of reports. Under this directory we can create another directory which is known as subdirectory.

12. **CD:-** (*Change Directory*):- We can enter or exit from any directory using this command.

Syntax:- To access any directory  
C:\> CD <Directory name>  
C:\> CD REPORT  
C:\REPORT>

Prompt will change with the directory name. If we keep two dots after CD command than we will exit from the directory.

Syntax:-C:\> CD..  
C:\REPORT> CD..  
C:\>

13. **RD:-**(*Remove directory*):- This command is used when we want to remove any unusable directory form our disk.

Syntax:- C:\> RD <Directory name>  
C:\> RD REPORT

Some External Commands

1. **MEM:-**This command displays free and used amount of memory in the computer.

Syntax:- C:\> MEM  
the computer will display the amount of memory.

1. **SYS:-** This command is used for copy system files to any disk. The disk having system files are known as Bootable Disk, which are used for booting the computer.

Syntax:- C:\> SYS [Drive name]  
C:\> SYS A:  
System files transferred   
This command will transfer the three main system files COMMAND.COM, IO.SYS, MSDOS.SYS to the floppy disk.

1. **XCOPY:-** When we need to copy a directory instant of a file from one location to another the we uses xcopy command. This command is much faster than copy command.

Syntax:- C:\> XCOPY < Source dirname >  <Target dirname>  
C:\> XCOPY  TC TURBOC

1. **CHKDSK:-**(*Check disk) -*This command is used to check the status of a disk and show the report of result status.

Syntax:- C:\> CHKDSK

1. **DISKCOPY:-** DISKCOPY copies the contents of a floppy disk to another.

Syntax:- C:\> DISKCOPY  <Drive1>  <Drive2>  
C:\> DISKCOPY  A:   B:

1. **FORMAT:-** This command creates new Track & Sectors in a disk. Every

Syntax:- C:\> FORMAT  [drive name] [/S]  
C:\> FORMAT A:  
this command will create new track & sectors.  
C:\> FORMAT A: /S  
This command will transfer system files after formatting the disk.