DISK OPERATING SYSTEM(DOS)COMMANDS

CC1/L – INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the fundamentals of the Command Prompt and its significance in Windows.
- Familiarize yourself with essential DOS commands.
- Learn how to navigate the file system, manage files and directories, and perform system tasks using DOS commands.
- Gain practical experience through hands-on examples

What is DOS?

Definition: DOS (Disk Operating System) is a text-based interface in Windows that allows users to interact with the operating system through commands.

The Command Prompt: The Command Prompt, also known as the "DOS Prompt" or "CMD," is the application used to enter DOS commands.

Basic DOS Commands

1. **dir** (Directory Listing): View the contents of a directory.

   Sample:

   C:\> dir

2. **cd** (Change Directory): Change the current working directory.
   Sample:
   C:\> cd Documents

3. **md** (Make Directory): Create a new directory.
   Sample:
   C:\> md NewFolder

4. **rd** (Remove Directory): Delete an empty directory.
   Sample:
   C:\> rd OldFolder

5. **copy**: Copy files or directories.
   Sample:
   C:\>copy file.txt C:\Backup

6. **move**: Move or rename files or directories.
   Sample:
   C:\>move file.txt NewLocation\

7. **del** (Delete): Delete a file.
   Sample:
   C:\>del file.txt

8. **cls** (Clear Screen): Clear the Command Prompt screen.
   Sample:
   C:\>cls

9. **exit**: Exit the Command Prompt.
   Sample:
   C:\> exit

Navigating the File System

Absolute vs. Relative Paths: Understand the difference between specifying a full path and a relative path.

.. (Double Dot): Represent the parent directory.
Sample:
C:\Documents\Reports>cd ..

4. Advanced DOS Commands

cd.. (Shortcut to Move Up One Level): Quickly navigate to the parent directory.
Sample:
C:\Documents\Reports>cd..

type (Display File Contents): Display the contents of a text file.
Sample:
C:\Documents>type myfile.txt

find (Search for Text in Files): Search for specific text within files.
Sample:
C:\>find "keyword" file.txt

tree (Display Directory Structure): Show the directory structure as a tree.
Sample:
C:\>tree /f

ipconfig (View Network Configuration): Display network configuration information.

Sample:

C:\>ipconfig

tasklist (List Running Processes): List all running processes.

Sample:

C:\>tasklist

taskkill (Terminate a Process): Terminate a running process by name or process ID.

Sample:

C:\>taskkill /F /IM notepad.exe

chkdsk (Check Disk for Errors): Scan and repair disk errors.

Sample:

C:\>chkdsk C: /f

sfc (System File Checker): Scan and repair corrupted system files.

Sample:

C:\>sfc /scannow

5. Sample Commands and Scenarios

Listing files in a directory:

C:\>dir

Changing the current directory:

C:\>cd Documents

Creating a new directory:

C:\>md NewFolder

Copying a file to a different location:

C:\>copy file.txt C:\Backup

Searching for a keyword in a file:

C:\>find "important" report.txt

Viewing network configuration:

C:\>ipconfig

Killing a process (e.g., Notepad):

C:\>taskkill /F /IM notepad.exe

Running a system file check:

C:\>sfc /scannow

Tips and Best Practices

- Command Syntax and Case Sensitivity
- Using Wildcards (* and ?)
- Utilizing Tab Completion
- Accessing Command History

Common Errors and Troubleshooting

- Handling "File Not Found" Errors
- Dealing with Permission Denied Issues
- Running Commands as Administrator
- Understanding Exit Codes

Conclusion:

Mastery of DOS commands is a valuable skill for anyone working with Windows systems. By understanding and practicing these commands, you can efficiently manage files, directories, and system resources while troubleshooting issues. Explore and experiment with these commands in the Command Prompt to become a proficient user of DOS in Windows.