DOS

Short for **Microsoft Disk Operating System**, MS-DOS is a non-graphical command line operating system derived from 86-DOS that was created for IBM compatible computers. MS-DOS originally written by **Tim Paterson** and introduced by Microsoft in **August 1981** and was last updated in 1994 when MS-DOS 6.22 was released. MS-DOS allows the user to navigate, open, and otherwise manipulate files on their computer from a command line instead of a GUI like Windows.

DOS Commands

Get to a Command Prompt in Windows

Click start
 Type cmd & press enter.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

Internal Commands:

1) CLS (Clear Screen)

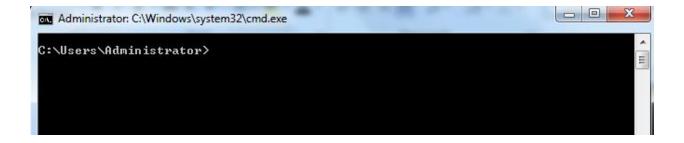
Running the cls command at the command prompt would clear your screen of all previous text and only return the prompt. It does not clear the user's history of commands.

CLS

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
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C:\Users\Administrator>cls
```



2) DATE

The date command can be used to look at the current date of the computer as well as change the date to an alternate date.

DATE

```
C:\Users\Administrator\date
The current date is: Wed 10/14/2015
Enter the new date: (mm-dd-yy) 10/23/2015

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

3) TIME

Time command is used to display and set the current system time of the operating system.

TIME

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>time
The current time is: 9:36:59.30
Enter the new time: 9:38

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

4) VER (Version)

VER will tell you what version of DOS you are using.

VER



5) VOL (Volume)

Displays the volume information about the designated drive.

VOL

```
C:\Users\Administrator\vol
Uolume in drive C is 0S
Uolume Serial Number is 52D6-CD93

C:\Users\Administrator\vol d:
Uolume in drive D is clg_data
Uolume Serial Number is BEC9-C8F2

C:\Users\Administrator\vol e:
Uolume in drive E is personal_data
Uolume Serial Number is BEDC-BB32

C:\Users\Administrator\
C:\Users\Administrator\
C:\Users\Administrator\
C:\Users\Administrator\
C:\Users\Administrator\
C:\Users\Administrator\
```

6) DIR (Directory)

The dir command allows you to see the available files and directories in the current directory. The dir command also shows the last modification date and time, as well as the file size.

DIR drivename:

If you want to create new .txt file in C:\ using CMD then type

dir> filename.txt

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

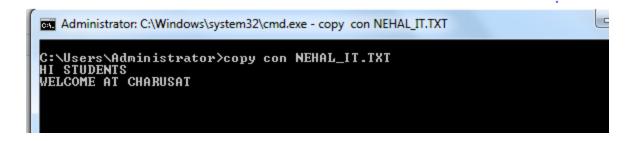
C:\Users\Administrator>DIR> XYZ.TXT

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

7) Copy con

Copy con is an MS-DOS and Windows command line command that allows the creation of a file through the command prompt.

copy con filename.txt



After this command is typed, you'll be returned to a blank line, which is the start of your file. Enter the lines you want to insert into the file and, when done, press Ctrl + Z to create the file. If you want to cancel the creation of the file, press Ctrl + C.

8) TYPE

Allows the user to see the contents of a file. To edit the files, the user would need to use either edit or copy con.

Type [drive:][path]filename

```
C:\Users\Administrator>type nehal.txt
hello
C:\Users\Administrator>
```

9) MKDIR

Allows you to create your own directories in MS-DOS.

MKDIR [drive:]path

MD [drive:]path

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>MKDIR PATEL_Rocks

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>md SNEH

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

10) CHDIR (CD)

Chdir (Change Directory) is a command used to switch directories in MS DOS.

chdir\

chdir...

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator\chdir My Documents

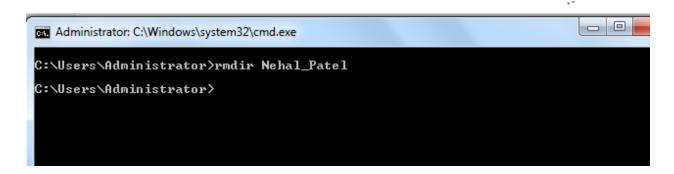
C:\Users\Administrator\My Documents\chdir..

C:\Users\Administrator\
```

11) RMDIR

Removes an empty directory in MS-DOS.

rmdir dirname



12) RENAME

Used to rename files and directories from the original name to a new name.

rename c:\computer hope

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>rename d:\nehal sneh

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

13) DEL

Del is a command used to delete files from the computer.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>
C:\Users\Administrator>
C:\Users\Administrator>
```

14) MOVE

Allows you to move files or directories from one folder to another, or from one drive to another.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>move hello.docx d:
    1 file(s) moved.

C:\Users\Administrator>move 1.py c:\TC
    1 file(s) moved.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

15) COPY

Allows the user to copy one or more files to an alternate location.

```
copy *.txt d:\
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>copy *.txt d:\
NEHAL.txt
PATEL.txt
XYZ.TXT
3 file(s) copied.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

16) DOSKEY

Doskey is an MS-DOS utility that allows a user to keep a history of commands used on the computer. Doskey allows frequently used commands to be used without having to type the command each time its needed.

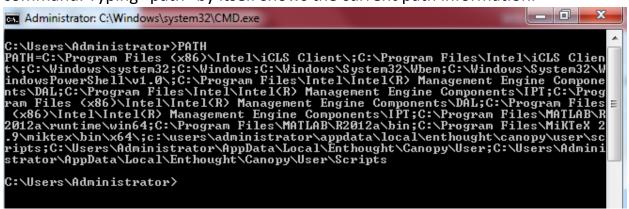


Option keys

UP,DOWN	arrows recall commands	
Esc	clears current command	
F7	displays command history	
Alt+F7	clears command history	
[chars]F8	searches for command beginning with [chars]	
F9	selects a command by number	
Alt+F10	clears macro definitions	

17) PATH

Path is used to specify the location where MS-DOS looks when using a command. Typing "path" by itself shows the current path information.



External Commands:

1) ATTRIB

Attrib allows a user to change the attributes of a file or files.

R	Read-only file attribute.
A	Archive file attribute.
Н	Hidden file attribute.

2) FORMAT

Format is used to erase information off of a computer diskette or fixed drive.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - format g:/q

C:\>format g:/q

Insert new disk for drive G:
and press ENTER when ready...

The type of the file system is FAT32.

QuickFormatting 7435M

Initializing the File Allocation Table (FAT)...

Volume label (11 characters, ENTER for none)?
```

3) CHKDSK

Chkdsk is a utility that checks the computer's hard drive status for any crosslinked or any additional errors with the hard drive.

```
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]

(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\chkdsk
The type of the file system is NIFS.

WARNING! F parameter not specified.
Running CHKDSK in read-only mode.

CHKDSK is verifying files (stage 1 of 3)...
File verification completed.

CHKDSK is verifying indexes (stage 2 of 3)...
Index verifying security descriptors (stage 3 of 3)...
Security descriptor verification completed.

CHKDSK is verifying Usn Journal...
Usn Journal verification completed.

16609288 KB total disk space.
15005300 KB in 85352 files.
57336 KB in 10426 indexes.
9 KB in bad sectors.
209688 KB in use by the system.
65536 KB occupied by the log file.
1336964 KB available on disk.

4096 bytes in each allocation unit.
4152322 total allocation units on disk.
334241 allocation units available on disk.

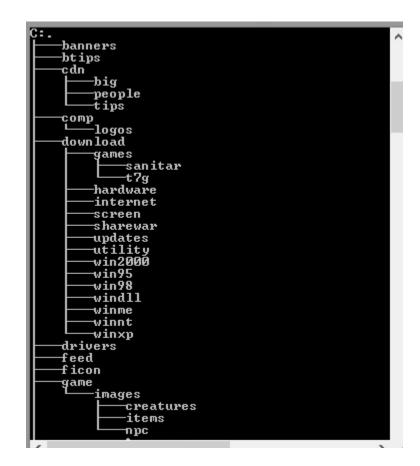
C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>
```

4) SCANDISK

Microsoft ScanDisk was first introduced with MS-DOS 6.2 and is a software utility capable of checking the hard drive and floppy diskette drive for any disk errors.

5) TREE
Allows the user to view a listing of files and folders in an easy to read listing.

Drive:\Path	Drive and directory containing disk for display of directory structure.
/F	Displays file names in each directory.
/A	ext characters used for linking lines, instead of graphic characters. /a is used with code pages that do not support graphic characters and to send output to printers that do not properly interpret graphic characters.



6) XCOPY

Xcopy is a powerful version of the copy command with additional features; has the capability of moving files, directories, and even whole drives from one location to another.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\>xcopy patel.txt d:\
G:PATEL.txt
1 File(s) copied

C:\>
```

Move one folder from one drive to another.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\>xcopy IT /s d:
IT\New Text Document.txt
1 File(s) copied

C:\>
```