

LAB WORK	1	DATE		DUE	
TITLE	MS-DOS				

(A) INTRODUCTION

Operating system is an interface between the user and the computer hardware. MS-DOS (Microsoft's Disk Operating System) runs on any of the Intel 8088,80x86 or Pentium class CPU's on a Personal computer platform. The version of MS-DOS that runs on early IBM computers is called PC-DOS.

DOS is a 16-bit, single tasking, single-user operating system. It operates in real mode, meaning that only one program or process can run at a time. There is a 640 KB limit on memory that is accessible to the applications. The applications, directly access and control the hardware like printers bypassing the operating system. DOS has a simple text-based command line interface and it comprises of three files – MSDOS.SYS, COMMAND.COM and IO.SYS.

An operating system allows you to store and access information on a computer which can be letters, favourite music, family pictures, reports etc. Every piece of stored data accessed by the computer is treated as a file and is assigned a unique name. DOS uses a "8.3" filename, which can be up to eight characters long followed by a period and an extension of three characters. It cannot contain characters such as this " / \ [] : ; = , .

When the number of files stored on a disk attached to a computer increases, it need to be organized. The disks with large capacity are split into one or more partitions or drives. Each partition, drive or volume is given a name such as 'C', 'D' etc. Files in a partition are organized into directories which are organized similar to tree structure.

Every file has path starting from root through subdirectories reaching a file. Path of file paint.exe is c:\Programs\Accessories\paint.exe You can execute DOS command on Windows XP by getting the console with a DOS prompt by executing command program or choosing command prompt from Programs- Accessories.

In Windows XP, Select the following path : Start -> Programs -> Accessories -> Command Prompt. It will display command prompt as C:\> , by default. The DOS commands can be typed at this prompt.

Command	Used for	Format & Example
HELP	Gives help on all DOS commands or a specific command.	C:\> help <commandname> C:\> help C:\> help cls
CLS	It clears the screen and the cursor waits in the top left corner of the screen with current working prompt.	C:\> Cls
VER	Displays the current DOS version.	C:\> Ver
DATE	Used to display and change the system date. Displays the current date and prompt user to change the date if desired.	C:\> DATE [mm-dd-yy] C:\> Date
TIME	Used to display and change system time.	C:\> TIME [hh:mm:ss:xx] C:\> Time
DIR	List contents of the specified directory	C:\> DIR [drive :] [path] [filename] [.ext] [/option] Drive – specifies the drive name Path - specifies the list of subdirectories to the required directory Filename – the name of the file Ext - specifies the extension of the file. Option – specifies one or more options to be used /p - Page-wise listing /w - Wide-format /s - list the files of subdirectories below
COPY	Used to copy or append files to other files.	C:\> copy <source> <destination> C:\> copy con a.txt Copies the contents typed at the console to file a.txt. C:\> copy a.txt b.txt C:\> copy a.txt + b.txt c.txt Copies the appended file of a.txt and b.txt to c.txt
DEL	Used to delete a file	C:\> Del filename C:\> Del a.txt
TYPE	Display the contents of the file on the screen or it can be	C:\> Type <filename> C:\> type a.txt

	sent to the printer .	C:\> type a.txt more C:\> type a.txt > prn
RENAME or REN	Changes name of an existing file.	C:\> ren <old_filename><new_filename> C:\> ren a.txt b.txt
PATH	Used to display the current path or set a new search path for the executable files.	PATH [[drive:] path][:[drive:] path ...]] C:\> Path Displays the current search path as PATH C:\DOS; C:\system32; D:\PROGRAMS Any executable program will be first searched in DOS, then system32 and then PROGRAMS directory

(B) OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, students will be able to:

- Use basic DOS commands like date, time, dir, copy con , type, ren etc.

(C) EXERCISE 1

- Type the following commands and explain what the command is used for and give the output of the command

	Command	Explanation	Output
1.	copy con my.txt		
2.	copy my.txt ab.txt		
3.	dir *.txt		
4.	ren *.txt *.bak		
5.	dir		
6.	attrib +h ab.bak		
7.	dir *.bak		
8.	ver		

9.	type my.bak		
10.	path		
11.	cls		
12.	help dir		
13.	dir /A:h		
14.	help attrib		
15.	del my.bak		

(D) EXERCISE 2

a) Give the DOS commands to be used to perform following set of tasks.

#	Task	Command
1.	Create a file named a.txt containing your name and address	
2.	Change the name of the above file as self.txt	
3.	Create a copy of the above file as bio.txt	
4.	Display the contents of the file self.txt	
5.	Change the file attribute to hidden	