

Dear coder, by now you should understand what a program, software etc. is. Therefore, we would on to how to get the computer to do what we want it to do which is by giving it instructions. The instructions giving to the computer can be called commands. They can also be referred to as codes, scripts, program.

I will like us to start with simple commands that can be given to the computer perform simple tasks like create folder, change directory/folder etc. Before we go into this, you will need to understand the basics of the operating system that handles system functionality.

As you have learnt, all software in the category called SYSTEM SOFTWARE are basically OPERATING SYSTEMS. THEY ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT CONTROLS OPERATION OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM. THERE ARE DIFFERENT BRANDS/TYPES e.g windows, linux, MACOS, AppleIOS, diskOS, unix, etc.

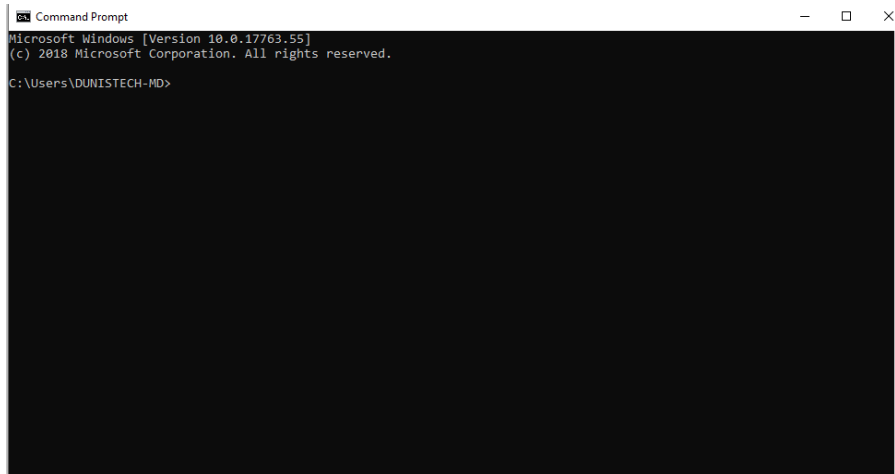
Any operating system which runs from the hard disk drive is called a Disk Operating System (D.O.S).The UNIX was a powerful operating system available, but it was not suitable for 8-bit 8086 microprocessor based Personal Computers. So, there was a need for a small operating system that could work in 640K memory (RAM). DOS was a variant of CP/M (Control Program/Monitor) which ran for the first time on IBM-PC in 1981. It is called so because it resides on Floppy or Hard disk and provides command level interface between user and the computer hardware.

The different versions of MS-DOS have evolved over a period of time with Microsoft introducing new features in each new release. Starting with MS-DOS1.1, the latest version was MS-DOS6.22 released in 1994. There are various versions of DOS like MS-DOS(Microsoft), PC-DOS(IBM), Apple DOS, Dr-DOS etc.

DUNIS ACADEMY- PROFESSIONAL CODING AND COMPUTER TRAINING SCHOOL ABRAHAM ADESANYA LAGOS

<https://dunistech.ng>

BASIC COMMANDS USING THE DOS



- cmd- start command prompt
- call- calls a batch file from another one
- cls- clear screen
- dir- lists out the files in a folder or directory
- color- change console color
- date- show/set date
- echo - text output
- exit- exits the command prompt or a batch file
- find- find files
- hostname- display host name
- pause- pauses the execution of a batch file and shows a message
- start [filename.exe]- launch an application

PRACTICE THE ABOVE COMMANDS. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO MOVE FROM ONE DIRECTORY TO THE OTHER AND BE ABLE TO CHANGE DIRECTORY AT ANY TIME.

THE PATH ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLE- files are kept in a particular location on the computer system. For Windows based pcs, the OS group

DUNIS ACADEMY- PROFESSIONAL CODING AND COMPUTER TRAINING SCHOOL ABRAHAM ADESANYA LAGOS

<https://.dunistech.ng>

locations into what we call LIBRARIES. These are folders that holds files of similar types e.g., DOCUMENT, DOWNLOAD, DESKTOP etc. Folders can also be called DIRECTORY.

The executable file of any software/ program contains the instructions to makes the software to perform its functions. Therefore, if at any time you give a command for a pc to run a particular software/program, you must tell it where to find that program. This is like telling someone to hand you a chair as well as telling the person that the chair is in the inner room. Without this, the person will not know that the chair you asked for is in the inner room. This is what path environmental variable is.

“When you issue a command, the interface must know the location of the file or program to which the command refers. If you will be issuing more than one command to the same location during a session, you can make things easier by editing your computer's PATH variable. This can be done temporarily or permanently. The examples below assume that multiple commands are going to be issued to the WinZip add-on which is found in the WinZip folder.

To temporarily change the PATH variable in a Command Prompt session so that it includes the WinZip folder, type:

```
PATH=%PATH%;C:\Program Files\WinZip
```

and press Enter (double quotes are not necessary as PATH does not use spaces as a delimiter). Once you have done this, you can type a command line that begins with either WZZIP or WZUNZIP during this Command Prompt session. If you do not have the path to the WinZip folder in your PATH variable, you must always include that path in your command, as in the example below.

```
"C:\Program Files\WinZip\WZZIP"
```

Note: The entire command above must be surrounded by double quotes due to the space in Program Files.

DUNIS ACADEMY- PROFESSIONAL CODING AND COMPUTER TRAINING SCHOOL ABRAHAM ADESANYA LAGOS

<https://dunistech.ng>

To permanently include the WinZip folder in the path, you would need to edit the Path Environment Variable. To do this:

Open System from the Control Panel

(Change the Control Panel from the Category view to easily find this)

Click the link for Advanced system settings on the left side of System

In the Advanced tab of System Properties, click Environment Variables

Advanced tab of System Properties

In the System variables section, scroll to and select Path and then click Edit

Environment Variables dialog

Windows 10:

In the Edit environment variable dialog, click New

Edit environment variable dialog

Type the full path to the WinZip folder (usually C:\Program Files\WinZip)

Click OK in each open dialog and close System"

Reference: <https://kb.corel.com/en/125976>