DOSBox - Notes, Limitations and Issues

DOSBox Notes

- It is okay to mount the virtual DOSBox 'e' drive, even if you have a real 'e' drive such as a DVD player. Inside DOSBox, it will only work with its virtual 'e' drive and not your real drive.

- Every time you start DOSBox you must issue these 3 commands:
  mount e c:\P23X
  e:
  dbset

> *See the next page if you want to automate these commands when DOSBox starts.*

DOSBox Limitations and Issues

- Naming Files. You may, as an example, create a test case with the name: *datain01.txt*
  It may have two parts:
  - The file_name is *datain01* and may be 1 to 8 characters
  - The file_type is *txt*   and may be 1 to 3 characters
  These would be illegal DOS file names: *datain001.txt*   *data.01.txt*

- The only DOS calls needed for CSC23x are:
  Read Char   (Int 21h with ah=8)
  Write Char   (Int 21h with ah=2)
  Write String (Int 21h with ah=9)
  Terminate   (Int 21h with ah=4C)
  Those 4 have been tested under DOSBox and work correctly.

  If you use any other DOS call, you are responsible for testing to assure it works.
  The commands below are known to not work under DOSBox.

  Read and Echo Char (Int 21h with ah=01h) does not work.
  Instead use the combination:
  - Read Char (Int 21h with ah=8)
  - Write Char (Int 21h with ah=2)

  Check For Data (Int 21h with ah=0Bh) does not work.
  Instead assure all files have a DOS end_of_file character.

- Files created outside of DOSBox are only discovered when you start DOSBox.
  If you create a file and place it in a DOSBox directory, you must type *rescan* or press Ctrl-F4 to make the file visible.

- If your mouse disappears when you exit DOSBox after using CodeView:
  - Type CTRL-F10 and it should reappear
  - Alt-Tab should also bring it back

Automating the DOSBox Startup Commands

See the README.TXT file for DOSBox. It is in the DOSBox directoty ... DOSBox-0.74.
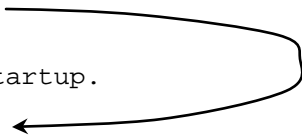
    Q: Do I always have to type the startup commands? Automation?

    A: In the DOSBox configuration file is an [autoexec] section. The commands present
    there are run when DOSBox starts, so you can use this section for the mounting.

If you're using Windows:
* Go to Start -> All Programs -> DOSBox=0.74 -> Options -> DOSBox 0.74 options
* It will open up the configuration file.
* At the bottom you will see [autoexec] and a line underneath saying that any lines
  in that section will be executed when DOSBOX starts.
* Add the *mount*, change to *e:* and *dbset.*

  ```
  [autoexec]
  # Lines in this section will be run at startup.
  mount e c:\p23x
  e:
  dbset
  ```

* Save the file and exit.