

## Windows Lab 3

### Introduction to MS-DOS

**Objective:** Using the command line interface of an Operating System

At the end of this lab, you will be able to:

- Access a command line interface (CLI)
- Use the Help facility in MS-DOS
- Display the list of files/folders in a directory using DIR command
- Create a new folder using MD command
- Use the CD command and its various switches
- Use the RD command to remove folders

### **Instructions**

**It is important that you complete this and other lab sheets even though you feel you are familiar with the DOS Prompt.**

**Use the Help option in MS-DOS and the internet to find out information on doing the following tasks.**

**Complete each task in this document and record the answers (in your own words).**

**This completed sheet will then be useful for later use.**

## Introduction

MS-DOS is a "Disk Operating System". That means it is simply "a System for Operating the Disks". It enables the user to organise data files, load and execute (run) programs and control the input and output devices attached to the computer. MS-DOS is a 16 bit, single-user operating system that does not support multi-tasking.

When compared to graphical interfaces such as Windows, it's also not particularly user-friendly and has faded in significance. What MS-DOS is good for is to introduce you to operating a PC/Computer or Server at a Command Line. Windows 10 includes a DOS-like command line interface which we will use. While DOS is increasingly not being used in the running of 32-bit and 64-bit applications, it is still important to know DOS commands.

You can read more about DOS at the following website addresses:

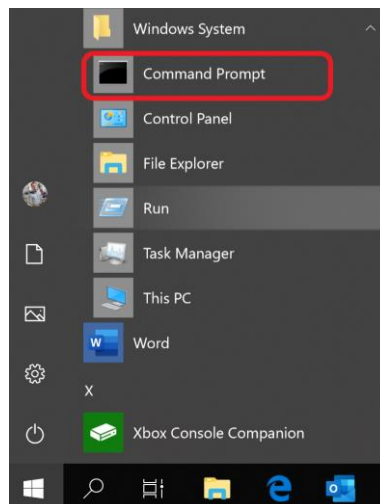
- <https://www.c3scripts.com/tutorials/msdos/>
- <https://youtu.be/kl9u8owo0oM>

### You can start command prompt a few different ways:

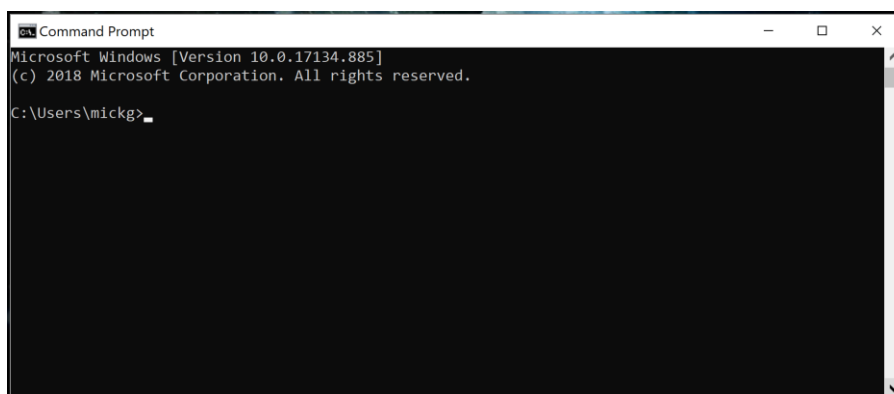
1. Click on the Search Icon in the tray and type in **Command** and enter (below)



2. Go to Start -> Windows System -> Command Prompt (below)



You should now see an image similar to that below



**Task 1:** What is your *current working directory*? \_\_\_\_\_

- In the image on the previous page, the answer is **C:\Users\mickg>**
- Your current location is the **path** before the > symbol.

In the box provided below, draw a diagram representing the hierarchial path to your location.

<p><u>Example:</u></p> <pre>       C:\              Users              mickg           </pre>	<p><u>Your hierarchical path:</u></p>
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**Task 2:** Type in “help” at the command prompt. This provides a list of the available commands.

**Task 3:** Check out the following commands and write down what they do.

- DIR \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- CD or CHDIR \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- MD or MKDIR \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nearly all commands use the same kind of syntax, the command name followed by one or more arguments.

- You can get information about how to use the command by using the command name followed by **/?**
  - For example **md /?** Will provide you with the help entry for the **md** command

```

C:\Users\mickg>md /?
Creates a directory.

MKDIR [drive:]path
MD [drive:]path

If Command Extensions are enabled MKDIR changes as follows:
MKDIR creates any intermediate directories in the path, if needed.
For example, assume \a does not exist then:

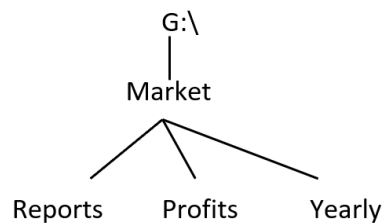
    mkdir \a\b\c\d

is the same as:

    mkdir \a
    chdir \a
Press any key to continue . . .
  
```

#### Task 4: Creating a directory

You are going to create the following directory structure on your G: Drive



To do this, complete the following steps:

1. Change directory to the root of your G drive.
  - To do this, type **g:** at the command prompt
2. On the next line, type: **cd \**
  - This will bring you to the root folder of the drive
3. Create a directory called **Market** in the root of your G drive.
  - To do this, type **mkdir Market**

```
Command Prompt
G:\>mkdir Market
G:\>cd Market
G:\Market>dir
Volume in drive G is HomeDrives
Volume Serial Number is 9C48-CCB3

Directory of G:\Market

27/08/2019  11:49    <DIR>        .
27/08/2019  11:49    <DIR>        ..
               0 File(s)                0 bytes
               2 Dir(s)            55,185,408 bytes free

G:\Market>
```

#### Task 5:

Use the **md** command [make directory] to create these directories also.

**md g:\Market\Reports**

**md g:\Market\Profits**

**md g:\Market\Yearly**

These are called **absolute** or **full paths**.

They start at the root of the drive (G: in this case)

**g:\Market\Yearly**

#### Task 6:

Create a new folder called **Personal** in the **Market** folder. There should be four folders in the **Market** folder now.

### Task 7: Navigating through the directories.

- Use the **cd** [change directory] command to move within the directories you have created.
  - Navigate yourself around your directory structure using these commands.

**cd \** : change directly to root folder

**cd ..** : change to parent folder (one level up)

**cd** followed by folder name : change to given folder name (subfolder)

Firstly change to the root of the G: drive.

This will have the effect of changing you **directly** to the root of the G: drive from where you are.

To change down a directory to the **Market** folder from the root directory, type **cd Market**

- What does the command prompt look like now? \_\_\_\_\_
  - It should look like **G:\Market>**

This indicates that any command typed at this prompt will now be effective from that folder.

### Task 8:

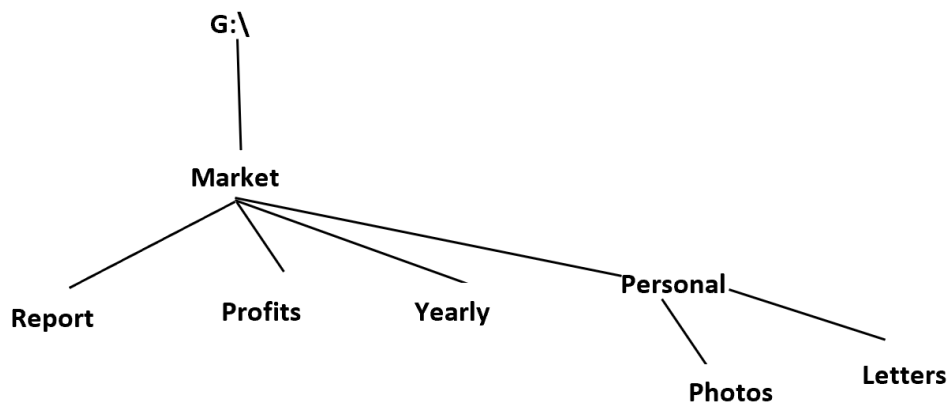
1. Change back to the root folder
  - What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Change to the new folder called **Personal**
  - What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Type **cd \**
  - What does this command do? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Change to the **Market** folder
  - What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Change to the **Yearly** folder
  - What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Type **cd ..**
  - What does this command do? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Change back to root folder.
8. Type **cd Market\Personal**
  - What does this command do? \_\_\_\_\_

All these exercises use **relative paths**, as they start relative to your current location. Here are some shortcuts and typical paths.

- ..** (*dot dot*) : this refers to one level up from current location
- Market\Personal** : two levels down from current location (via market and personal subfolders)
- \** (*slash*) : directly to root from current location

**Task 9:**

Using the command line, add the following extra folders (Photos and Letters):



What DOS command(s) did you use to do this?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 10:**

The **DIR** command, use help to find the purpose of the **DIR** command, write a brief explanation here:

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### Task 11:

Change to the **Market** folder on your **G:** drive.

1. Type **dir** , What does this command do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Type **dir /w** , What is the effect of the /w switch? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Type **dir /s** , What is the effect of the /s switch? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Type **dir /p** , What is the effect of the /p switch? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Type **dir /w/s** , What is the effect of the two switches? \_\_\_\_\_

### Task 12: Changing Drives

To change to another **drive** you must type in the drive letter followed by a full colon. For example, to change to the M drive type:

**m:**

Your DOS prompt should have changed to **M:\>** you can now browse the directory structure on the M drive.

### Change from your current location to the C: drive:

- What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the prompt now? \_\_\_\_\_
- Change to your exam drive (M). What command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
- Change back to the G drive \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Typing the command **cd c:\** doesn't work to change drive!

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Task 13: Remove a directory

- Remove the directory **Photos**, what command did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
- Remove the directory **Personal**.
  - This doesn't work as can't remove a directory that contains files/folder.
  - Will need to use a **switch** with **rd** command.
    - A switch is an extra instruction that you pass with the command, there are many switches
    - Use help to find the correct switch first, then ask your Lab Tutor if you get stuck.
- Write the correct command \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 14:**

Use the inbuilt help function to get information on the following commands.

Command	Write down what each command does and give an example of its use
CLS	
RD	
COPY	
MOVE	
RENAME (REN)	
TIME	
VER	
DATE	
TYPE	



**End of Windows Lab 3**

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