

OS/2 Command Line Interface

Features

→ What is a Command line interface?

Ans: It is a tool that processes the commands to a computer program in the form of line of text.

Operating Systems usually implement a Command line interface in a shell for interactive access to operating system functions or services.

The OS/2 Command Line Utilities:

→ The command line utilities comprises of suite of native pure 32-bit OS/2 commands that provide many useful abilities to the OS/2 user,

→ They are called 'command line' utilities because they are all driven by the command line making them useful in command scripts.

FEATURES:

→ Pure 32-bit code: The utilities contain no 16-bit code whatsoever, and use no 16-bit OS/2 subsystems. They are designed to always use the native paradigms of 32-bit OS/2 wherever possible, and to operate in

a way that takes best-advantages of the way that 32-bit OS/2 works and 32-bit OS/2 features.

Example: They make use of 32-bit code OS/2's ability to scan directories efficiently, handling multiple directory entries in a single system call.

No year 2000, 2100 problems: All the utilities that deal with dates are fully capable of handling dates beyond the year 2000, beyond the year 2038 - which is 'drop dead' date for much 32-bit C & C++ code.

→ The ability in touch and xdir commands has revealed two year 2100 bugs in OS/2's own FAT & HPFS filesystem drivers.

Standard conformant timezone support:

The 'saydate', 'setdate', 'anaclock', 'digclock', 'touch' and 'unstamp' commands understand the timezone information supplied in TZ environment variable, using the standard POSIX syntax, and can operate in any timezone, in either hemisphere with day light savings time changes happening automatically without human intervention.

⇒ Different commands thus be run in different timezones.

No more arbitrary 16-bit limits! All the utilities are limited only by available virtual memory.

Example: commands were not upset by large directories. The 'dir' command in IBM's cmd, the default command interpreter supplied with IBM OS/2, refuses to sort a directory listing containing more than 2073 files.

Filter commands usable in command pipelines:

The dump, find, grep, sort, etc commands can be used as filter commands, for use in a command pipeline acting upon what they receive from their standard input and producing results on their standard output.

→ localisation support: All the utilities can display the date & time in the format appropriate to the current settings given for COUNTRY in CONFIG.SYS. They also use OS/2's system message file to display errors and so will display error messages in local language.

Some commands of OS/2 :

1.) command: cd

interpret: This is also known as chdir (change directory) is a command line ~~scripts~~ shell command used to change the current working directory.

2.) command: chkdsk

interpret: This command verifies the file system integrity of volumes and attempts to fix logical file system errors.

3.) command: cls

interpret: cls itself stands for clear screen and this command is used to clear the screen (or) console window of commands and any output generated by them.

4.) command: cmd.exe.

interpret: This is the default command line interpreter for the OS/2. This when executed gives the version of the cmd as output.

5.) command: comp

interpret: This command is used to perform comparisons of multiple computer files to show the difference between them. When executed asks for input of 2 files if present in same directory returns the difference between them.

6.) command: copy

interpret: This command takes in 2 arguments filename & path and copies files from one directory to another.

7.) command: dir

interpret: This command is used for computer files & directory listing.

8.) command: del

interpret: This command is used to delete one (or) more files (or) directories from file system.

9.) command: ifconfig

interpret: This has features of configuring controlling & querying TCP/IP network interface parameters.