

DOS commands

DOS commands are categorized into internal and external commands based on whether they are loaded into memory with [COMMAND.COM](#) at boot or reside as separate executable files.

Internal Commands:

These commands are part of [COMMAND.COM](#) and are always available in memory.

- **DIR:** Lists files and subdirectories.

DIR C:\MYFILES

- **CLS:** Clears the screen.

CLS

- **VER:** Displays the DOS version.

VER

- **VOL:** Displays disk volume label and serial number.

VOL C:

- **DATE:** Displays or sets the system date.

DATE

- **TIME:** Displays or sets the system time.

TIME

- **COPY:** Copies files.

COPY FILE1.TXT C:\BACKUP\FILE1.TXT

- **TYPE:** Displays the contents of a text file.

TYPE README.TXT

- **REN (RENAME):** Renames files or directories.

REN OLDNAME.TXT NEWNAME.TXT

- **DEL (ERASE):** Deletes files.

DEL OBSOLETE.BAK

- **CD (CHDIR):** Changes the current directory.

CD C:\PROGRAMS\UTILITIES

- **MD (MKDIR):** Creates a new directory.

MD NEWFOLDER

- **RD (RMDIR):** Removes an empty directory.

RD EMPTYDIR

- **PATH:** Displays or sets the executable file search path.

PATH C:\DOS;C:\WINDOWS

External Commands:

These commands are separate executable files located on the disk and must be accessible via the PATH or by specifying their full path.

- **CHKDSK:** Checks a disk for errors and displays a status report.

CHKDSK C: /F

- **XCOPY:** Copies files and directory trees.

XCOPY C:\SOURCE*. * D:\DESTINATION /S /E

- **PRINT:** Prints a text file.

PRINT DOCUMENT.TXT

- **DISKCOPY:** Copies the entire contents of one floppy disk to another.

DISKCOPY A: B:

- **DISKCOMP:** Compares the contents of two floppy disks.

DISKCOMP A: B:

- **DOSKEY:** Loads the DOSKEY program for command-line editing and history.

DOSKEY

- **TREE:** Displays a graphical directory structure.

TREE C: /F

- **MOVE:** Moves files and renames directories.

MOVE FILE.TXT C:\NEWLOCATION

- **LABEL:** Creates, changes, or deletes the volume label of a disk.

LABEL C: MYDISK

- **APPEND:** Allows programs to open data files in specified directories as if they were in the current directory.

APPEND C:\DATA

- **FORMAT:** Formats a disk.

FORMAT A: /S

- **SORT:** Sorts input and sends output to the screen, a file, or another device.

TYPE UNORDERED.TXT | SORT > ORDERED.TXT

- **FDISK:** Partitions a hard disk.

FDISK

- **BACKUP:** Backs up files from one disk to another. (Less common in later DOS versions, replaced by XCOPY/MOVE for most tasks).

BACKUP C:\DATA*. * A: /S

- **EDIT:** A full-screen text editor.

EDIT MYFILE.BAT

- **MODE:** Configures system devices.

MODE CON COLS=80 LINES=25

- **ATTRIB:** Displays or changes file attributes.

ATTRIB +R MYFILE.TXT

- **HELP:** Provides help information for DOS commands.

HELP DIR

- **SYS:** Transfers system files to a disk, making it bootable.

SYS A: