

DOS Commands

Note: A DOS window can be changed to or from full-screen size by holding down the **Alt** key and pressing **Enter**.

	Desired Action	Command	Description of Command	Example	Explanation of Example
Directory Related Commands	Change Drives		Type the letter of the drive to change to followed by a colon (:).	A: <u>or</u> a:	Makes the A: drive the current drive.
	Create/Make a Directory	md <u>or</u> mkdir	Creates a subdirectory in the current directory.	md files	Creates a subdirectory named files in the current directory.
	Change Directory	cd <u>or</u> chdir	Changes which directory is the current directory.	cd files	Makes the files directory the current directory (assumes files is a subdirectory of the current directory).
				cd ..	Makes the current directory's parent directory the new current directory.
	List the Contents of a Directory	dir	Displays the contents of the current directory.	dir	Displays current directory's contents.
				dir /p <u>or</u> dir more	Displays current directory's contents one screen at a time.
				dir /o:d	Displays current directory's contents in date and time order.
Remove Directory	rd <u>or</u> rmdir	Removes (deletes) a subdirectory. The subdirectory must be empty prior to deletion.	rd files	Deletes the files subdirectory from the current directory.	
File Related Commands	Create/Edit a Text File within DOS	edit	Starts the DOS text editor Edit.	edit a.txt	Starts Edit. If the file a.txt exists, it is opened. If it does not exist, the new file being created will be named a.txt .
	Copy a File	copy	Copies a file from one directory to another (on the same or different drives) without changing it. Can also be used to create a copy of a file in the current directory (with a different name).	copy a.txt c:\temp	Copies the file a.txt from the current to the temp directory on the C: drive.
				copy a.txt a2.txt	Creates a copy of a.txt named a2.txt in the current directory.
	Rename a File	ren <u>or</u> rename	Gives a file a new name.	ren a.txt b.txt	Gives the file a.txt the new name b.txt .
	Display a Text File's Contents	type	Displays the contents of a text file.	type afile.txt	Displays the contents of a the text file afile.txt to the screen.
Delete a File	del <u>or</u> erase	Erases (deletes) a file. Note: Deleted files can not be retrieved, so use with caution!	del afile.txt	Deletes the file afile.txt from the current directory.	
Misc.	Clear the Screen	cls	Removes data on the screen.		
	Exit/Close the DOS Window	exit	Closes the DOS window and returns to Windows		
	Help	help	Display information about using a command.	help dir	Displays dir command information.