

Falcon Technology

MS-DOS User's Guide

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MS-DOS Version 3.1 Files

Your MS-DOS system comes on one disk containing the following files. (See Section 1.6 for a description of each file.)

COMMAND.COM
ASSIGN.COM
ATTRIB.EXE
BACKUP.COM
BADSPOT.COM
CHKDSK.COM
DEBUG.COM
DISKCOPY.COM
EDLIN.COM
EXE2BIN.EXE
FC.EXE
FDISK.COM
FIND.EXE
FORMAT.COM
GRAPHICS.COM
JOIN.EXE
LABEL.EXE
LINK.EXE
MODE.COM
MORE.COM
MOVE.COM
PRINT.COM
RECOVER.COM
RENDIR.COM
RESTORE.COM
SHARE.EXE
SHIPDISK.COM
SORT.EXE
SUBST.EXE
SYS.COM
TREE.COM
WHERE.COM

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System Requirements

This version of MS-DOS runs on computers compatible with the IBM PC, XT, AT or PCjr with at least 64K bytes of memory and one floppy disk drive.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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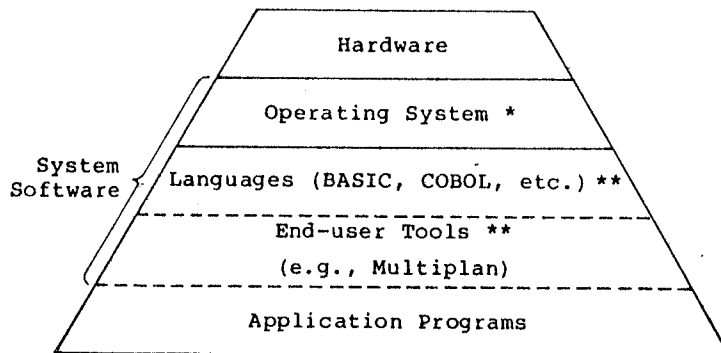
1.1 WHAT IS MS-DOS?

Falcon Technology MS-DOS is a disk operating system for IBM-compatible computers. Through MS-DOS, you communicate with the computer, disk drives, and printer, managing these resources to your advantage.

1.2 WHAT IS AN OPERATING SYSTEM?

An operating system is your "silent partner" when you are using the computer. It provides the interface between the hardware and both you (the user) and the other system software. An operating system can be compared to the electricity in a house--you need it for the toaster and the blender to work, but you are not always aware that it's there.

An operating system (OS) is the piece of system software most closely associated with the hardware. The OS is unique to the microprocessor (computer). For example, MS-DOS runs on the 8086/8088 microprocessor family and will not run on another microprocessor (like the Z8000) unless major parts of the OS are rewritten. Figure 1 illustrates how the hardware, the system software and the application software are related.



* Must adapt to new hardware

** If adapted to operating system, these don't change

Figure 1. Hardware/Software Relationships

MS-DOS is a disk operating system that enables you to create and keep track of files, run and link programs, and access peripheral devices (for example,

printers and disk drives) that are attached to your computer. MS-DOS is an important advance in microprocessor operating systems.

1.3 WHY IS MS-DOS SO IMPORTANT?

Almost all major applications programs for your computer require MS-DOS to run. This includes word processors, spread sheets, data bases, programming languages, and games.

1.4 ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This manual describes MS-DOS and how to use it. This chapter introduces some basic MS-DOS concepts; Chapter 2 discusses how to start using MS-DOS and how to format and back up your disks.

Chapter 3 tells you about files--what they are and how to use them. Chapters 4 through 6 introduce MS-DOS commands and Chapter 7 describes the line editor, EDLIN. Read these chapters carefully--they contain information on protecting your data, system commands, and the MS-DOS editing commands.

Chapter 8 explains how to use the MS-DOS File Comparison utility, FC. This utility is helpful when you need to compare the contents of two source or binary files.

If you are writing programs and want to link separately-produced object modules and create relocatable modules, Chapter 9 describes a useful MS-DOS utility, MS-LINK. The DEBUG utility described in Chapter 10 will help you debug your programs.

Appendices to this manual include instructions for single-drive systems, disk error messages, ANSI escape sequences, and information on how to configure your system.

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1.5 SYNTAX NOTATION

The following syntax notation is used throughout this manual in descriptions of command and statement syntax:

- [] Square brackets indicate that the enclosed entry is optional.
- < > Angle brackets indicate that you supply the text for this entry. When the angle brackets enclose lowercase text, type in an entry defined by the text; for example, <filename>. When the angle brackets enclose upper case text, you must press the key named by the text; for example, <ENTER>.
- ... Ellipses indicate that an entry may be repeated as many times as needed or desired.
- | A bar indicates a choice between the two entries on either side of the bar. When used with an MS-DOS filter, the bar indicates a pipe.
- CAPS Capital letters indicate portions of statements or commands that must be entered exactly as shown.

All other punctuation, such as commas, colons, slash marks, and equal signs must be entered exactly as shown.