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## **Learning Basics of MS-DOS**

**Outcomes:**

By the end of this lecture, students are able to:

- Define the MS-DOS system
- Log in MS-DOS commands system
- Display MS-DOS information on your computer
- Type basic commands of MS-DOS system (view directory contents, change directory, make directory)

## Learning of MS-DOS Basics:

### Definition - What does *Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS)* mean?

The Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS) is an operating system developed for PCs (personal computers) with x86 microprocessors. It was the first widely-installed operating system in personal computers. It is a command-line-based system, where all commands are entered in text form and there is no graphical user interface.

### The Command Prompt:

When you first turn on your computer, you will see some information flash by. MS-DOS displays this information to let you know how it is configuring your computer. You can ignore it for now. When the information stops scrolling past, you'll see the following:

```
C:\>
```

This is called the command prompt or DOS prompt. The flashing underscore next to the command prompt is called the cursor. The cursor shows where the command you type will appear.

### Typing a Command:

This section explains how to type a command at the command prompt and demonstrates the "Bad command or file name" message.

- **To type a command at the command prompt**

1. Type the following at the command prompt (you can type the command in either uppercase or lowercase letters):

```
nul
```

If you make a typing mistake, press the **BACKSPACE** key to erase the mistake, and then try again.

2. Press ENTER.

You must press **ENTER** after every command you type.

The following message appears:

### Bad command or file name

The "Bad command or file name" message appears when you type something that MSDOS does not recognize. Because **nul** is not a valid MS-DOS command, MS-DOS displays the "Bad command or file name" message.

3. Now, type the following command at the command prompt:

**ver**

The following message appears on your screen:

**MS-DOS version 6.22**

- **Viewing the Contents of a Directory:**

In this section, you will view the contents of a directory by using the **dir** command. The **dir** command stands for "directory."

- To view the contents of a directory, type the following at the command prompt:

**dir**

A list similar to the following appears:

```
Volume in drive C is MS-DOS_6.22
Volume Serial Number is 1E49-15E2
Directory of C:\

WINDOWS      <DIR>      09-08-92 10:27p
TEMP         <DIR>      05-15-92 12:09p
CONFIG  SYS           278 09-23-92 10:50a
COMMAND COM   53014 09-18-92 6:00a
WINA20  386           9349 11-11-91 5:00a
DOS          <DIR>      09-02-92 4:23p
AUTOEXEC BAT   290 09-23-92 10:54a

              7 file(s) 62931 bytes
              8732672 bytes free
```

This is called a directory list. A directory list is a list of all the files and subdirectories that a directory contains. In this case, you see all the files and

directories in the main or root directory of your drive. All the files and directories on your drive are stored in the root directory.

Look at the list on your screen. All the names that have <DIR> beside them are directories.

- **To change from the root directory to the WINDOWS directory:**

To change directories, you will use the **cd** command. The cd command stands for "change directory."

1. Type the following at the command prompt:

```
cd windows
```

The command prompts changes. It should now look like the following:

```
C:\WINDOWS>
```

- **To view a list of the files in the WINDOWS directory:**

- 1- Type the following at the command prompt:

```
Dir
```

A list of the files in the WINDOWS directory appears, but scrolls by too quickly to read

- **To view the contents of a directory one screen at a time:**

1. Type the following at the command prompt:

```
dir /p
```

- **Changing Back to the Root Directory:**

Next, you will change from the DOS directory to the root directory. The root directory is the directory you were in before you changed to the DOS directory.

Before you begin this section, make sure your command prompt looks like the following:

```
C:\DOS>
```

- o **To change to the root directory**

1. Type the following at the command prompt:

`cd \`

Note that the slash you type in this command is a backslash (\), not a forward slash (/).

- **Creating a Directory:**

To create a directory, you will use the `md` command. The `md` command stands for "make directory."

**- To create and change to a directory named FRUIT**

To create a directory, you will use the `md` command. The `md` command stands for "make directory."

1. Type the following at the command prompt:

`md fruit`

You have now created a directory named FRUIT.

You won't see the new FRUIT directory until you carry out the `dir` command in the next step.

2. To confirm that you successfully created the FRUIT directory, type the following at the command prompt:

`dir`

or

`dir /p`

Look through the directory list. A new entry somewhere in the list should look similar to the following:

```
FRUIT <DIR> 09-25-93 12:09p
```