Working on DOS in 2021

We’re Getting Closer to FreeDOS 1.3

Jim Hall
About me

Jim Hall
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Founder + Project Coordinator
The FreeDOS Project
Brief History
Your mission is to hit your opponent with the exploding banana by varying the angle and power of your throw, taking into account wind speed, gravity, and the city skyline.

Speed of this game is determined by the constant SPEEDCONST. If the program is too slow or too fast adjust the "CONST SPEEDCONST = 500" line below. The larger the number the faster the game will go.

To run this game, press Shift+F5.

To exit QBasic, press Alt, F, X.

To get help on a BASIC keyword, move the cursor to the keyword and press F1 or click the right mouse button.
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MS-DOS Shell

Directory Tree

C:\DOS

Main

Command Prompt
Editor
MS-DOS QBasic
Disk Utilities

F10=Actions Shift+F9=Command Prompt

screenshot: my own
jimhall$ cd /proc/
jimhall$ ls
1/  44/  65/  71/  75/  meminfo  stat
107/ 48/  67/  72/  kcore  modules  uptime
15/  52/  69/  73/  kmsg  net/  version
40/  56/  70/  74/  loadavg  self/
jimhall$ cat stat
cpu  170  0  166  16649
disk  0  0  0  0
page  6389  179
swap  0  0
intr  39693
ctxt  12795
btime  2640071119
jimhall$ cat version
Linux version 1.0 (root@softland) #1 Tue Apr 26 19:25:39 PDT 1994
jimhall$ cat meminfo
    total:  used:    free:  shared:  buffers:
Mem:   15333328  9162752  6168576  2023424  6569964
Swap:   0       0        0
jimhall$
screenshot: my own
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PD-DOS PROJECT:

A few months ago, I posted articles relating to starting a public domain version of DOS. The general support for this at the time was strong, and many people agreed with the statement, "start writing!"
So, I have...

Announcing the first effort to produce a PD-DOS. I have written up a "manifest" describing the goals of such a project and an outline of the work, as well as a "task list" that shows exactly what needs to be written. I'll post those here, and let discussion follow.

If you are thinking about developing, or have ideas or suggestions for PD-DOS, I would appreciate direct email to me. If you just want to discuss the merits or morals of writing a PD-DOS, I'll leave that to the net. I'll check in from time to time to see how the discussion is going, and maybe contribute a little to what promises to be a very polarized debate! :-

I am excited about PD-DOS, and I am hoping I can get a group started!

--James Hall
James...@uwrf.edu

PS -- of course, if this already exists, please point me to the group leader so I can at least contribute!
FreeDOS
Welcome to the FreeDOS Homepage

Cool! Get the FreeDOS Beta 1 "Orlando" Release!

What’s New with FreeDOS?

2 May: Hey! Minor revision to Orlando release [News Item 006 Download]
25 Apr: New FreeDOS available! [News Item 003]
25 Apr: Call for volunteers - FreeDOS compiler project [News Item 005]
25 Apr: FreeDOS compatibility list available [News Item 004 Go there!]
16 Apr: FreeDOS Beta 1 "Orlando" release due soon. [News Item 002]
16 Apr: File fdalpha5.zip now includes installer v1.2. [Download]
15 Apr: Can someone help us fix command.com? See [Tech Note 002]
15 Apr: Can FreeDOS use high capacity HDD’s? Not yet. See [Tech Note 001]

What is FreeDOS?
Working up to 1.0

Free-DOS Alpha 1 (16 September 1994)
Free-DOS Alpha 2 (December 1994)
Free-DOS Alpha 3 (January 1995)
Free-DOS Alpha 4 (June 1995)
FreeDOS Alpha 5 (10 August 1996)
FreeDOS Alpha 6 (November 1997)

FreeDOS Beta 1 “Orlando” (25 March 1998)
FreeDOS Beta 2 “Marvin” (28 October 1998)
FreeDOS Beta 3 “Ventura” (21 April 1999)
FreeDOS Beta 4 “Lemur” (9 April 2000)
FreeDOS Beta 5 “Lara” (10 August 2000)
FreeDOS Beta 6 “Midnite” (18 March 2001)
FreeDOS Beta 7 “Spears” (7 September 2001)
FreeDOS Beta 8 “Methusalem” (7 April 2002)

FreeDOS Beta 9 RC1 (July 2003)
FreeDOS Beta 9 RC2 (23 August 2003)
FreeDOS Beta 9 RC3 (27 September 2003)
FreeDOS Beta 9 RC4 (5 February 2004)
FreeDOS Beta 9 RC5 (20 March 2004)

FreeDOS Beta 9 (28 September 2004)
FreeDOS Beta 9 SR1 (30 November 2004)
FreeDOS Beta 9 SR2 (30 November 2005)

**FreeDOS 1.0** (3 September 2006)
From 1.0 to now

**FreeDOS 1.0** (3 September 2006)

**FreeDOS 1.1** (2 January 2012)

FreeDOS 1.2 RC1 (31 October 2016)
FreeDOS 1.2 RC2 (24 November 2016)
**FreeDOS 1.2** (25 December 2016)

FreeDOS 1.3 RC1
FreeDOS 1.3 RC2
FreeDOS 1.3 RC3
**FreeDOS 1.3** (soon)
Almost ready (1.3)

16-bit single-user command-line DOS

Compatibility is key!

Focus on open source

Reduce the complexity

- We’ve added a lot of packages
- But no one uses them
- Remove some unused packages
- Streamline the install

New features!

Updated Help → AMB

LiveCD image → boot, and you’re using FreeDOS
What’s next (2.0)

In development:
Night DOS Kernel (32-bit drop-in kernel)

- Still working on it
- If it works, alternative kernel

Would like to add:
Alternative DOS shell

- Expanded COMMAND.COM
- Add BASIC-like syntax
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