

DOS/Windows code pages

The DOS ASCII character set defines 256 characters to display or print. The first 32 are reserved for control codes. The remainder is far too little to display all international (non English) characters. So the last 128 characters were made variable, and defined by a language specific code page.

Windows supports the most common DOS code pages, but left out some. Three are here provided for use in vDos:

- C_442.txt Cyrillic MIK (Pravetz)
- C_711.txt Arabic Nafitha
- C_895.txt Czech Kamenický

To select one, copy the corresponding file to the vDos directory, and add this line to autoexec.txt:

CHCP 442, 711 or 895

Note: For convenience only characters that differ from the default DOS 437 codepage are defined. But Windows doesn't always set that as the default. So you might have to first do a CHCP 437.

If you have no use for these character sets, you can delete the EXTRA directory.

To create a code page of your own:

- The filename is C_<code page number>.txt
- Lines 1 to 256 correspond with the ASCII characters 0 to 255.
- You only have to specify the characters that don't match the active code page.
- If a line contains text, the eventual hexadecimal Unicode is processed.
- All other is considered comment and ignored.