

vDos - Readme

vDos is a 32-bit Windows program, emulating an extended DOS PC in a window. There's also a not publicly advertised 64-bit version. That however doesn't add anything to the 32-bit version (running in Windows 32 and 64-bit) but confusion, a larger footprint and somewhat slower performance.

vDos emulates only the hardware (like of course a CPU) and software (BIOS, DOS...) components required by serious DOS programs to function properly. If you don't still use (rely on) a DOS application, but want to play/experiment with DOS, its command prompt, programs or games: Forget about vDos, it is not meant for you!

Specific key/mouse combinations:

- Win+Ctrl+F11/F12 decreases/increases the font and so the window size. You can also use Ctrl+Mousewheel.
- Ctrl+S starts printing if the TIO:SPOOL (see Printing.pdf) option is in effect.
- Win+Ctrl+left mouse click starts selecting a rectangle block of text. Drag the mouse and release the mouse button: The selected text is copied to the Windows Clipboard.
- Win+Ctrl+right mouse click pastes the Windows Clipboard text.
- Win+Ctrl can be omitted if the DOS program doesn't use the mouse. Config.txt: no MOUSE = ON.
- Alt is to be used instead of Win with ALTMOD = ON set in config.txt.

The vDos command line processor is intentionally quite basic, alternatively you can use for instance 4DOS.

Additional internal DOS commands:

- **ABOUT** Display a popup with information about vDos.
- **CAPTION** Show or set the vDos window title bar text.
- **CHCP** Show or set the DOS code page (defaults to that set in Windows).
- **CMD** Start a Windows program or command processor (CMD).
CMD ["program"] [WAIT][HIDE] command line
"program" If provided, the quotes are mandatory.
WAIT Wait for the program or CMD to exit.
HIDE Start it minimized.
command line Passed on to the program or CMD, note: Eventual paths here are those of Windows.
Examples: CMD "notepad" WAIT mydoc.txt, CMD WAITHIDE /c mytest.cmd, CMD /c start /max notepad.
- **COLOR** Select a theme (T0-9), or set a color attribute, back-, foreground or both to a RGB value.
COLOR [T0-9] [h [FG|BG] hhhhhh] (For instance COLOR T3, or COLOR 7 BG a09090).
- **MEM** Report the memory available to programs.
- **START** Essentially CMD /c start.
- **USE** Assign a vDos/DOS drive letter to a Windows drive letter, folder, or network location.
USE [drive letter:] [Windows path\
Examples: USE C: D:\dosapp\, USE F: \\servername\share name\dosapp

The command line processor recognizes Windows environment variables if enclosed by double percent signs. For instance ECHO %%computername%%, SET user=%%username%%. Due to DOS limitations the maximum length is 127 characters, so for instance %%path%% will probably return nothing. At startup, the vDos/DOS WIN_VDOS variable is set to the Windows VDOS environment variable, or the command line of vDos.exe. %0-%9 can also be used in batch files (like autoexec.txt, %0 is then autoexec.bat).

If you have more applications and folders for them, with specific configurations, you don't have to copy all vDos files to those locations:

- Only config.txt and autoexec.txt are needed there.
- Create a shortcut to vDos.exe and give it some sensible name.
- Set its "Start in" property to the folder of the application (that will initially become vDos C:).

Printing:

- Epson, IBM Proprinter and PCL compatible printers are supported. Mind, these are the printer types as set in the DOS program, the actual Windows printer type is of no concern.
- See the Printing.pdf document for the print options.

Windows programs:

- vDos detects when a Windows program is started and will launch that outside its own window. This even applies to non-executables, given the DOS program allows to 'execute' such a file. The command line of the program to be started can be preceded with WAIT and/or HIDE (see CMD above).

vDos is provided 'as-is', without any express or implied warranty. In no event can the author be held liable for any damage or problems arising from the use of this software.

There's also a 100% open source vDos Base edition, essentially the 2017.08.01 version, w/o printing and executing Windows programs. Those are closed source, like later developments/versions.