

Working on DOS in 2021

We're Getting Closer to FreeDOS 1.3

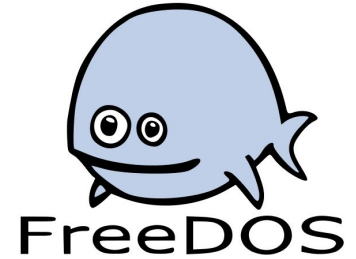
Jim Hall



About me

Jim Hall
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Founder + Project Coordinator
The FreeDOS Project



Brief History





photo: Wikipedia



FOSDEM'21
Online / 6 & 7 February 2021



photo: Wikipedia



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```
COMM      BAS      4352  08-04-81

A>cls
Bad command or file name

A>dir *.com
COMMAND   COM       3231  08-04-81
FORMAT    COM       2560  08-04-81
CHKDSK    COM       1395  08-04-81
SYS       COM        896  08-04-81
DISKCOPY  COM       1216  08-04-81
DISKCOMP  COM       1124  08-04-81
COMP      COM       1620  08-04-81
DATE      COM        252  08-04-81
TIME      COM        250  08-04-81
MODE      COM       860   08-04-81
EDLIN     COM      2392  08-04-81
DEBUG     COM      6049  08-04-81
BASIC     COM     10880  08-04-81
BASICA    COM     16256  08-04-81

A>dir *.exe
LINK      EXE     43264  08-04-81

A>_
```



```
Volume in drive C is MS-DOS_5
Volume Serial Number is 510F-85CD
Directory of C:\DOS
```

```
[.]          [..]          COUNTRY.SYS  EGA.SYS      FORMAT.COM
KEYB.COM     KEYBOARD.SYS  NLSFUNC.EXE  DISPLAY.SYS  EGA.CPI
HIMEM.SYS    MODE.COM      SETVER.EXE   ANSI.SYS     DEBUG.EXE
EDLIN.EXE    EMM386.EXE   FASTOPEN.EXE FDISK.EXE    MEM.EXE
MIRROR.COM   RAMDRIVE.SYS SHARE.EXE     SMARTDRV.SYS SYS.COM
UNDELETE.EXE UNFORMAT.COM XCOPY.EXE    DOSKEY.COM   DOSSHELL.UID
DOSSHELL.INI DOSSHELL.COM DOSSHELL.EXE DOSSHELL.GRB DOSSWAP.EXE
PACKING.LST  PRINT.EXE     APPNOTES.TXT DOSSHELL.HLP EDIT.HLP
RECOVER.EXE DOSHELP.HLP   HELP.EXE     QBASIC.HLP   EDIT.COM
MONEY.BAS    MSHERC.COM    QBASIC.EXE   GORILLA.BAS  4201.CPI
4208.CPI     5202.CPI     APPEND.EXE   ASSIGN.COM   ATTRIB.EXE
BACKUP.EXE   CHKDSK.EXE    COMP.EXE     DISKCOMP.COM DISKCOPY.COM
DRIVER.SYS   FC.EXE        FIND.EXE     GRAFTABL.COM GRAPHICS.COM
GRAPHICS.PRO LABEL.EXE     MORE.COM     NIBBLES.BAS  REMLINE.BAS
RESTORE.EXE  SORT.EXE     EXE2BIN.EXE  EXPAND.EXE   JOIN.EXE
LCD.CPI      LOADFIX.COM   PRINTER.SYS  README.TXT   REPLACE.EXE
SUBST.EXE    TREE.COM      COMMAND.COM  MONEY.DAT
```

```
84 file(s) 2064711 bytes
38864896 bytes free
```

```
C:\>_
```



```
File Edit View Search Run Debug Options Help
GORILLA.BAS
Q B a s i c   G o r i l l a s

Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation 1990

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.

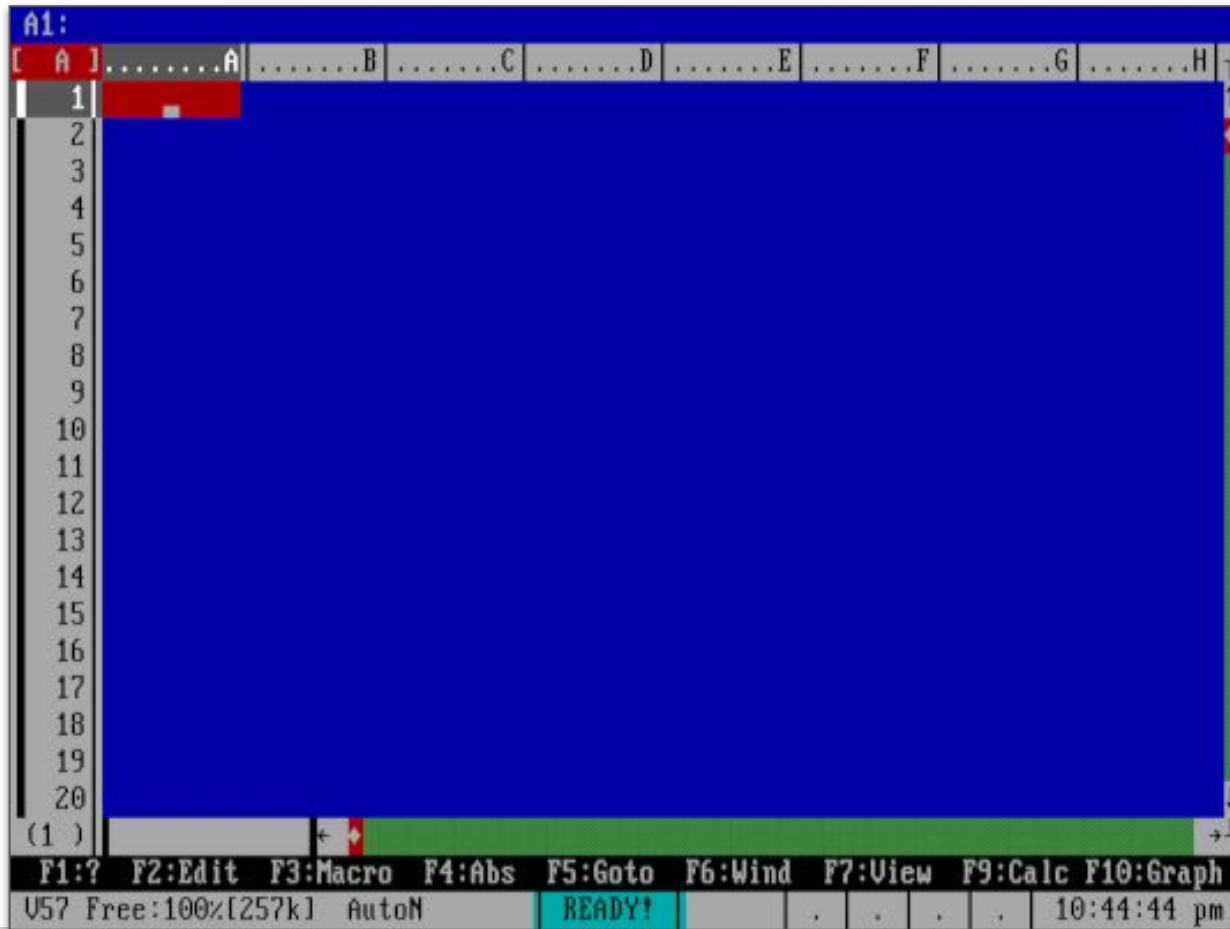
To exit QBasic, press Alt, F, X.

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

----- Immediate -----
<Shift+F1=Help> <F6=Window> <F2=Subs> <F5=Run> <F8=Step> 00001:001
```

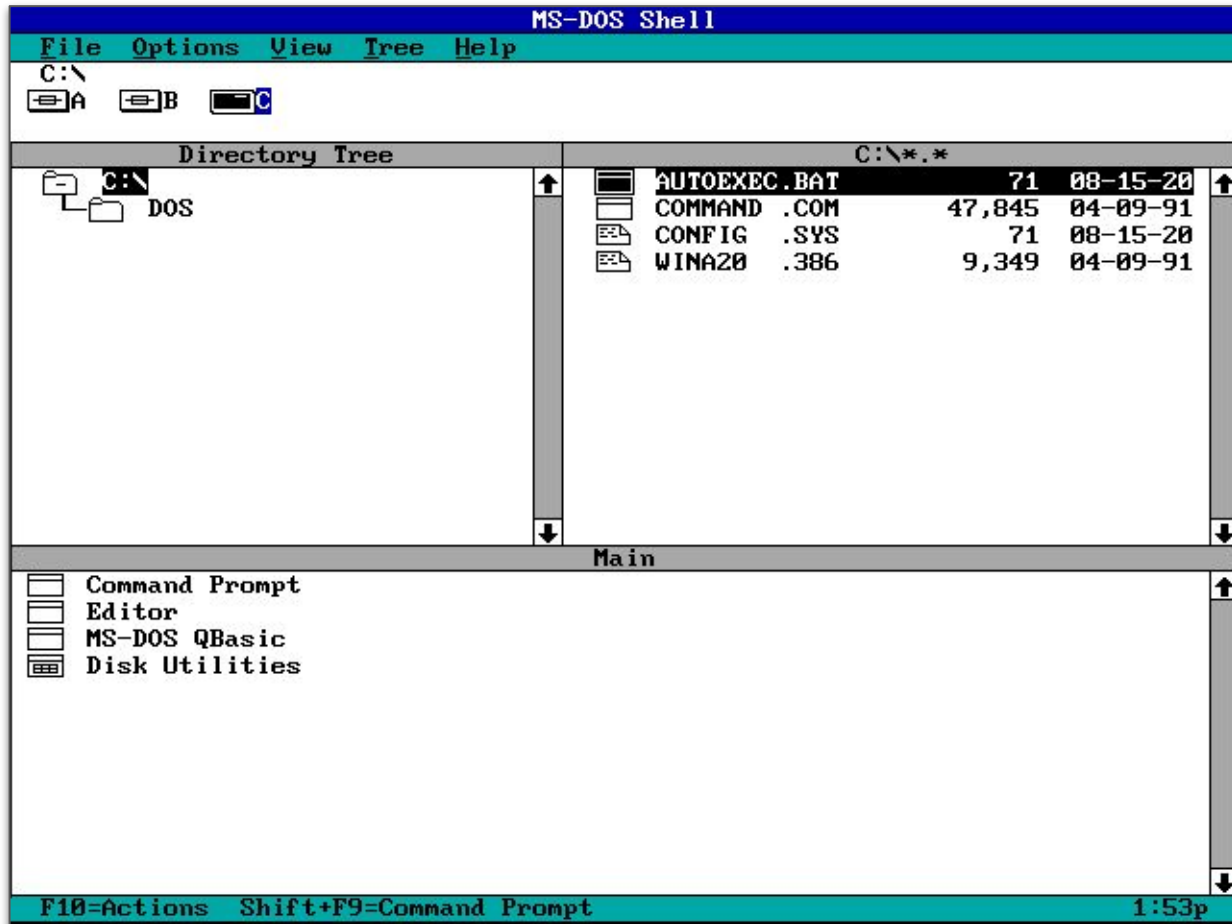
screenshot: my own





screenshot: my own





screenshot: my own





screenshot: my own



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screenshot: my own



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screenshot: my own

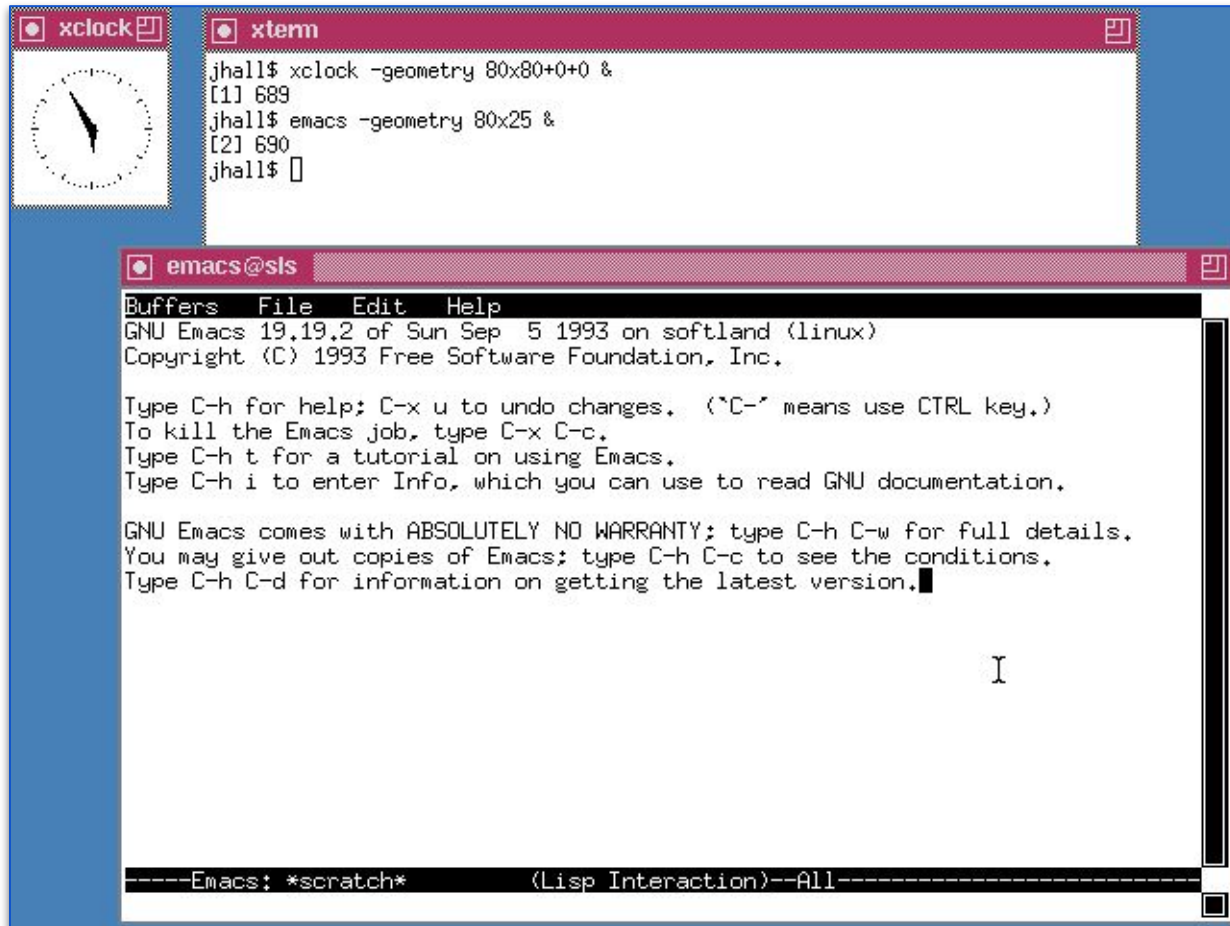


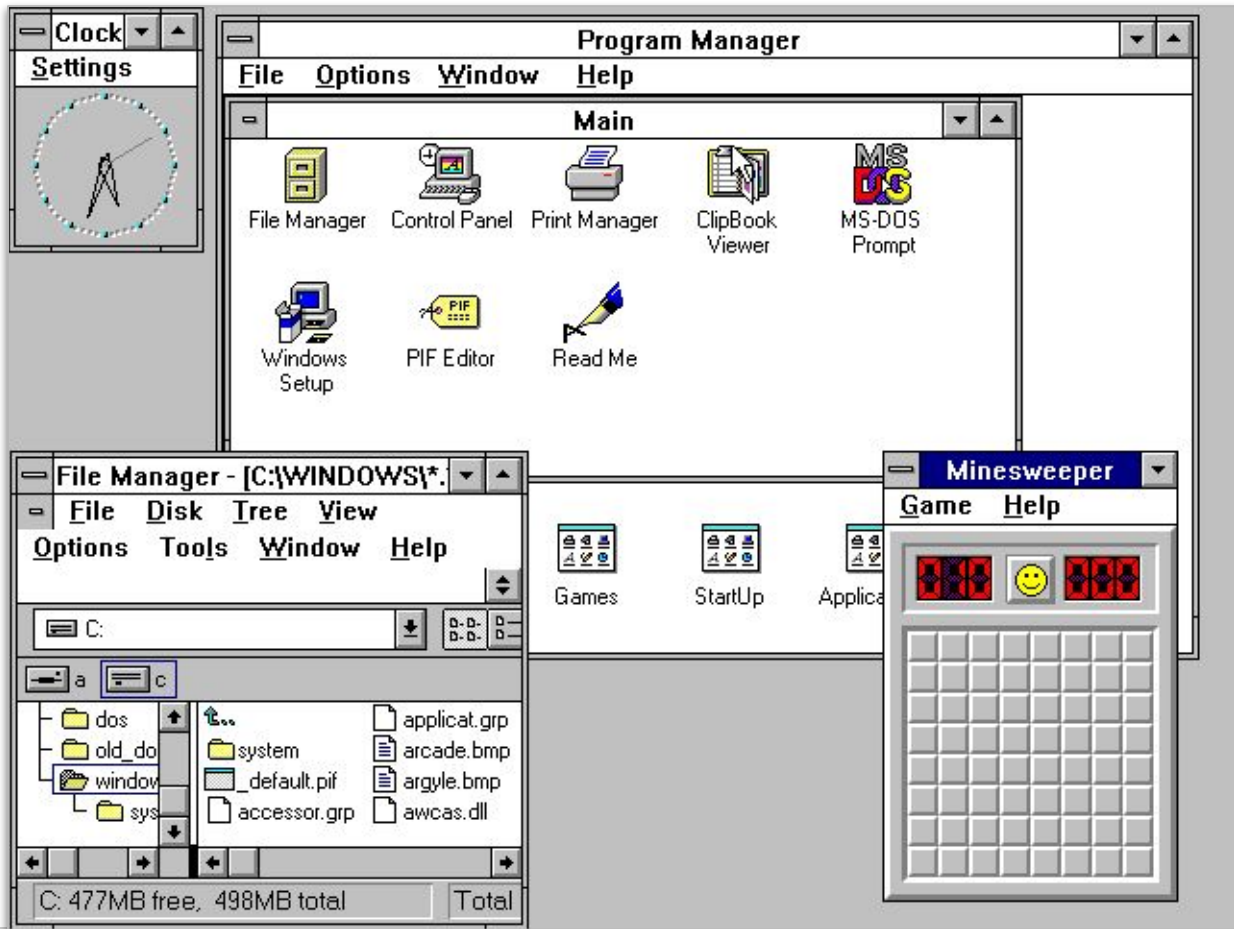
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```
jimhall$ cd /proc/
jimhall$ ls
1/      44/     65/     71/     75/     meminfo  stat
107/    48/     67/     72/     kcore   modules  uptime
15/     52/     69/     73/     kmsg    net/     version
40/     56/     70/     74/     loadavg self/

jimhall$ cat stat
cpu 170 0 166 16649
disk 0 0 0 0
page 6389 179
swap 0 0
intr 30693
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:  15331328  9162752  6168576  2023424  6569984
Swap:           0           0           0
jimhall$
```







June 29, 1994

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

FreeDOS

site index



Downloads

[FreeDOS Beta 1](#)

7.9 MB Download!

[File Highlights](#)

[How to install](#)

[Disk Image \(1M\)](#)

[Micro-C \(.7M\)](#)

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?



FOSDEM'21

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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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