

Selected DOS Functions

Windows XP can use nearly all of the traditional MS-DOS functions, so knowing something about DOS is still useful. Table B.1 contains a partial list of DOS functions. The ones I find most useful are in boldface. For more information on any specific command, type HELP followed by the command name while at the operating system command prompt. You can get to the operating system command prompt from the AutoCAD command line by typing SHELL. You can also get information about these commands from the Windows Help system. Type *Command-line reference A-Z* into the Search window of the Windows Help dialog box, available at Start → Help → Search.

Table B.1	SELECTED DOS FUNCTIONS	PURPOSE
Selected DOS Functions	ASSOC	Displays or modifies file extension associations.
	AT	Schedules commands and programs to run on a computer.
	ATTRIB	Displays or changes file attributes.
	BREAK	Sets or clears extended Ctrl-C checking.
	CALL	Calls one batch program from another.
	CD	Displays the name of or changes the current directory.
	CHCP	Displays or sets the active code page number.
	CHDIR	Displays the name of or changes the current directory.
	CHKDSK	Checks a disk, and displays a status report. With the /f switch, it may fix errors it finds on any of those old floppy disks you still need to use periodically.
	CHKNTFS	Displays or modifies the checking of the disk at boot time.
	CLS	Clears the DOS Command window.
	CMD	Starts a new instance of the Windows command interpreter.
	COLOR	Sets the default console foreground and background colors.
	COMP	Compares the contents of two files or sets of files.
	COMPACT	Displays or alters the compression of files on NTFS partitions.
	CONVERT	Converts FAT volumes to NTFS. You can't convert the current drive.
	COPY	Copies one or more files to another location.
	DATE	Displays or sets the date.
	DEL	Deletes one or more files.
	DIR	Displays a list of files and subdirectories in a directory.
	DISKCOMP	Compares the contents of two floppy disks.
	DISKCOPY	Copies the contents of one floppy disk to another.
	DOSKEY	Edits command lines, recalls commands, and creates macros.
	ECHO	Displays messages, or turns command echoing on or off.
	ENDLOCAL	Ends localization of environment changes in a batch file.
	ERASE	Deletes one or more files.
	EXIT	Quits the CMD . EXE program (command interpreter).
FC	Compares files, and displays the differences between them.	
FIND	Searches for a text string in a file or files.	
FINDSTR	Searches for strings in files.	
FOR	Runs a specified command for each file in a set of files.	
FORMAT	Formats a disk for use with Windows.	
FTYPE	Displays or modifies file types used in file-extension associations.	
GOTO	Directs the command interpreter to a labeled line in a batch program.	
GRAFTABL	Enables Windows to display an extended character set in graphics mode.	

SELECTED DOS FUNCTIONS	PURPOSE
HELP	Provides Help information for Windows commands.
IF	Performs conditional processing in batch programs.
LABEL	Creates, changes, or deletes the volume label of a disk.
MD	Creates a directory.
MKDIR	Creates a directory.
MODE	Configures a system device.
MORE	Displays output one screen at a time.
MOVE	Moves one or more files from one directory to another directory.
PATH	Displays or sets a search path for executable files.
PAUSE	Suspends processing of a batch file and displays a message.
PRINT	Prints a text file.
PROMPT	Changes the Windows command prompt.
RD	Removes a directory. The /s switch includes files and subdirectories.
RECOVER	Recovers readable information from a bad or defective disk.
REM	Records comments (remarks) in batch files or CONFIG.SYS.
REN	Renames a file or files.
RENAME	Renames a file or files.
REPLACE	Replaces files.
RMDIR	Removes a directory.
SET	Displays, sets, or removes Windows environment variables.
SETLOCAL	Begins localization of environment changes in a batch file.
SHIFT	Shifts the position of replaceable parameters in batch files.
SORT	Sorts input.
START	Starts a separate window to run a specified program or command.
SUBST	Associates a path on the local computer with a drive letter.
TIME	Displays or sets the system time.
TITLE	Sets the window title for a CMD . EXE session.
TREE	Graphically displays the directory structure of a drive or path.
TYPE	Displays the contents of a text file.
VER	Displays the Windows version.
VERIFY	Tells Windows to verify that your files are written correctly to a disk.
VOL	Displays a disk volume label and serial number.
XCOPY	Copies files and directory trees, including by date created.

There are other commands and symbols you should know, including a group of network-based commands. The most useful to me are shown in Table B.2. For more information on NET commands, do a web search on **MS DOS NET command help**.

Table B.2 Other DOS Functions and NET Commands	SYMBOLS AND NETWORK FUNCTIONS	PURPOSE
	*	This is a wildcard that means <i>all</i> . If you type DIR *.DWG , you get a listing of all files with the extension <code>.dwg</code> . If you type DIR acad.* , you get a listing of all files with the name <code>acad</code> regardless of their extension. If you type DEL *.* , you delete <i>all</i> files in the current directory.
	?	This is a wild-card that replaces individual characters in a string. If you typed DIR chapter?? , you would get a listing of all files with the name <code>chapter</code> and two other characters, including <code>chapter01</code> , <code>chapter02</code> , and so on.
	%username%	This is a replaceable parameter. When used in a batch file, it's automatically replaced with the logon name of the current user of the computer. It's useful in windows icons as well.
	Net Send	This command is used to send messages over the network to specific users. Use it to send messages to users as they log on. The syntax is as follows: Net Send davidwood "Please see me." This sends the quoted message to whoever is logged on as <code>davidwood</code> .
	Net Use	This command associates a network path with a drive letter. Use this function to assign drive letters to specific network locations when users first log on.
	CALCS	This command is used to assign permissions on network folders and files.