

DOS CONNECTION

Connect to the original makers of DOS

Vol 1 No 2

Welcome!

This issue of *DOS Connection* will focus solely on DRI. Given the amount of press DR-DOS is receiving along with inaccurate information that is being published about MS-DOS 5, we need to inform you how we stack up against DR-DOS. If you have any comments, please contact Sergio Pineda at 65509 or email at sergiop.

Product Features in DR-DOS 5 not available in MS-DOS 5

- File Password protection
- Config.Sys commands: chain, echo, ?
- Ability to load drivers and TSRs into Upper Memory on NEAT or LEAP-set based 80286 PCs

Product Features in MS-DOS 5 not available in DR-DOS 5

- Task Switcher
- Support for 2.88 MB floppy disks (these drives will ship on new machines after MS-DOS 5 is announced)
- Undelete (from Central Point Software)
- Unformat (from Central Point Software)
- Mouse-useable full-screen editor
- Command-line macro capability
- Setver and a configurable "lie table"
- QBasic (Quick Basic 4.5 interpreter)
- Dir command sorting capability

Features available in DR-DOS which will be available with MS-DOS ROM 5

- File transfer
- ROM Disk Emulator
- Power Management Driver

MS-DOS 5 & the Press

- Comments by the press suggesting that DOS 5 is incompatible with application software are simply not true!!
- XXCAL, an independent lab with a reputable name in the industry, tested MS-DOS 5 with 318 applications ranging from memory management to accounting programs and DOS 5 passed all the tests!!
- Please be aware that when DOS 5 is released that it will be scrutinized highly by the press - this is a key reason why we tested DOS 5 at over 7000 sites, spent a significant amount to have it tested by XXCAL & invested in numerous man hours to work with our PC OEMs to ensure the product is rock solid!!

Compatibility

- To date, DR-DOS 5 users have reported problems on CompuServe with the following applications:
 - QEMM
 - Lantastic
 - Super PC Kwik
 - Windows 3.0
 - Lan Manager
 - Power Disk
 - Stacker
- In addition, Artisoft, the maker of Lantastic, has told endusers that they do not support DR-DOS 5 (I spoke with Artisoft directly on this and they told me the same thing)
- Any degree of incompatibility is enough to create fear, uncertainty & doubt among endusers when it comes time to buy new systems - this suggests that PC OEMs will take on a big risk if they ship DR-DOS with their systems

Independent Testing of DR-DOS

- We plan to use XXCAL to conduct a thorough test of DR-DOS 5 using the following:
 - Networking software: LanMan, Novell & Lantastic
 - 6 PC platforms
 - 34 applications - both DOS & Windows apps
- Objective: To verify compatibility with third party hardware & software in a networked environment
- XXCAL has already conducted these tests with DOS 5 and we didn't encounter any problems!!
- We will soon have an apples-apples comparison between DOS 5 and DR-DOS 5
- The testing should take about 2-3 weeks

Use of Upper Memory

- DR-DOS 5 does not use the same implementation MS-DOS uses to load DOS into high memory. DR-DOS uses the following scheme:
 - DR-DOS loads EMM drivers, Command.Com and buffers into Upper Memory & not into High Memory as done by DOS 5
 - Loading critical pieces of DOS into Upper Memory reduces the amount of upper memory available to an enduser to load TSRs, device drivers & network drivers
 - The approach taken by DRI to load DR-DOS high is actually less efficient than our approach.

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Plaintiff's Exhibit

7305

Comes V. Microsoft

Jacobink

T.C. Braithwaite
be more specific
here. Cass
is usual
better
[Signature]

← Cass is better

What does a less efficient approach imply for endusers?

- Less memory available on 80386 systems
Memory used on a Deskpro 386 between 0-1 MB:

MS-DOS
24.8K

DR-DOS
71.4K

Memory Footprint

- Given that 286- & 386-based PCs now have access to extended memory (memory above 1MB) it is very important that users now evaluate the available free memory from 0-1MB rather than 0-640K.
- We need to reinforce this message:
MS-DOS 5 is the BEST DOS for 286 & 386-based PCs.

DR-DOS 5 Release Note

- DRI released some notes explaining how to get DR-DOS 5 to work with Windows, & memory management software like QEMM.
- DRI's distribution of the note has been handled very poorly: the release note is not available with the product and unless a user has an account on CompuServe, the user probably doesn't even know it exists.
- Initial observations of the release note suggest that installing DR-DOS and running either Windows or a memory manager is *not straightforward*-we will evaluate the note more thoroughly and provide a more detailed report later.

What does this mean to an enduser?

- Unless a user is a power user, (s)he could easily become very frustrated with DR-DOS