

FreeDOS is a complete, free, DOS-compatible operating system. Use this cheat sheet to help you with the most common commands.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?	HOW TO DO IT ON FREEDOS:	SIMILAR COMMAND ON LINUX:
List directory contents	<b>DIR</b>	<b>ls</b>
-in the directory "above"	<b>DIR ..</b>	<b>ls ..</b>
-in a different directory	<b>DIR C:\FDOS\BIN</b>	<b>ls /usr/bin</b>
Change the current drive	<b>D:</b>	
Change the current directory	<b>CD \FDOS\BIN</b>	<b>cd /usr/bin</b>
-"up" one directory	<b>CD ..</b>	<b>cd ..</b>
Display the contents of a file	<b>TYPE FILE.TXT</b>	<b>cat file.txt</b>
-one screen at a time	<b>MORE FILE.TXT</b>	<b>less file.txt</b>
Copy a file	<b>COPY FILE.TXT NEW.TXT</b>	<b>cp file.txt new.txt</b>
Delete a file	<b>DEL FILE.TXT</b>	<b>rm file.txt</b>
Copy a directory and its contents	<b>XCOPY DIR NEWDIR</b>	<b>cp -r dir newdir</b>
Delete a directory and its contents	<b>DELTREE MYFILES</b>	<b>rm -rf myfiles</b>
Create a new directory	<b>MKDIR NEWDIR</b>	<b>mkdir newdir</b>
Remove an empty directory	<b>RMDIR MYFILES</b>	<b>rmdir myfiles</b>
Rename a file or directory	<b>REN FILE.TXT FILE.OLD</b>	<b>mv file.txt file.old</b>
Show all lines that contain "Hello"	<b>FIND "Hello" FILE.TXT</b>	<b>grep "Hello" file.txt</b>
-without regard to case	<b>FIND /I "Hello" FILE.TXT</b>	<b>grep -i "Hello" file.txt</b>
Clear the screen	<b>CLS</b>	<b>clear</b>
Edit a text file	<b>EDIT FILE.TXT</b>	<b>vi file.txt</b>
View and set the system date	<b>DATE</b>	<b>date</b>
View and set the system time	<b>TIME</b>	<b>date</b>
Show the usage for a program	<b>DIR /? (for most programs)</b>	<b>ls --help</b>
Get more help	<b>HELP</b>	<b>info</b>
Show the command history	<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>history</b>
Show the DOS version	<b>VER</b>	<b>uname</b>

## Batch scripts

Reference normal batch script variables by enclosing the variable name with %, such as %PATH%

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?	HOW TO DO IT IN A BATCH SCRIPT:
Execute another batch script from within a script	<b>CALL SCRIPT.BAT</b>
Run a command for each file in a list	<b>FOR %%F IN (*.TXT) DO EDIT %%F</b>  or at the command line: <b>FOR %F IN (*.TXT) DO EDIT %F</b>  The loop variable name can only be one character
Print output	<b>ECHO Hello world</b>
Jump to a label in a batch file	<b>:LOOP</b> <b>GOTO LOOP</b>
Test the value of a string	<b>IF %VAR%==1 ECHO One</b>
Test if a file exists	<b>IF EXIST TEMP.DAT DEL TEMP.DAT</b>
Test the return value of the previous command	<b>IF ERRORLEVEL 0 ECHO Success</b>
Test the opposite of something (works for all IFs)	<b>IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 0 ECHO Fail</b>
Set the shell's search path for programs	<b>PATH C:\FDOS\BIN;C:\MYBIN</b>  or to reference the existing path: <b>PATH %PATH%;C:\MYBIN</b>  Use ; to separate paths
A comment in a batch script	<b>REM This is a comment</b>
Set a variable	<b>SET TEMPFIL=TEMP.DAT</b>
Shift the command line options to a batch script	<b>SHIFT</b> or <b>SHIFT 1</b> or any n  Reference command line options as %1, %2, and so on

## A few things to remember

NOTES:	FOR EXAMPLE:
DOS commands can be upper or lowercase	<b>DIR</b> is the same as <b>dir</b>
Pipes ( ) are the same on DOS as on Linux	<b>TYPE FILE.TXT   MORE</b>
Output redirection (>) is the same too	<b>FIND "X" FILE.TXT &gt; X.TXT</b>
. and .. are the same on DOS as on Linux	<b>CD ..</b> moves "up" one directory
The directory separator is \	<b>C:\</b> or <b>C:\FDOS</b> or <b>C:\FDOS\BIN</b>
File names can only be 8.3 characters	<b>FILENAME.EXT</b>
DOS uses letters for each drive	<b>C:</b> is the first hard drive
A full path is a drive letter and a directory path	<b>C:\</b> or <b>C:\FDOS</b> or <b>D:\GAMES</b>