Lab 3: Command Prompt

**Objective:** Using the command line interface.

At the end of this lab, you will be able to

* Know how to get into command line interface
* Know how to read Help facility in DOS
* Display the list of files/folders in a directory using DIR command
* Create a new folder using MD command
* Use the CD command and its various switches
* Use the RD command to remove folders

**Introduction**

MS-DOS is a "Disk Operating System". That means it is simply: "a System for Operating the Disks". It enables the user to organise data files, load and execute (run) program files, and control the input and output devices attached to the computer. There are other brands of DOS besides the most well known "MS-DOS", ie: PC-DOS, DR-DOS/OPENDOS. Generally speaking, they will all function in the same way, especially at the most simple level.

With the release of Windows XP and [Windows 7](http://kb.iu.edu/data/abno.html), DOS has faded in importance. Windows XP & Windows 7 are not based on DOS at all, though it does include a DOS-like command line interface. While DOS is increasingly not being used in the running of 32-bit and 64-bit applications, it is still important to know DOS commands.

You can read more about DOS at the following website addresses:

<http://www.computerhope.com/msdos.htm> [**http://kb.iu.edu/data/aguh.html**](http://kb.iu.edu/data/aguh.html)

**You can start command prompt in one of 3 ways:**



Going to Start and in Search box, Type

1. **command** and enter , or
2. **cmd** or

Start/ All programs/ Accessories/ command prompt

Use the Internet and Help facility to help you do this lab sheet.



**Task 1:** What is the location that you have arrived in? ………………………………

 Sample above is **C:\ Users\labuser**

Your current location is the path before the **>** symbol.

Draw a diagram representing the hierarchial path to your location.

**Example:** C:\

 Users

 labuser

**Task 2:** Type in “help” at the command prompt. This provides a list of available commands.

**Task 3:** Check out the following commands and write down what they do.

 DIR ............................................................................................................

 CD or CHDIR ............................................................................................................

MD or MKDIR ............................................................................................................

Nearly all commands use the same kind of syntax, the command name followed by one or more arguments. You can get information about how to use the command by using the command name followed by **/?** (For example **md /?** )

**Task 4:** **Creating a directory**

**You are going to create the following structure on your G: Drive**

G:\

 Market

 Reports Profits Yearly

Switch to drive G. To do this, type **g:**  at the command prompt (and press enter)

Your screnshot should look similar to the one below.

 Create a directory called **Market** in the root of your G drive.

To do this, type **md \Market**

**MD** is the command to create a new folder/directory.

**(Note:** Could just type **md market** provided you are already at root of g: drive**)**



**Task 5:**

Use the **md** command [make directory] to create these directories also.

**md \market\reports**

**md \market\profits**

**md \market\yearly**

**Task 6:**

Create a new directory/folder called **personal** in the **market** folder.

(Folders and directories mean the same thing).

**Task 7:** **Navigating through the directories.**

Use the **cd** [change directory] command to move within the directories you have created.

Navigate yourself around your directory structure using these commands.

**cd \ : change directly to the root directory/folder**

**cd .. : change to parent directory/folder**

**cd**  followed by folder name **: change to given directory/folder**

Firstly change **directly** to the root of the G: drive from where you are.

To change down a directory to the **Market** folder from root, type

**cd Market**

What does the command prompt look like now? ............................................................

It should look like **g:\Market >**

This indicates that any command typed at this prompt will now be effective from that folder.

**Task 8:** - Emphasise

i) Change back to the root folder.

ii) Change to the new folder called **personal.**

What command did you use? ………………………………………………………….

iii) Type **cd \**

What does this command do? ………………………………………………………….

[Hint: Note the path before the **>** at the prompt]

iv) Change to the **Market** folder

What command did you use? ………………………………………………………….

v) Change to the **Yearly** folder

What command did you use? ………………………………………………………….

vi) Type **cd ..**

What does this command do? ………………………………………………………….

[Hint: Note the path before the **>** at the prompt]

vii)Change back to root folder.

Type **cd market\personal**

What does this command do? ………………………………………………………….

**Task 9:** **Add the following extra folders:**

**Market**

**G:\**

**Profits**

**Yearly**

**Report**

**Personal**

**Letters**

**Photos**

What DOS command(s) did you use to do this? ………………………………………

 …………………………………………………………………………………………

**Task 10:** **DIR Command**

Use help to find the purpose of the **DIR** command

**Task 11:**

Change to the **market** folder on your **G:** drive.

i) Type **dir**

What does this command do? ………………………………………………………….

ii) Type **dir /w**

What is the effect of the /w switch? ………………………………………………………….

iii) Type **dir /s**

What is the effect of the /s switch? ………………………………………………………….

iv) Type **dir /p**

What is the effect of the /p switch? ………………………………………………………….

v) Type **dir /w/s**

What is the effect of the two switches? ……………………………………………………….

**Task 12:** **Changing Drives**

To change to another **drive** you must type in the drive letter followed by a full colon. For example to change to the M drive

type: **m:**

Your DOS prompt should have changed to **M:\>**

You can now browse the directory struture on the M drive.

**Change from your current location to the C: drive:**

What command did you use? ………………………………………………………….

What is the prompt now? …………………..

Change to your exam drive (M). What command did you use? …………………………….

Change back to the G drive.

**Question:** Typing the command

 **cd c:\** Does **not** change drive!

Why? …………………………………………..…………………………..…………………………..

**Task 13:** **Remove a directory**

Remove the directory **Photos**.

 What command did you use? ………………………………………………………….

Remove the directory **Personal**.

This doesn’t work as can’t remove a directory that contains files/folder.

Will need to use a switch with rd command. Use help to find the correct switch.

Write the correct command ………………………………………………………….

**Task 14:** **Get help on the following commands**

 CLS RD COPY MOVE RENAME (REN)

 TIME VER DATE TYPE

 Write down what each command does:

CLS ………………………………………………………………..

RD ………………………………………………………………..

COPY ………………………………………………………………..

MOVE ………………………………………………………………..

RENAME (REN) ………………………………………………………………..

TIME ………………………………………………………………..

VER ………………………………………………………………..

DATE ………………………………………………………………..

TYPE ………………………………………………………………..

**Overview Questions**

Q1. Change into the root of the C: drive.

Write the commands to create the following directories.

 **C:\**

**Invoices**

**Members**

**Paid**

**Unpaid**

**New Members**

**Renewed**

Write the MSDos Commands you used from the root directory to create these directories.

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

Q2. Write the MSDos command to display

 the contents of a folder (files and subfolders)? …………………

Q3. How would you display files in C: and its subdirectories, pausing after each screen full of information using the command prompt?

……………………………………………………………………………………………

Q4.

a. Assume you are in **Renewed** directory

Write the command to change to the **Members** directory.

 Write the fastest command(s) to do this …………………………………………………..

b. Assume you are in **Renewed** directory

Write the command to change to the **NewMembers** directory.

 Write the fastest command(s) to do this …………………………………………………..

c. Assume you are in **Renewed** directory

Write the command to change to the **root** directory.

 Write the fastest command(s) to do this …………………………………………………..