

DOS QUIZ MANAGER DOCUMENTATION

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WHAT IS DOS QUIZ MANAGER?

DOS Quiz Manager, or DQM for short, was written to allow institutions to customize the suite of DOS Quiz programs to their needs. The DOS Quiz programs (DOSQuiz, DOS 5 Quiz, and Advanced DOSQuiz [ADQ]) are used primarily by schools and businesses to test students or applicants for employment on their knowledge of DOS. For more information about any one DOS Quiz program, see that program's documentation.

What DQM allows the test administrator to do is customize many of the parts of each DOS Quiz. The first DQM screen shows a menu of the three DOS Quiz programs. By selecting one of the menu choices, that program will be run. A function key may be pressed on this screen to move to the setup screen. Access to the setup screen is protected by a password.

Once on the setup screen, the test administrator can change many of the functions of the DOS Quiz programs. Note that for DQM to be able to interface properly with any of the DOS Quiz programs, the DOS Quiz program must be version 2.0 or higher.

The next section will fully explain all the options available to the test administrator. The bottom line is that DQM was designed to allow you to use the DOS Quiz programs to the best of their abilities. I hope you find the enhancements to the DOS Quiz programs and the DQM program to your liking.

RUNNING DQM

To begin running DQM, all you need do is type `DQM` at the DOS prompt and press ENTER. As long as DQM is in your DOS path, DOS will find it and run it. DQM does use an external data file called *DQM.DAT*. The best way, then, to run DQM is to change directories into the place that *DQM.EXE* and *DQM.DAT* are located and run DQM from there.

DQM will run on either a color or a monochrome monitor. DQM looks best on a color monitor, but it will work fine with monochrome. DQM attempts to set itself to color or monochrome automatically. If you have trouble running DQM, try passing DQM the `/m` option (i.e.: type `DQM/m`) - this forces DQM to run in monochrome mode. DQM runs in 25-line mode. If you have an EGA or better video card and have the number of text lines set to something other than 25 lines, DQM will detect this and reset the number of video lines to your choice when you quit the program.

After typing DQM, the main screen will appear. There are three prompts of interest on this screen. First is a menu of the three DOS Quiz programs. Second, there is an input box for the user to type his or her choice of quiz to run. And third is a note that the F10 key will switch to the setup/quit screen. We will address this third area first.

After pressing F10, you will be prompted for a password. This password is here to help protect the program's setup data from those who should not be viewing or altering it. The first time you run DQM, the password is STEVE. After entering setup, you may change this password to any 10-character combination.

If the password is entered incorrectly or not at all, the user will be returned to the main screen. Note that you must know the password to exit the program. This is to prevent unauthorized access to DOS itself. The test administrator can setup DQM to run itself all day long with no fears of users getting into DOS. Be aware, however, that DQM does NOT trap the Ctrl-Alt-Delete key sequence, so if a user is determined enough, he will have access to DOS by resetting the computer. If this is of great concern, you should acquire a boot-time access program. There are many commercial, shareware, and public domain programs of this type on the market. There are even programs that will trap and force the system to ignore the Ctrl-Alt-Delete sequence. A combination of security programs may be your best bet. For the casual and non-malicious user, however, DQM's security measures should suffice.

Once the proper password has been entered, the setup screen will appear. There are several options available here, listed and explained below in the order they appear on the screen:

F1: Ask User for Name/Social Security #?

Use this function to change how much name and Social Security Number information is desired. Press F1 to toggle through all possible choices, which are: NAME AND SSN, NAME ONLY, SSN ONLY, NEITHER. Determine which level of identification you wish. This information will appear on the final scoresheet. If Name and/or SSN is requested here, each quiz will ask for the users' name and/or SSN before the quiz begins. The default is NAME AND SSN.

F2: Scoresheet - Print/File:

Use this function to specify how much or how little post-quiz file saving the user should be allowed. Use F2 to toggle through the possible choices, which are: ALLOW BOTH, ALLOW NONE, FORCE FILE, FORCE PRINT. These are explained below:

ALLOW BOTH: This option allows the user to choose which method of scoresheet saving he or she wishes, if any. This setting is the default.

ALLOW NONE: This option prohibits the user from saving his or her scoresheet in any form.

FORCE FILE: This option saves a file automatically when the Quiz is complete. The filename will be based upon the user's name in the form *NAME____.EXT*. If no name is asked for because of the setting of the F1 key mentioned above, then the filename will be *QUIZFILE.EXT*. *EXT* is always based on the quiz being run (i.e.: *EXT* is *D5Q* for the DOS 5 Quiz). The file will automatically be overwritten if it existed. The file will be created in the directory DQM was run from. No other saving method is permitted.

FORCE PRINT: This option prints the scoresheet to LPT1. Be sure the printer is on, on-line, and full of paper before beginning DQM or the quiz to be run. There is no recovery from any printer failure, and no other saving method is permitted.

F3: Allow File Overwrite?

If you permit the user to ALLOW BOTH in the F2 function above, and the user tries to save a scoresheet over an existing file, the user may or may not be able to overwrite the existing file, depending on your answer to this question. The F3 key will toggle this setting between YES and NO. When set to YES, the user has full overwrite permissions. When set to NO, the user will never be allowed to overwrite a file. This will prevent accidental or intentional deletion of important files like *COMMAND.COM* or *AUTOEXEC.BAT*. No matter what the setting of this option, if FORCE FILE is specified as explained above, overwrite will always occur. The default is YES. If this is set to YES, I will accept no responsibility for accidental or malicious data loss, except as required by law.

F4: Show Copyright Notice at Startup?

If you do not wish the user to see the Copyright notice at the beginning of each Quiz, set this to NO by hitting the F4 key. Toggle back to YES to show the copyright screen at startup. Note that no matter how this is set, all of the DOS Quiz programs are copyrighted. The default is YES.

F5: Show Instructions at Startup?

If you wish the instructions screen to be displayed at the beginning of each quiz, hit F5 to set this choice to YES. If you do not wish instructions to appear, then hit F5 to toggle the choice to NO. The default is YES.

F6: Allow User to ReRun Quizzes?

Press F6 to set this to YES if you wish user to be able to run a quiz repeatedly. If you wish a user to be able to run each quiz only once without administrator permission, set

this to NO. The default is YES. When set to YES, the user will be able to rerun a quiz from within DQM or from within the quiz itself.

F7: Change Password - Currently:

Press F7 to change the setup screen password. You may edit the current password as needed. Use the standard editing keys (BackSpace, Delete, Insert) to change the password. It can be any combination of characters, up to 10. Press ENTER when done.

F8: Send LF and CR in print jobs?

Press F8 to toggle this Yes/No question. The correct setting for this question will require some testing - some printers need a CR/LF combination to properly print the Quiz score-sheets, some do not. In general, I have found that Ink Jet and Laser printers need this set to Yes, and Dot Matrix printers need it set to No. The default is No.

F9: Reset Quiz ReRun Flags

Press F9 to reset the rerun flags on all quizzes. If all three quizzes have been run (or as many as needed/desired) and you wish a new user to take a quiz or the same user to retake a quiz, hit F9. After the flags have been reset, the screen will show OK next to this option.

ESC: ESC exits DQM (no password)?

Press the ESC key to allow users to exit DQM without supervisory permission. This allows DQM to be a part of a menu system or batch file where user security is already built in. Access to Setup is still controlled by the F10 key and its associated password. The default is NO.

ENTER=Back to Menu

Press ENTER when you are finished making your changes. You will be asked if you wish to save the changes. The default is YES. If you say N, the changes made will be in effect for the remainder of DQM's execution or until they are changed again. The settings will be saved in a file called *DQM.DAT* in the current directory. Answers other than Y or N will not be accepted.

F10=Exit DQM

Pressing F10 will exit DQM and put you back to DOS. This is the only way to exit DQM. This is a safety precaution. You must know the password to exit.

Once all of the setup settings have been made, you are ready to run a DOS Quiz. All 2.0+ versions of the DOS Quiz programs have been modified to allow them to interface with DQM. Please note that each of the programs may be run as a stand-alone product, and for the most part, there have been few other changes to the quiz's penultimate release levels.

To run DOSQuiz, for example, the user simply presses 1 and presses ENTER. And DOSQuiz will run with all settings set by the test administrator taken into consideration. When selecting a DOS Quiz to run, the following error messages (along with a beep) may appear on screen:

PERMISSION DENIED TO RERUN DOSQUIZ: This error occurs when option F6 in setup is set to NO and this quiz has already been run once before reset.

DOSQUIZ.EXE NOT FOUND IN PATH!: This error will occur if DQM cannot find the quiz in the DOS path. For best results, all DOS Quiz files, including the DQM files, should be kept in one directory.

NOT ENOUGH MEMORY TO USE DOSQUIZ WITH DQM!: Running a quiz from within DQM requires about 256K memory. If there is not at least this much memory available when DQM starts up, then you should run the quiz in normal mode from the command line.

ERROR RUNNING DOSQUIZ.EXE!: Some other non-determined error has occurred. If this error occurs, check your quiz files for corruption (by copying from the distribution media). If this error persists, call me at the number in the Registration section.

Note that choices not between 1 and 3 inclusive are ignored.

Once a quiz has been run, the word DONE will appear next to it as a reminder that the quiz has been taken. Depending on the F6 setting in setup, the user may or may not be able to rerun the quiz.

DQM has been designed to be very easy to use and to make tests taken with DOS Quizzes easier to run, with more options. Please feel free to explore DQM. You cannot hurt anything by doing so.

If you do not have the 2.0+ versions of the DOS Quizzes, you may still run them with DQM. However, none of the options set in the setup screen will have an effect.

NOTES ABOUT DQM.DAT:

DQM.DAT is created only when saying Y to the Save Changes screen is setup. If you are running DQM for the first time, or from a new place, then *DQM.DAT* may not exist. If this is the case, DQM will use its defaults as explained above. You may totally reset all DQM settings by deleting the *DQM.DAT* file in the current directory. At that time, remember the password will be STEVE.

DQM will not find *DQM.DAT* unless it (*DQM.DAT*) is in the same directory as DQM. If DQM cannot find *DQM.DAT*, it will use the defaults.

None of the information is encoded - in other words, it is saved in ASCII format. So if you forget your password, you may type: TYPE DQM.DAT <ENTER>. The password is the last ten characters of that file.

RUNNING DQM UNDER WINDOWS

Included with the *ZIP* that DQM should have come in will be a *PIF* file and an *ICO* file for using DQM and the DOS Quizzes under Windows 3.0 and above, as well as the Write file you are reading now. I include these files as a convenience to people who are used to working in Windows. I have thoroughly tested DQM and the DOS Quizzes in Windows with no problems.

I do not recommend, however, that DQM be run in a testing mode under Windows. If this is done, most of the security provided by DQM is lost. The best use of this ability may be for the tester who is used to Windows to familiarize him or herself with the program in Windows, and then giving the test to users as run from the DOS prompt.

Another potential use (the one I found Windows most useful for in the writing of manuals) is the ability to have a window with DQM open while a window with Write or some other word processor also open, allowing the user to write user guides, for example.

I am not a very good artist, so forgive the simplicity of the icon. If you can come up with something better, let me know.

REGISTRATION

DQM is shareware, and I retain all copyrights to the program. If you use and like DQM, I request that you donate \$10 to continue to use it. If you do, and also send a diskette (5¼ or 3½ Double or High density), I will include any new version of DQM, as well as any bonus utilities I have written at that time. Please enclose an extra \$1 to cover postage, and be sure to enclose your address.

If you would like to register your copy of DQM and would like me to send you a diskette with the latest version of DQM on it, please send an extra \$2 to cover postage and diskette costs.

If you would like a customized version of DQM or any DOS Quiz, the cost is \$100, including one license fee. Site licensing is available. Please see the document *PRICE.LST* for details.

REGISTRATION NOW EASIER FOR COMPUSERVE USERS

You may now register DQM through CompuServe's Shareware Registration Service. To use the service, GO SWREG and register program #26.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR USERS OF ANY DOS QUIZ

See the document *PRICE.LST* for details on discounts for those registering any combination of DOS Quiz products. Also see *PRICE.LST* for and invoice and other ordering info. The latest versions of all DOS Quiz products can be downloaded from the IBMAPP forum on CompuServe.

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Contact me on CompuServe.....: 73720,3404

Contact me on America On-Line: Mountain

Call for ordering/support.....: (802) 453-5273

I have fax capability at the above number for orders, but you must call me to have my fax set up before faxing (it is a card and shares the line with my answering machine).

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