

About 3rd Computer Systems

3rd Computer Systems develops utilities to make computing simpler, more productive, and more enjoyable for everyone.

I am anxious to accept all feedback to this program and to hear any suggestions that you may have for new products.

Feedback is welcome via e-mail to jam237@psu.edu

For updates to this program, and for information about other programs in development, you can visit the software vault, at <http://www.io.com/~jam237/> on the World Wide Web.

Automatic Mode Syntax

Automatic mode is initiated by the DOS MODE syntax of

DOSMODE 0

Where 0 indicates that you wish to go into DOS MODE, and is mainly useful for multi-config setups where the Windows 95 boot up menu takes care of the prompting of the delay and which mode you wish to go into.

For more information about multi-config, I am providing the information from the MS-DOS help on multi-config. This information is from Microsoft, and is provided as an extra resource for you to use this product to its fullest potential.

[Commands for Defining Multiple Configurations](#)

Commands for Defining Multiple Configurations

A single CONFIG.SYS file can define several different system configurations. To define multiple configurations, you use the following special CONFIG.SYS commands:

A startup menu makes it possible to start your computer with a variety of configurations. For more information about defining multiple configurations, see the chapter "Configuring Your System" in the MS-DOS 6 User's Guide.

To define multiple configurations, follow these general steps:

- 1 Define a startup menu in the CONFIG.SYS file by using a [menu] header followed by one or more MENUITEM commands. The MENUDEFAULT, MENUCOLOR and SUBMENU commands can be used to define special characteristics of the startup menu.
- 2 Create a configuration block in the CONFIG.SYS file for each configuration you want. A configuration block begins with a block header a name surrounded by square brackets. To each block, add the CONFIG.SYS commands that you want MS-DOS to carry out when that configuration is selected from the startup menu.
- 3 (Optional) In the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, use batch commands such as GOTO and IF to have MS-DOS carry out different AUTOEXEC.BAT commands depending on the startup configuration.

When a configuration is selected from the startup menu, MS-DOS defines an environment variable named CONFIG and sets it to the name of the selected configuration block. To have MS-DOS carry out different sets of commands for different CONFIG values, add a GOTO %CONFIG% command to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

MENUITEM

Defines an item on the startup menu. You can use this command only within a menu block in your CONFIG.SYS file. You can have up to nine menu items per menu.

The startup menu is a list of choices that appears when you start your computer. You define a startup menu by using special CONFIG.SYS commands. Each item on the menu corresponds to a set of CONFIG.SYS commands called a "configuration block."

Syntax

MENUITEM=*blockname*[,*menu_text*]

blockname

Specifies the name of the associated configuration block. The block must be defined elsewhere in the CONFIG.SYS file. If the menu item is selected from the startup menu, MS-DOS carries out the commands in the associated configuration block, as well as any commands at the beginning of the CONFIG.SYS file and any commands in configuration blocks with the [common] header.

If MS-DOS cannot find a block with the specified name, the item does not appear on the startup menu. The block name can be up to 70 characters long and can contain most printable characters. It cannot include spaces, backslashes (\), forward slashes (/), commas, semicolons (;), equal signs (=), or square brackets ([and]).

menu_text

Specifies the text you want MS-DOS to display for this menu item. If you don't specify any menu text, MS-DOS displays the block name as the menu item. The menu text can be up to 70 characters long and can contain any characters you want.

MENUDEFAULT

Specifies the default menu item on the startup menu and sets a timeout value if desired. You can use this command only within a menu block in your CONFIG.SYS file. If you do not use this command, MS-DOS sets the default to item 1.

The startup menu is a list of choices that appears when you start your computer. You define a startup menu by using special CONFIG.SYS commands. Each item on the menu corresponds to a set of CONFIG.SYS commands called a "configuration block."

Syntax

MENUDEFAULT=*blockname*[,*timeout*]

blockname

Specifies the default menu item by its associated configuration block. The block must be defined elsewhere in the CONFIG.SYS file. When MS-DOS displays the startup menu, the default menu item is highlighted and its

number appears after the "Enter a choice" prompt.

Timeout

Determines how many seconds MS-DOS waits before starting the computer with the default configuration. If you don't specify a timeout value, MS-DOS does not continue until the ENTER key is pressed. You can specify a timeout value from 0 to 90 seconds. A timeout of 0 forces automatic selection of the default, effectively bypassing the menu display.

MENUCOLOR

Sets the text and background colors for the startup menu. You can use this command only within a menu block in your CONFIG.SYS file.

The startup menu is a list of choices that appears when you start your computer. You define a startup menu by using special CONFIG.SYS commands. Each item on the menu corresponds to a set of CONFIG.SYS commands called a "configuration block." A startup menu makes it possible to start your computer with a variety of configurations.

Syntax

MENUCOLOR=x[,y]

x

Specifies the color of the menu text. You can specify a value from 0 to 15

y

Specifies the color of the screen background. You can specify a value from 0 to 15. The *y* value is optional; if you do not specify a value, MS-DOS displays the specified text color on a black background.

Be sure to specify different values for *x* and *y*, or the text will not be readable.

Color Values

Valid color values are from 0 to 15, as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 0 | Black |
| 1 | Blue |
| 2 | Green |

- 3 Cyan
- 4 Red
- 5 Magenta
- 6 Brown
- 7 White
- 8 Gray
- 9 Bright blue
- 10 Bright green
- 11 Bright cyan
- 12 Bright red
- 13 Bright magenta
- 14 Yellow
- 15 Bright white

Note: On some displays, colors 8 through 15 blink.

SUBMENU

Defines an item on a startup menu that, when selected, displays another set of choices. You can use this command only within a menu block in your CONFIG.SYS file.

Syntax

SUBMENU=*blockname*[,*menu_text*]

Parameters

blockname

Specifies the name of the associated menu block. The menu block must be defined elsewhere in the CONFIG.SYS file and can contain menu-definition commands. Unlike the "main" menu block, which must have the block name [MENU], a menu block for a submenu can have any name you want. If MS-DOS cannot find a block with the specified name, the item does not appear on the startup menu. The block name can be up to 70 characters long and can contain most printable characters. It cannot include spaces, backslashes (\) and forward slashes (/), commas, semicolons (;), equal signs (=), and square brackets ([and]).

menu_text

Specifies the text you want MS-DOS to display for this menu item. If you don't specify any menu text, MS-DOS displays the block name as the menu item. The menu text can be up to 70 characters long and can contain any characters you want.

NUMLOCK

Specifies whether the NUM LOCK key is set to ON or OFF when your computer starts. You can use this command only in your CONFIG.SYS file.

Syntax

NUMLOCK=[**ON**|**OFF**]

Parameters

ON|**OFF**

If set to ON, turns on the NUM LOCK key when MS-DOS displays the startup menu. If set to OFF, turns NUM LOCK off.

INCLUDE

Includes the contents of one configuration block within another. You can use this command only in your CONFIG.SYS file.

The INCLUDE command is one of five special CONFIG.SYS commands used for defining multiple configurations within a single CONFIG.SYS file. With multiple configurations, you define a menu that appears when your computer starts. Each menu item corresponds to a block of commands, or "configuration block," in your CONFIG.SYS file.

Syntax

INCLUDE=*blockname*

blockname

Specifies the name of the configuration block to include.

DOS MODE for Windows 95

DOS MODE for Windows 95 is the first in a line of Windows 95 products in development by 3rd Computer Systems

DOS MODE allows you to determine at startup whether you wish to stay DOS MODE or go into Windows 95. DOS MODE provides two methods of operation, timer, and automatic.

In timer mode, DOS MODE prompts you to press the escape key within the amount of time specified by the DOS MODE command line. If DOS MODE detects the escape key pressed within the time allotted then it will spawn COMMAND.COM to begin your DOS MODE session.

In automatic mode, DOS MODE automatically boots up into DOS MODE, to exit DOS MODE and go into Windows 95 all you have to do is type EXIT at the command prompt.

DOS MODE can be used to allow you to choose which operating system that you wish to use, when you want to use it.

Release Notes

DOS MODE for Windows 95 is being released as FREEWARE. You are free to distribute this program and this help file. And you may use this program for as long as you wish without paying a registration fee for this product.

DOS MODE is, however, not in the public domain, this program may not be reverse engineered, decompiled, or in any other way altered.

DOS MODE for Windows 95 remains the exclusive property of Joseph Alex Martin and 3rd Computer Systems. You are hereby given notice that this product is being release AS IS, with no warranty as to performance. This product has extensively been tested, and should work as stated in most situations, however use of this product is at your risk.

DOS MODE does not alter any of your Windows 95 configuration files to provide this service, and while this product is designed for Windows 95, it can be used with other versions of DOS and Windows, if your AUTOEXEC.BAT file is set to launch Windows after completion. This is not recommended however, with previous versions of Windows as it is often more convenient to exit into DOS from Windows, than to use this product.

DOS MODE for Windows 95 Help File

The DOS MODE for Windows 95 help file, provides detailed information about this product. As well as contact information, and other products that are currently available.

This file is current as of September 22, 1995 and applies to DOS MODE for Windows 95 version 1.2.

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Technical Information

By default, Windows 95 boots directly into the Graphical User Interface as soon as the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, if present is completed.

The only method to prevent this native to Windows 95 is to edit the MSDOS.SYS text file and change the BOOTGUI option to 0 (zero) instead of the default of 1 (one).

While this option is fine for advanced users, it is not anywhere close to being acceptable for the novice computer user, who became accustomed to using MSDOS and going into Windows for an occasional task or two.

DOS MODE for Windows 95 takes advantage of the loading the GUI upon the end of the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, by spawning a COMMAND.COM shell, when you decide that you wish to stay in DOS.

DOS MODE 1.2 now only has one executable file DOSMODE.EXE, this version also has a 0 k RAM overhead, down from 4 k RAM in 1.1, and 36 k of RAM in version 1.0

DOS MODE 1.2 implements this ZERO k overhead by stuffing COMMAND into the keyboard buffer if you wish to stay in DOS MODE. This will work as if there was an imaginary COMMAND before the end of the AUTOEXEC.BAT file when you wish to go into DOS MODE. Version 1.1 used a 4k COM file as go between for the timer, and the COMMAND.COM. And 1.0 executed COMMAND.COM from within the DOSMODE.EXE program, the timer routine, was approximately 32 k of RAM, now DOS MODE has a no footprint execution style, and it keeps both methods of operation from the previous version.

Timer Mode Syntax

Timer mode is initiated by the DOS MODE syntax of

DOSMODE delay

Where delay is the amount of time that you wish to delay the loading of Windows 95 to allow entering DOS MODE.\

