

ADB02

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Chapter 1

ADB02

1.1 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Part 2 - AmigaDOS CLI and Shell

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS

BY FRANK BUNTON

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PART 2 - AMIGADOS, CLI AND SHELL

A lot of beginners are rather confused by the differences between the terms "AmigaDOS", "Shell" and "CLI". Some think that they are all one and the same thing. Others think that AmigaDOS can only be used in a Shell or CLI window. Some think that the various AmigaDOS commands are really CLI commands. Some say they use CLI or Shell when they really mean that they are using AmigaDOS commands in a CLI window.

So I had better start off with an explanation of the terms.

What is AmigaDOS?

What is CLI?

What is Shell?

=== End of Text ===

1.2 Part 2 - AmigaDOS CLI and Shell - What is AmigaDOS?

WHAT IS AMIGADOS

AmigaDOS is the term applied to Amiga's equivalent of MS-DOS that is used on IBM compatible computers.

DOS was originally an acronym for "Disk Operating System". Some say it should be "Disk Based Operating System" as it does a lot more than operate a disk and that it was really an operating system based (stored) on a

disks. Some say it should be Device Operating System".

The total AmigaDOS system would include things such as:-

- A set of commands that can be used in the Shell/CLI window and elsewhere.
- A system for saving data to disk and retrieving it from disk.
- A system for filing data on disks.
- An interface for peripherals such as keyboards, monitors, printers, etc.
- A method of running programs
- A multitasking system for running more than one program at a time.
- etc. etc. etc.

Some of the AmigaDOS software is hard coded into the Amiga's ROM (Read Only Memory) chips and some of it is stored on the Workbench disk.

In v1.3 and earlier, all the commands used in the CLI window are contained on the Workbench disk. Thus the commands used to "operate" the system are "disk based".

In v2.0 and higher (which I will call v2+), a lot of the AmigaDOS commands are hard coded into the ROM chips so they are no longer "disk based" (See Where are AmigaDOS Commands Located in the article "Commands & Keywords"). However, the term AmigaDOS is still applied to the overall system which includes the commands.

It is best to forget that DOS ever stood for anything and think of it as a complete system for operating the computer and its peripherals as described above.

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1.3 Part 2 - AmigaDOS CLI and Shell - What is CLI?

WHAT IS THE CLI?

CLI stands for "Command Line Interface". Simply put, it means that you use an "interface" (in this case a CLI window) to send lines of commands to the computer.

When you double click on a CLI or Shell icon (or start up CLI in any other way) you could say that you are "Opening a Window to AmigaDOS".

Thus CLI is only a very small part of AmigaDOS.

=== End of Text ===

1.4 What is Shell?

WHAT IS SHELL?

SHELL is an upgraded CLI available in AmigaDOS Version 1.3 onwards. It provides a lot of features, not available in v1.2 and earlier, that make

using CLI a lot easier.

In Version 1.3 both CLI and SHELL are available. Double clicking on the CLI icon gives you a CLI window without the Shell enhancements whereas double clicking on the Shell icon gives you a CLI window with all the Shell enhancements.

For v1.3 everything you can do in CLI you can do in SHELL, but there are features of SHELL that are not available in CLI.

However from Version 2.0 on, the SHELL became the standard. In some versions there are both CLI and Shell icons and in some only a Shell icon. In all cases, the actual program (tool) is called "CLI" and the Shell icon is a project icon which has a default tool:-

Sys:System/CLI

In the articles on this disk I refer, at times, to:-

- All Versions of Shell & CLI which means just what it says. Use it in any version of CLI or Shell
- Shell Only which means that it does not apply to the old CLI in wb1.x but it does apply to CLI in wb2+ as CLI and Shell are the same thing.

=== End of Text ===
