

vDos originally derived from the excellent **DOSBox** project. It has been greatly modified and enhanced to make it more suitable for **DOS** business applications. Most notable in that aspect are: no-nonsense configuration, scalable screen font, Windows printer support, live file system and file/record locking.

- It will only function with **Windows** operating systems (XP and later, 32 and 64 bits).
 - If you intend to use it for **gaming: Don't**, use DOSBox instead!
 - It facilitates many DOS applications, however you have to test if yours is supported.
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To get a quick impression, start the vDos desktop shortcut. This should launch the freeware DataPerfect Testdrive program. Play with it to confirm vDos is working correctly on your system and exit it with F7.

Specific vDos key combinations:

- Win+F11 decreases, Win+F12 increases the font and window size.
- Win+Ctrl+C copies the window to a file, opened by the default Windows program for text files.
- Win+Ctrl+V pastes the Windows clipboard into the DOS keyboard.
- Win+Ctrl+P starts printing if the SPOOL option is in effect.
- Win+Ctrl+left mouse click starts selecting a rectangle block of text. Drag the mouse and release the mouse button; the selected text is copied to the Window clipboard.

The Win key is by default required, but you can disable this in config.txt.

Specific or modified vDos commands:

- **ABOUT, CHCP, CMD, MEM, SET, USE** and **VER**.

These are explained by issuing command /?, or in more detail by HELP command at the (v)DOS prompt.

Go on and try out your application:

- **Autoexec.txt** is the equivalent of the DOS autoexec.bat, and should hold all commands to start it.
- **Config.txt** has some options to configure vDos later on, these are commented in that file
- It should be fairly easy to adjust these two files to your needs.

If you have more applications and folders for them with specific configurations, you don't have to copy all of vDos files to those locations.

- Only config.txt and autoexec.txt are needed there.
- Create a shortcut to the vDos executable and give it some sensible name.
- Set the "Start in" property of the shortcut to the folder of the application.

Printing:

- vDos supports programs set to print to Epson, IBM Proprinter or PCL compatible printers.
- Read the Printing.pdf file if you want to fine-tune your hardcopies.

Windows - vDos:

- vDos detects when a DOS program tries to start a Windows program, and will launch that program out of the vDos box. This even applies to non-executables, given the DOS program doesn't block that. The command line of the program to be started (so not the whole command line if at the command prompt!) can be preceded with [WAIT][HIDE]. WAIT will suspend the DOS program until the Windows program exits, and return its completion code. HIDE will run the Windows program minimized.
 - Two DOS environment variables are set when vDos starts: WIN_USERNAME, the Windows user name. WIN_VDOS, the Windows VDOS environment variable, or the command line of vDos.
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