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Dear DOSPLUS' owner/user:

Once again, Micro-Systems Software Inc. is releasing a new version of DOSPLUS". This is an event looked forward to by all and we hope that this year is no exception. Over the course of the past 15 months, we have listened carefully to your requests. Some of them were excellent suggestions and some of them were slightly bizarre. But all were considered and given due thought.

The result of all this is DOSPLUS' version 3.5. This Disk Operating System is the very finest effort yet in the history of a company now known for producing quality software. And this version can be had by you at a very reasonable cost. It is our policy to upgrade at or very close to cost in order to provide what we consider "reasonable support" to the customer.

Along with this letter, I have enclosed a brief 3 page document describing some of the changes in version 3.5 as opposed to 3.4. Please read it carefully, inasmuch as there is a lot there to read. DOSPLUS" 3.5 truly represents the next generation of microcomputer operating systems. Consummately professional in its coding and handsomely packaged, this DOS represents the absolute state of the art in TRS-80 systems programming.

The upgrade procedure is as follows :

- (1) If you are reading this letter, then you are on the registered user's list. An upgrade card was enclosed for you to fill out and return. Your registration number should be on the mailing label. If it is not, don't be concerned. We can cross-reference you by name and zip code.
- (2) Return the card with the proper amount for the upgrade. The upgrade prices are

Model I 3.4/4.0 to Model I 3.5	\$30.00
Model III 3.4/4.0 to Model III 3.5	30.00
<u>Any</u> other form of upgrade	50.00

Other forms of upgrade include 3.3 to 3.5, Model I to Model III, etc. In effect, anything that is not simply a very straightforward upgrade.

User's NOT on the registered user list should return their Master diskette along with the appropriate upgrade fee. The upgrade will include the new system disk, the new manual (400+ pages), and a new three ring binder. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or write us. Thank you.

Mark R. Lautenschlager  
General Manager

## **DOSPLUS 3.5**

DOSPLUS 3.5 is the latest, and by far the crowning effort, in the DOSPLUS family of TRS-80 Disk Operating Systems. This system is the PREMIER Model I/III DOS. No other system even comes close. The following information is designed to help those of you who are previous users make the decision whether or not to upgrade. DOSPLUS 3.5 is a great deal different than 3.4.

The simplest way to say it is this : DOSPLUS 3.5 is as simple or as complex as you want to make it. If you use it to run standard hardware essentially as you did 3.4, the differences will seem minor. But if you get into the inner parts of the system and begin using it to its full potential, you will realize that you are using the most flexible and powerful DOS ever written.

### **DOSPLUS 3.5 features**

- (1) DOSPLUS 3.5 has an "external" device structure which allows other devices and peripherals to be easily attached to the system. It features TOTAL device independence; to the point of allowing output to ANY device an almost all commands.
- (2) 3.5 features extensions to the range of legal characters that are allowed for file specifications. Filespecs may now use numbers and many other non-alphabetic ASCII characters freely.
- (3) 3.5 offers filtering on any device and includes drivers that support these filters. Filters can be interpreted from simple text files (no need to program in assembly to create a filter).
- (4) System offers "custom" configuring touches in area of blinking cursor, cursor character, caps lock, logo display, and time and date prompts.
- (5) 3.5 allows complete freedom in renaming drives and devices to any non-reserved two character name. For example, drive 0 could be renamed to drive A, etc.
- (6) Multiple commands on the same line are supported with the implied carriage return.
- (7) Parameters relaxed. 3.5 only requires you to enter the parameter name up to as many characters as make it unique from the others in the list.
- (8) TRSDOS calls @RAMDIR and @FILPTR are now supported for an unprecedented level of TRSDOS compatibility. Model I supported in these areas also.
- (9) Commands are now evaluated, not parsed. Allows user to specify the command line in any order (using delimiters).
- (10) Model III DOSPLUS 3.5 is now completely vectored to allow for simple expansion of the system later.
- (11) User accessible (and DOCUMENTED) direct disk I/O routines.
- (12) Allows you to set "non-shrinkable" attribute for any file such that its disk space cannot be dynamically de-allocated.

- (13) Directory now stores the date of a file's last update and this is displayed from the DIR command. Date stamp's format and location compatible with current standards.
- (14) Mod flag stored for each file. User has option to copy all modified or un-modified files. Mod flags also compatible with current standards.
- (15) 3.5 is a media independent system. System files may reside on ANY type media (5, 8, rigid drives, etc.).
- (16) Alternate keyboard driver included. Supports full ASCII character set, filtering, and MacroKeys. Built in keyboard driver features rapid repeat rate.
- (17) Alternate printer driver included. Supports (in addition to the standard 3.4 options) indenting, filtering, and spooling.
- (18) Alternate RS232 driver. Supports FORCE and JOIN, filtering, and corrects RS232 I/O problems.
- (19) Two user-defined devices included to allow easy user interface of varieties of hardware not supported standard.
- (20) Complete and true wildcard file specifications allowed throughout the system. Most library commands and utilities now have the ability to affect an entire class of files with a single command.
- (21) Double sided drives supported with automatic recognition (if disk drive is INITed). Speeds up and simplifies switching between single and double sided media.
- (22) Date now preserved on re-boot.
- (23) Extended use of Disk Master Password implemented. Disk Master Password may now be substituted for ANY file password.
- (24) 3.5 features a new ERROR command that will report the last error encountered. Also can display any error on demand.
- (25) COPY vastly improved with wildmasks, mod flags, new and old parameters, kill option, plus more. It is now the most versatile COPY of any DOS. Replaces TRANSFER. Supports copy to/from devices. Speed of copying increased.
- (26) You may now set the AUTO command on any drive in the system, not just the system disk.
- (27) DUMP command allows dumping of data files as well as programs. No limits on dump range.
- (28) Complete Job Control Language provided. Many times more powerful than DO.
- (29) Build features optional "append" parameter. You may now overwrite or append to a file at your discretion.
- (30) Create greatly enhanced with fill and verify options. Many parameters to specify the size of the file to be created are allowed.

As you can see, DOSPLUS 3.5 has many, many new features and options. The entire library has been re-written, new commands have been added and old commands generally enhanced. Now we will cover some of the changes to the utilities

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- (31) BACKUP and FORMAT have been improved.
- (32) CONVERT now allows for full wildmasking with Query, Overwrite, System, and Invisible options. Also supports file catalog of TRSDOS media. V13 and V12 switches for conversion of any TRSDOS disk. V13 now assumed.
- (33) DISKZAP greatly enhanced. Operates on any DOSPLUS formatted media (floppy or rigid). Sector edit routine unproved. Works with cylinders (no "A" and "B" addressing).
- (34) DIRCHECK utility completely verifies directory.. Has option to fix all correctable errors. Will check - directories -of all systems similar in structure to DOSPLUS. -
- (35) New HELP utility for an online quick reference. - Optional output to any device allows hardcopy of HELP information.
- (36) MAP utility now has an option for hex output of file locations.
- (37) PATCH utility allows you to install patches to system files or utilities as well as user programs. Has option to remove patch as well.
- (38) SYSGEN will now install system on ANY media (floppy, rigid, single density, double density, double sided, etc.).
- (39) DISKDUMP file editing program greatly enhanced to include a program address locating facility, byte location ability, and an improved ASCII modification routine.
- (40) CODIR menu driven user interface included at no charge. Allows many useful commands to be executed with the touch of a key. CODIR is a product of Picotrin Technology.
- (41) Exclusive error trap routine for disk I/O enables user to instruct system regarding the handling of disk I/O errors as opposed to simply aborting to DOS.
- (42) BASIC improved, includes label addressing and expanded shorthand. Also includes error indicator that displays the specific statement in which an error occurs. Speeds up program debugging.
- (43) BASIC utilities expanded to include a label resolver. RENUM enhanced to work with labels.
- (44) Exclusive driver to enable creation of "drives" within files. Virtually unlimited directory storage. Great for hard disk systems.
- (45) Filters included for Epson printers, DVORAK keyboard. Also patches for most common programs.