



# DOS API

Most of DOS API calls are invoked using software interrupt INT 21H. In most cases AH register are set to function number.

## DOS Interrupts

| Interrupt vector | Description                     | Version | Notes  |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| 20H              | Terminate program               | 1.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel  |
| 21H              | Main DOS API                    | 1.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel  |
| 22H              | Program terminate address       | 1.0+    | Return address in calling program  |
| 23H              | Control-C handler address       | 1.0+    | Default handler is in the command shell (usually COMMAND.COM)  |
| 24H              | Critical error handler address  | 1.0+    | Default handler is in the command shell (usually COMMAND.COM)  |
| 25H              | Absolute disk read              | 1.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel, enhanced in DOS 3.31 to support up to 2 GB partitions                                     |
| 26H              | Absolute disk write             | 1.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel, enhanced in DOS 3.31 to support up to 2 GB partitions                                     |
| 27H              | Terminate and stay resident     | 1.0+    | Implemented in COMMAND.COM in DOS 1.0, DOS kernel in DOS 2.0+  |
| 28H              | Idle callout                    | 2.0+    | Called by DOS kernel when waiting for input  |
| 29H              | Fast console output             | 2.0+    | Implemented by the builtin console device driver or a replacement driver like ANSI.SYS                               |
| 2AH              | Networking and critical section | 3.0+    | Called by DOS kernel to interface with networking software   |
| 2EH              | Reload transient                | 2.0+    | Implemented in COMMAND.COM   |
| 2FH              | Multiplex                       | 3.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel and various programs (PRINT, MSCDEX, DOSKEY, APPEND, etc.) depending on subfunction number |

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