



Message 188:
 From: pascaim Thu Sep 22 14:42:18 1988
 To: billg
 Cc: aaronr philba russw tomle
 Subject: Re: DR DOS
 Date: Thu Sep 22 14:47:50 1988

Here follow the three "differences" (between DR and MS DOS) that Aaron has been able to find so far. Except for these differences, the two OSs behave similarly, including undocumented calls.

The bottom line is that, given Aaron's current findings, an application can identify DR DOS. However, most apps usually have no business making the calls that will let them decide which DOS (MS or DR) they are running on.

Do you think differently ?

I have asked legal about the implications of having our apps identify DR DOS and then either refuse to run or run with terrible performance. Feedback is expected shortly

Here is the list of differences- aaron was able to find:

The DR DOS BOOT RECORD is different. It contains the OEM ID string "DIGITAL" in it.

Undocumented DOS system call 52H returns a pointer to an internal DOS structure known as the "sysinit variables".

The DR DOS structure does not match well with MS-DOS:

```

SysInitVars STRUC
SYSI_DPB DD ? ; DPB chain
SYSI_SET DD ? ; SFT chain
SYSI_CLOCK DD ? ; CLOCK device
SYSI_CON DD ? ; CON device
SYSI_MAXSEC DW ? ; maximum sector size
SYSI_BUF DD ? ; buffer chain
SYSI_CDS DD ? ; CDS list
SYSI_FCB DD ? ; FCB chain
SYSI_Keep DW ? ; keep count
SYSI_NUMIO DB ? ; Number of block devices
SYSI_NCDS DB ? ; number of CDS's
SYSI_DEV DD ? ; device list
SysInitVars ENDS
  
```

SYSI_DPB == 0:0 on DR DOS, never see this on MS-DOS
 SYSI_BUF == 0:0 on DR DOS, never see this on MS-DOS
 SYSI_CDS == 0:0 on DR DOS, never see this on MS-DOS

Undocumented DOS system calls 32H and 1FH return a pointer to an internal DOS structure known as the "Drive Parameter Block".

On MS-DOS all of the DPBs are linked together into a dword linked list.

The DR DOS DPBs all have FFFF:FFFF in the link field and do not form a linked list (this is consistent with the fact that SYSI_DPB == 0:0).

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