dbDOS™ PRO 7– FAQ

What is dbDOS™ PRO 7?

dbDOS™ PRO 7 is a virtual machine (VM) that is based on MS-DOS (DOS), which will allow users to run dBase for DOS programs. dbDOS™ PRO 7 is focused on running existing dBASE III+, IV (versions 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0), and V for DOS programs. However, dbDOS™ PRO 7 can now run virtually any other MS-DOS based programs stand-alone or networked.
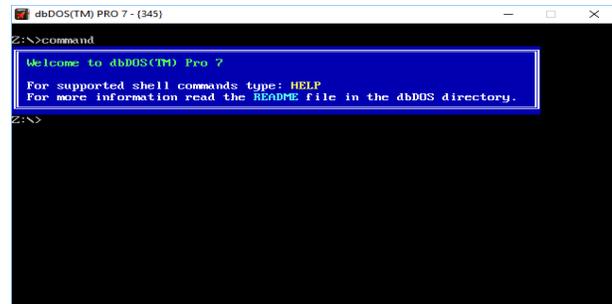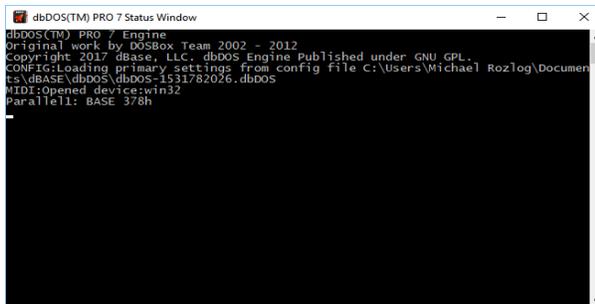
Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 support Networking?

dbDOS™ PRO 7 – has the combined file system introduced in dbDOS™ PRO 4 and the engine from dbDOS™ PRO 4N into one engine. Networking is the same basic product as before it is now just called dbDOS™ PRO 7. Therefore, both single user and network users is supported with one product.

Is dbDOS™ PRO 7 faster than prior versions of dbDOS™?

About the same as dbDOS™ PRO 6. The optimization done in the engine, launcher, and print systems have increase the processing speed. On our standard bench mark that we have used since dbDOS™ 1.0 the best time was dbDOS™ PRO 5+N with 2:54 seconds. The new dbDOS™ PRO 7 can now do that same test in 1:56 seconds, reducing the processing time by 33%

Is there a way to get more speed?

Yes, we have added the ability to use DDraw screen drawing program and when in use it

shaves another 15% off the processing time on our benchmark. One small hitch is that DDraw only support 800x600 resolutions.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 support single user as before?
You bet! The engines are combined so that it works either way with no overhead to the user.

Does my Named User license still apply in dbDOS™ PRO 7?
NO. We will grandfather in people using Named User Licenses but starting with dbDOS™ PRO 7 we will only have one supported license type, which is machine (node) based locking.

Does this mean I can only install and activate the license dbDOS™ PRO 7 on one machine?
NO. You can install and activate it on two different machines. We have always prided ourselves on the fact that you could install dbDOS™ on your main machine and home machine or laptop with a single license. This is still the case but we limited the number of activations to two (2).

What if one or more of my machines crash?
This is the nature of computers, if this occurs and you have used both activations, please contact Customer Service and we will be glad to assist you.

What does it mean to be Node (machine) locked?
As stated above, we offer our node based licenses with 2 license activations. You must buy a single copy for each machine that may use the DOS based software. For example: **YOU MUST** purchase a license for each network node that will be running a DOS based product. This means if you have five (5) people on a network using some data on a shared drive, that each one of those users must have a copy of dbDOS™. If you reach your product activation limit, you must call Customer Service.

How do you use it?
After moving the dBASE software; dBASE compiled programs and optionally the source code; and the dBASE data files to the new machine, install the dbDOS™ PRO 7 software on the new machine, which will automatically run the Configuration Utility program so that you can create shortcuts on the latest Windows OS. Double-click on the shortcut and you are up and running.

db_Config.exe   Creates Shortcut   Run DOS program
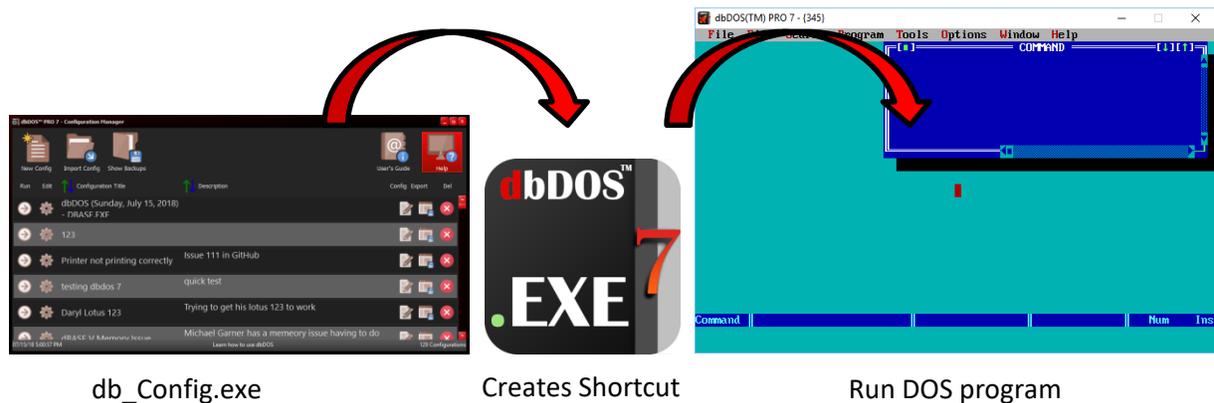
What can you do with dbDOS™ PRO 7?

You can run existing DOS based programs on the latest hardware and on the latest 64-bit Operating System from Microsoft. dbDOS™ is focused on dBASE for DOS products, but now can run other DOS based programs.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 modify or change my existing DOS programs?

No, dbDOS™ PRO 7 does not change any users' programs or data, it only facilitates the ability to run those existing MS-DOS / DOS programs like they were located on a DOS machine.

Do you include the supported dBASE for DOS programs with dbDOS™ PRO 7?

No, the product only includes the software to run the DOS based programs; the end-user will be responsible for having the dBASE DOS Software. dBase LLC (dBase), now offers the ability to purchase dBASE CLASSIC™ based on the dBASE V (5.0) for DOS product. You can also buy the products together as a bundle.

To get both dBASE Classic (dBASE for DOS V and dbDOS together go here :
http://store.dbase.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=DBCLASSICBUNDLE5N

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 move any files?

No, the customer is responsible for moving both the programs and data from the old hardware and moving it to the new hardware and software. The additional benefit from this operation is that both the programs and data should be backed up in this process.

Does dBase still offer support on dbDOS™ 1.x, 2, 3, or PRO 4 / 4N installations?

No. The latest version of dbDOS™ PRO 7 is the only version that will be supported by dBase at this time.

Can I modify my existing dBASE Programs?

Absolutely! This is one of the great things about dbDOS™ PRO 7, it allows you to run DOS based dBASE just like you did back when you purchased the product. The product runs just like it did when it was on an original DOS based machine. Therefore, developers can update, modify, and create new applications using their existing DOS based dBASE products. Non developers can use dbDOS™ PRO 7 to run those programs.

Can I print with dbDOS™ PRO 7?

YES! Printing is one of the most important features of dbDOS™ and where competing products fail. dbDOS™ PRO 7 comes with the ability to print to a locally connected printer and has support for advanced users that need network printing support.

**Will output to the printer look like the old printouts from MS-DOS?**

The answer depends on what you are printing out. Keep in mind that dbDOS™ is trying to generate output of data from a program that was released more than 30 years ago. While dbDOS™ will print the information, it may not look exactly like the old printouts. This could be due to the multiple issues. Some of these issues include:

- Printer commands from dBASE not compatible with current printer
- Printer driver from DOS not compatible with current printer hardware
- Some print escape sequences not recognized on the latest Windows OS
  - Example "Condensed" print is currently not supported in Windows 7

With this new feature, we are trying to support printer models that in some cases could be over 30 years old. We do not have a warehouse full of those printers to test with nor do we have an extensive code library of reports that utilize the special Escape sequences for those printers.

What are the Print Features found in dbDOS™ PRO 7?
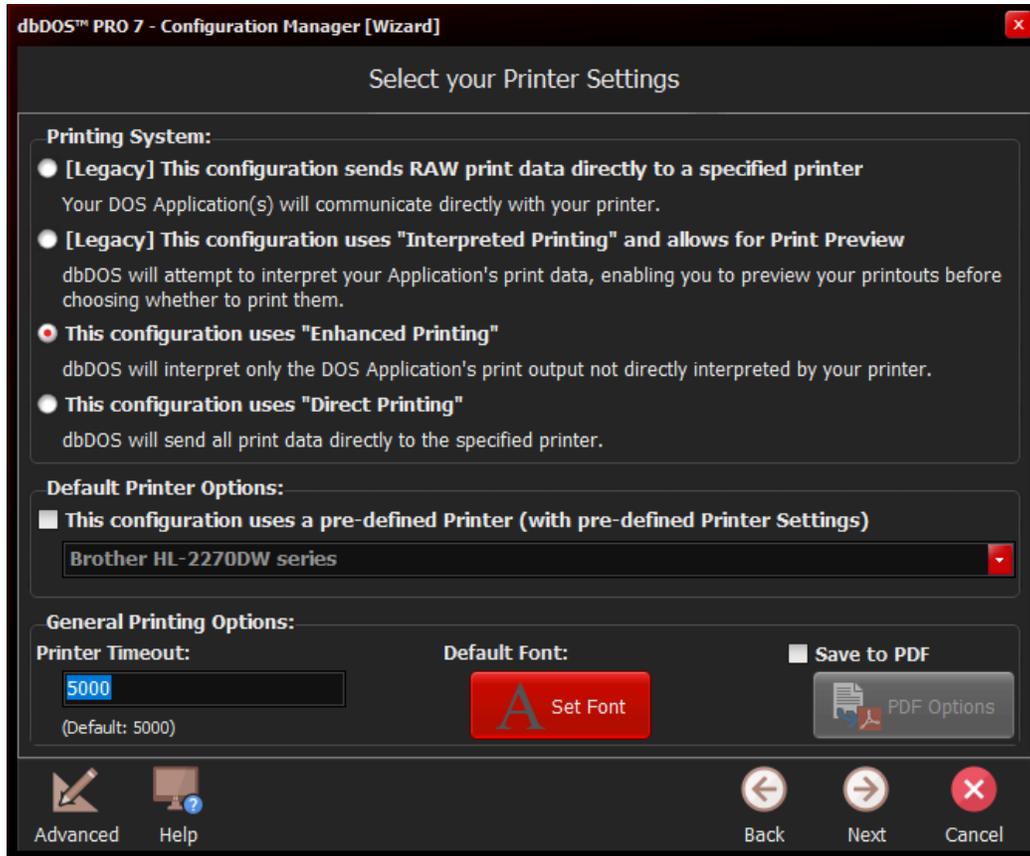
Printer dialog from the dbDOS Configuration Manager (options)

- **[Legacy] RAW:** Raw Print Feature includes the system Codepage, region settings, and printer support functionality using the standard print mechanism bypassing the Windows print scheduler.

- **[Legacy] Interpreted:** This uses a print buffer to send the characters to an edit control where Print Preview and some customization can be performed. This feature is only included for backward compatibility.

- **Enhanced Printing:** This is the replacement for the old Interpreted settings and allows for advanced features like printing to PDF.

- **Direct Printing:** This replaces the old RAW printing with new features and capabilities.

Are there recommendations on printing options?

Yes, it is recommended that **Enhanced** be tried first, if that does not give the results expected, then it would be suggested that you use **Direct**, then **RAW** and as a last resort **Interpreted**.

Can I run other DOS programs using dbDOS™ PRO 7?

YES. We do not test other MS-DOS based products; however, the system should be able to run almost any DOS based program. You must have the product, license and be able to install the product on the machine with dbDOS™.

What common DOS based programs do people run with dbDOS™ PRO 7?

We have users of dbDOS™ using really popular DOS based programs like FoxPro, Clipper, Paradox, Lotus 1,2, 3, and WordPerfect.

Can I run other DOS versions of dBASE?

Currently dbDOS™ PRO 7 is certified on dBASE III+, IV (versions 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0), and version V of the product. This does not mean the other products will not work, but they have not been tested or certified to run in the environment.

Can I run .bat files in dbDOS™ PRO 7?

Sure can! Now with the addition of 4DOS access in loaded in all configurations the ability to work with advanced .bat or command files is easier than ever.

How is 4DOS integrated?

4DOS is installed under the main dbDOS™ directory in a directory called \4DOS. All the files needed are located in that directory and that is also where you can find the reference guide to 4DOS. The path is set to use the B: drive (not used much) and the Path for the files is added to the path. This would need to be changed if you use the B: as a drive, however we have not encountered that use with dbDOS.

I don't see dBASE II or dBASE III on the list is there a reason?

Yes, dbDOS™ PRO 7 does not work with dBASE II or the initial release of dBASE III. We do support dBASE III+ and greater.

How many dbDOS™ PRO 7 licenses do I need?

dbDOS™ PRO 7 is now sold and licensed on a node based approach. That means any machine that will be using dbDOS™ PRO 7 must be installed and the license activated. We do not support concurrent or server virtualization (citrix setups) with dbDOS™ PRO 7. Users can install the product on multiple machines as long as only that person uses those machines and only one machine at a time.

If you are using dbDOS™ PRO 7 – Networking, then each machine that is connected to the network that will work with DOS based products needs to have a license of dbDOS™ PRO 7.

Do I have to Activate my dbDOS™ PRO 7?
Yes. dbDOS™ PRO 7 now has to be Activated on each machine it is loaded on.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 use DOSBOX?
Yes, a modified version of DOSBOX is used as the base engine (VM). We do use DOSBOX as the VM for the dbDOS™ product. However, we have made changes to the DOSBOX product to allow it to print dBASE for DOS programs and reports.

These source code changes to DOSBOX are available on the dbase.com website
http://www.dbase.com/support/updates/#dbDOS (under the dbDOS™ Open Source Download section) as per the GPL 2 requirements.

Keep in mind that dBase has added significant features to both the VM and non-VM executables included in the product to make it easier to install, setup, and run your MS-DOS applications. Those additional features and functions in the non-VM executables are not under the GPL 2 license, they are 100% dBase, LLC code and under a proprietary dbDOS™ license.

Will using dbDOS™ PRO 7 convert my dBASE for DOS programs to run on Windows?
NO. dbDOS™ PRO 7 only runs the dBASE for DOS programs and applications on the Windows Operating system. dbDOS™ PRO 7 makes no changes to the underlying programs, code, or data.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 support the Windows based Visual dBASE (such as VdB 5.0, 5.5 and 5.7)?
NO.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 require Administrator rights on the particular Windows Operating Systems?
No, not to run dbDOS(TM) however Administrator rights are needed to install and active dbDOS™. dbDOS™ PRO 7 has been programmed to take full advantage of Microsoft Windows® UAC™ (User Access Control) approach, so it is not a requirement to have Administrator privileges while running the dbDOS™ PRO 7 software or the DOS applications it controls.

Is it possible to install additional dBASE based software or other MS-DOS® software and use it in dbDOS™ PRO 7?
Yes. The user needs to get the new DOS based (dBASE III+, IV(1 and 2), and V for DOS) programs and data installed on the machine where dbDOS™ PRO 7 is located. Once the software is in a location, the configuration needs to point to that additional directory and the user should be able to use the DOS based software.

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 support network shares and multiple data folders?
Absolutely!

Does dbDOS™ PRO 7 allow the users to create new programs and code?
Yes. dbDOS™ PRO 7 enables the user to run dBASE for DOS just like they were on a MS-DOS machine from years back. Users should be able to modify and update programs to run inside dbDOS™ PRO 7.

Can dbDOS™ PRO 7 display in full screen mode?
Yes. One of the options when creating a configuration is to start the application in full screen mode. Note: There is certain hardware configurations that will not allow full-screen to work, however, in the new PRO 7 edition of the product, additional options have been made available to make the option work on more hardware.

What Windows Operating Systems support dbDOS™ PRO 7?
dbDOS™ VM is designed to run on any Microsoft 64-bit Operating Systems, we certify dbDOS on Windows Vista, 2003, 7, 8, 8.1, 2012, 10 and (Preview) 2016 Server. dbDOS™ can run on Microsoft Windows XP but **IT IS NOT SUPPORTED!**