



# DOS API

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

## DOS Interrupts

| Interrupt vector    | Description                     | Version | Notes  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| <a href="#">20H</a> | Terminate program               | 1.0+    | Implemented in DOS kernel  |
| <a href="#">21h</a> | 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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