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Ishare

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Ishare

Editorial

We would like to wholeheartedly thank our honorable Chairman, Secretary, Executive Director and Principal for their continuous encouragement and constant support for bringing out the magazine. We profoundly thank our Head of the Department for encouraging and motivating us to lead the magazine a successful one right from the beginning. Ishare serves as a platform for updating and enhancing upcoming technologies in Information and Communication. We are grateful to all the contributors to this magazine so far. The magazine has been sent to almost 60 institutions in and around Tamilnadu. So far we have received feedbacks and appreciations from various institutions.

We would be very pleased to receive your feedbacks. Please send your feed backs to ksrcas.ishare@gmail.com
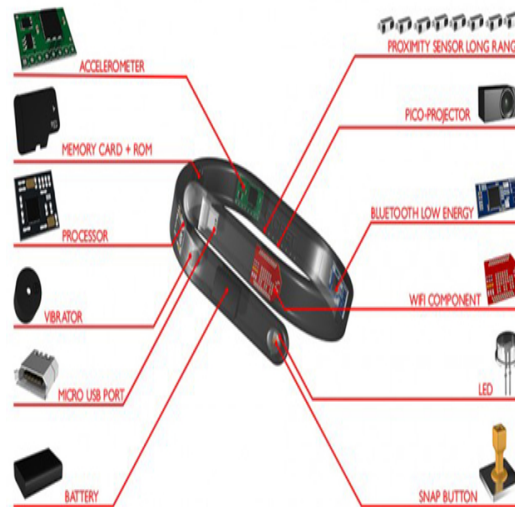
By,

Editorial Board

Content

1. <u>Cicret Smart Bracelet</u>

Ms.R. Sangeetha M.C.A., M.Phil.,

Asst professor, Dept of CS

The Cicret Smart Bracelet, which appeared on Indiegogo not long ago, has now finished its campaign for funding. The result should be a bracelet wearable that can project a touch-controlled screen onto your arm.

The Cicret uses a Pico projector to throw your mobile's screen into your arm. It also features eight proximity sensors which the bracelet uses to detect your finger position so as to feedback controls. This means you

can use your phone as you would normally, but all right there on your arm while the device itself sits in your pocket or bag.

Unlike other wearable this could offer the most comprehensive use of your phone without taking it out.

The Cicret features its own processor, storage, vibration feedback, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity as well as the sensors and projector. We have to wonder how long the battery on a device like this will actually last though.

The campaign for the bracelet finished on Indiegogo where it was going for $400, which is about £250. The campaign has now gone from the site along with the video where it says the company is "actually modifying a few things… so [will] be back soon." The final product should sell for around $600 to $700 which is about £375 to £435.

2. <u>Best PowerPoint Alternatives and Presentation Tools of 2015</u>

Ms.R. Sudha M.C.A., M.Phil.,

Asst professor, Dept of CS

PowerPoint is a great tool for creating digital slide based presentations and it's probably (still, after all these years) the best tool out there. However, there are many reasons that why people would want to look for alternatives and that is why, the best PowerPoint alternatives and presentation tools of 2015 are listed below:

❖ **Price of software**

Subscription or one-time fee, Free as in free beer, or free with ads/watermark?

❖ **Ownership of presentation media**

Are your presentations created and saved offline or do they have to reside on some public cloud server?

❖ **Portability of presentation format**

Are your presentations created in a proprietary closed format and if so, can it be exported to common file formats like PPTX, PDF, etc?

❖ **Track record of provider**

Has the provider been around for a long time and do they have a reputation of treating their customers well?

❖ **Features**

Do the software stand out as being rich on useful features for presentation authors?

❖ **Supported operating systems**

Is the presentation authoring software available on several platforms? If not, do

they provide a compatible presentation viewer on other platforms?

Alternative 1: <u>LibreOffice Impress</u>

LibreOffice is a very popular open source office software. It's free as in free beer, meaning you don't have to worry about paying for it. Ever. It's not a web app, so unlike many HTML5 alternatives you'll have to download it. Fortunately, it's available for every significant operating system out there so you shouldn't have a problem running it whether you are on Windows, OS X or Linux.

LibreOffice's presentation tool, called Impress, comes with all the basic functionality you're used to from slide authoring tools like PowerPoint and Keynote. You can save your presentation in LibreOffice's own file format or export it to PDF or PPTX. Although LibreOffice is just celebrated its fourth birthday, Impress and the other office components have been around much longer.

Alternative 2: <u>Google Drive – Slides</u>

Google's contribution to the presentation software sphere is integrated with Google Drive, their personal cloud storage service similar to DropBox. Google Slides is pretty much like PowerPoint, only it's all in your browser. They also offer web based spreadsheet and document editing tools, making Google Drive a direct alternative to Microsoft's web based Office 365.

Unlike Office 365, Google Drive is free as long as you have a Gmail/Google account. If you're fine with your presentations being stored on Google's servers, Google Slides is a good alternative to PowerPoint. No software downloads means you can access and edit your slides from any device with a modern browser and Internet connection.

For offline viewing, Google Slides supports exporting to PDF, PPTX and images. You can keep your presentations private or choose to share them online (through unique URLs), embed them on web pages and invite people to collaborate on your slides.

Alternative 3: <u>Prezi</u>

Prezi is known as the zooming presentation tool. It has been around for some years now and comes with a subscription based license model. It costs money, but you can use a crippled version for free. The free version will put a watermark on your prezi and you'll be limited to non-private presentations.

Imagine a prezi as taking your PowerPoint slides and randomly placing them on a big canvas. Then draw a path between those slides in the order you wish to present and add some zooming effects. The result you get is a typical Prezi presentation. Professional Prezi presentations however take advantage of the spatial coherence between slides and use the zoom out (overview) vs zoom in (details) features to better get across the message of the presentation.

Prezi offers both a desktop and a web based editor and lets you publish prezis online as well as export them to .exe./.dmg, .pdf and .prz (Prezis own proprietary format). The different export formats have different pros and cons. A self contained Prezi in .exe or .dmg format is portable, but can consume a lot of memory (1 GB is not unusual), while a Prezi in PDF loose all its zooming flair and .prz files require a special viewer to be installed.

If you are tired of the linear slide show concept and want to easily add some zooming effects to your presentations, Prezi is the right tool for you.

Prezi Desktop is a nicely designed program that proves to be very useful when creating interactive presentations. Even if you don't have much knowledge in the graphic design domain, you can easily get professional looking presentations with your preferred background music and beautiful templates.

This application provides you with a wide variety of templates that can fit any school or business project. You can attach pictures of various formats, YouTube videos, geometrical shapes, background music, and even import content from files created with Microsoft Office tools.

A good thing about using Prezi Desktop is that it can easily be managed by both novices and professionals, therefore, with only a few

simple steps, you can create presentations for school projects, business plans, and brainstorming projects.

There are only two things I don't like about using this program: the final result can be saved only as PEZ document or downloaded as a PDF file and the fact that it lacks an integrated user manual.

Nevertheless, I still see Prezi Desktop as a smart and reliable solution for creating your own presentation. This application is extremely easy-to-use and the built-in utilities help you get the results you need with minimum effort.

Pros

- Simple to use interface.
- Offers you a complete list of project templates, symbols, geometrical shapes, etc.
- You can insert images, background music, Voice-over, YouTube videos, etc.
- Supports a wide range of multimedia formats (for import).

Cons

- You can save the projects only to PEZ format or download them as PDF files.
- Lacks a built-in help manual.

Alternative 4: <u>Apple Keynote for Mac</u>

Keynote is Apple's PowerPoint clone. In 2013, Apple redesigned Keynote with version 6.0, and made it free for anyone with a new iOS device or a recently purchased Mac. The product integrates well with iOS devices, allowing you to use your iOS phone or pad to control Keynote and view slide notes. Although very similar to Office PowerPoint, it lacks a few features. On the upside, the slide themes that comes bundled with the product look really good.

Although Keynote supports exporting to PowerPoint, not every transition and effect will look the same when played on a Windows PC. Its native .key format is proprietary and there are currently no presentation viewers available for .key files on Windows or Linux. If you are a casual presenter, Keynote is probably good enough for you.

BONUS: <u>SlideDog – the presenter's best friend</u>

While not a PowerPoint alternative per say, SlideDog deserves a place in every presenters toolbelt. With SlideDog you can combine PowerPoints, Prezis, PDFs, and many more elements into one easy-to-create playlist. You never have to switch between different programs

during your presentation and your presentation files show in their original formats, and display just like you'd expect them to. Once the playlist is loaded, your content plays back as though it's just one seamless file.

SlideDog features "live slide sharing" meaning you can broadcast your presentations in real-time and let your audience follow your slides on their own devices. Send your participants a link to your online channel and with a click they're in, watching from their own web browser. In the same channel they can answer polls and Q&A sessions that you have prepared in SlideDog. The results of any audience interaction will appear on the presenter's screen. Additionally, SlideDog lets you control your presentation from any web-enabled device. You can use the SlideDog Remote app to switch between presentation files, change slides, pause videos, and more.

3. <u>USB Security Key</u>

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III BCA 'D'

Google launches USB Security Key for super-secure two-step verification.

Google has been offering support for two-step verification for years, but now there's another option for proving. We can now use a physical USB device plugged into our computer to access our Google account via Chrome in addition to our password.

Google calls this Security Key. Using Security Key means our physical presence (or at least the presence of our keychain) is needed to log into Google, making it all but impossible for a remote attacker to gain access to our account, protecting us from most of the malicious hacks we hear about.

The goal of two-step verification in general is to make account access more secure by requiring a password plus something else. The characters that make up our password — even a very complex one — can be typed into any keyboard anywhere in the world. We don't need to be anywhere nearby or even aware that someone is accessing our

account. Google and other companies include tools that can help us to remain aware of when and from where our online profile has been accessed (hey, that random login from Prague looks suspicious), but the only way to be sure is to add a second layer of security on top of the password.

In this case, that means a USB key that plugs into our computer, but other methods include temporary PIN codes sent via SMS, applications that receive codes via a secure server.

Don't dust off that USB thumbdrive in our drawer just yet, though. We can't use any old USB device that have sitting around — Google's

Security Key implementation uses the open Universal 2nd Factor (U2F) protocol, which is maintained by the FIDO Alliance.

It uses public key cryptography to create a single USB device that can authenticate with the service. A remote attacker won't have our U2F USB device, so any attempts to gain access are doomed.

This is important because U2F isn't *only* for Google. While it's true that Google is adding support for U2F in its two-step account verification, the support is baked into Chrome. Any company that wants to take advantage of this highly secure access method can do so right now. All we need is a computer running Chrome v38 or higher, which is the current stable channel release.

One notable downside is that we really need Chrome. Other browsers lack support for a U2F security dongle, meaning we'll have to go back to SMS or app verification to get the one-time code for two-step verification when Chrome isn't available. Security Key also isn't supported on mobile devices like Android phones and iOS. Google notes that it hopes more desktop browser makers will at least add support for FIDO U2F so users can rely on the hardware verification method more frequently.

Google is including Security Key support on all accounts free of charge and it's not even selling the USB devices directly. It's actually nice to know that Google doesn't have a financial stake in this move — it's about making our data more secure. A compatible U2F USB device can be purchased from any a vendor that uses the standard, but most of the current options we'll find come from Yubico and cost $15-50. As they say, that's a small price to pay for peace of mind.

As far as we're aware, we can't yet make our own U2F USB key. The standard is open, however, so an open-source implementation might appear at some point in the future — assuming it doesn't require a special hardware feature to be present on the USB stick, that is.

4. Use DOSBox To Run DOS Games and Old Apps

R. Nirmala, M.Sc, MCA, M.Phil (CS)
Asst. Professor, Dept of CS

New versions of Windows don't fully support classic DOS games and other old applications — this is where DOSBox comes in. It provides a full DOS environment that runs ancient DOS apps on modern operating systems.

Let us know how to mount directories, use DOSBox's internal commands, execute programs and use DOSBox's keyboard shortcuts like a pro.

Getting Started

DOSBox is available as a free download from the DOSBox website. It's not just for Windows — installers are available for Mac OS

X, Linux and other UNIX-like systems. If you're using Ubuntu, you'll find DOSBox available in the Ubuntu Software Center.
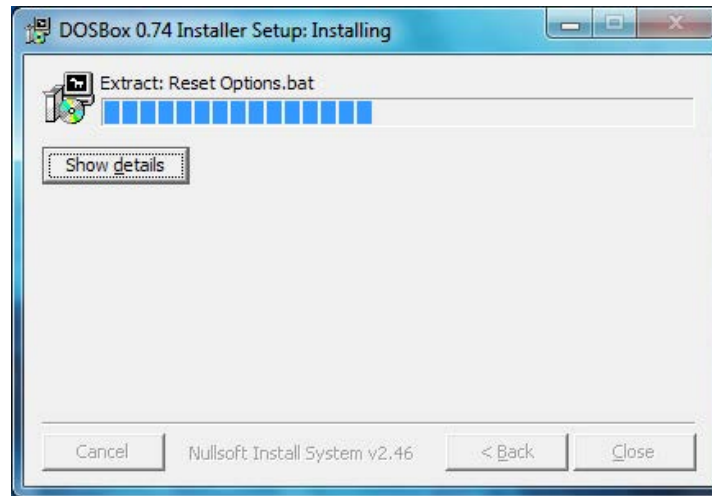
You'll also need the game or application you want to run. If you have an old floppy disk, it's time to pull it out. If the game was available as shareware, you're in luck — you should be able to find it online. Most DOS games are fully compatible, but DOSBox's homepage hosts a compatibility list so you can check your favorite game's compatibility.

Mounting Directories

Once it's installed, you can fire DOSBox up from your desktop or Start menu. You'll get two windows — a status window and the main DOSBox window. You can ignore the status window.
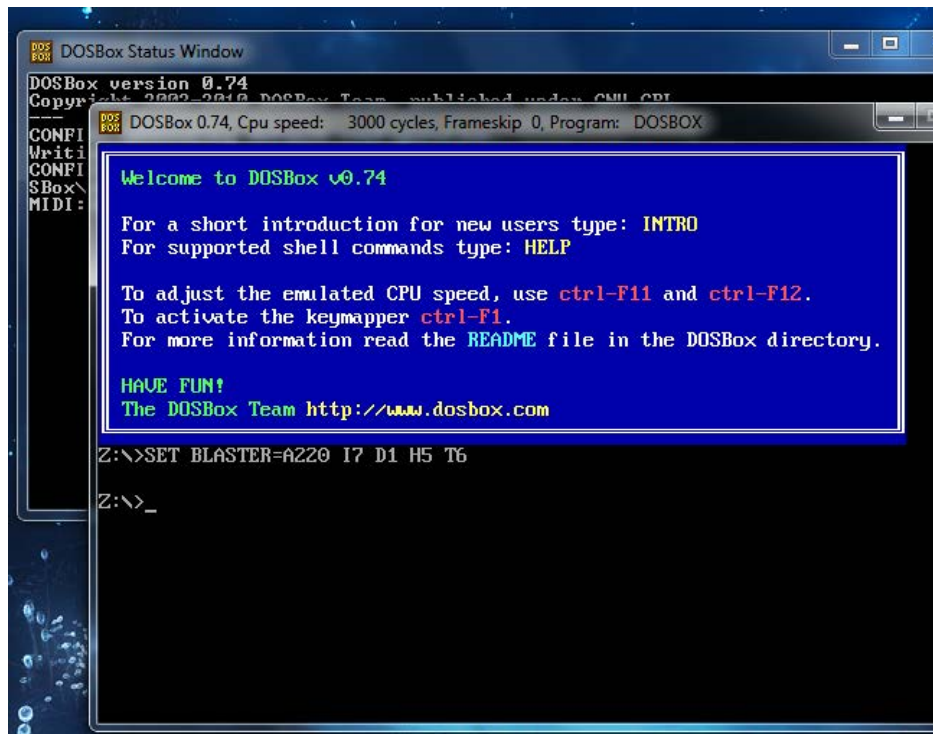
Before you run a game, you'll have to mount its directory. DOSBox's environment is separate from your computer's file system. In other words, the C: drive in DOSBox is completely separate from the C: drive on your computer.

Here's an example mount command:

mount c c:\games

This command mounts the C:\Games directory on your computer as the C: drive in DOSBox. Replace c:\games with the location of the games directory on your computer.
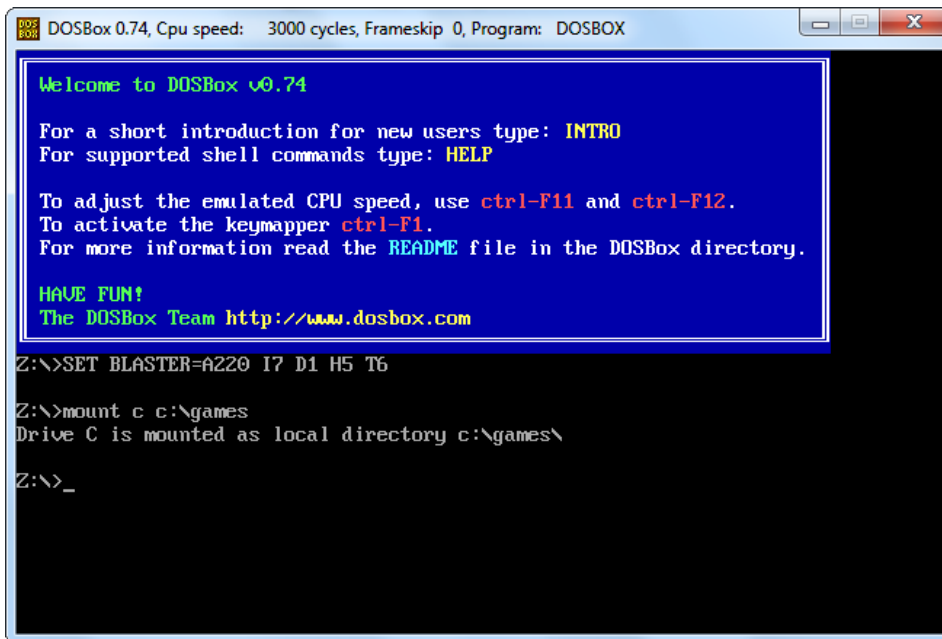
Add the **-t cdrom** switch if you're mounting a CD-ROM. For example, the following command takes the CD-ROM drive at D: on your computer and mounts it as the C: drive in DOSBox:
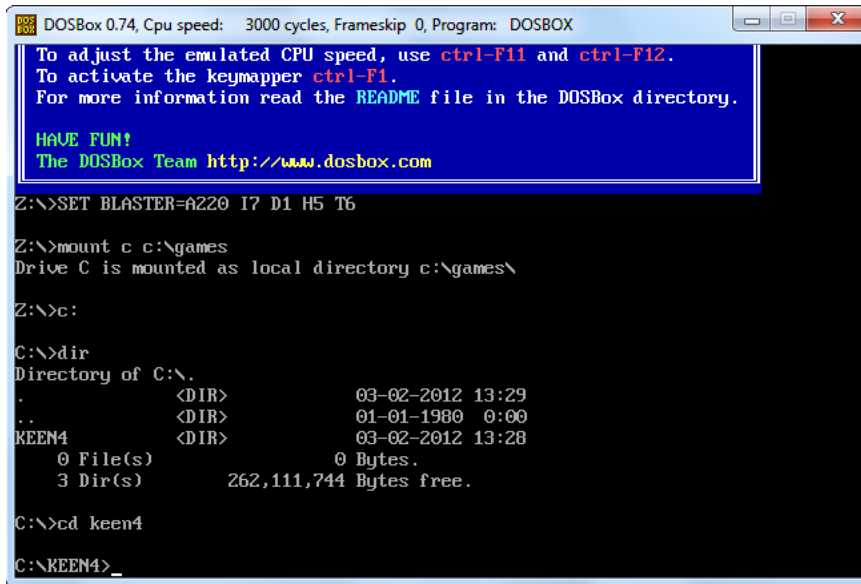
mount c D:\ -t cdrom

Navigating Around and Running Applications

Once you've got your game files mounted, you can type **C:** and press Enter to switch to DOSBox's C: drive.

Use the **dir** command to list the contents of the current directory and the **cd** command, followed by the name of a directory, to change to a directory. Use the **cd ..** command to go up a directory.

Type the name of an EXE file in the current folder to execute that program. You may have to run an **install** program before playing your game or running your application.

If you do, install the game like you would on a normal DOS system.

Once it's installed, you can navigate to the game's EXE file and run it by typing its name.
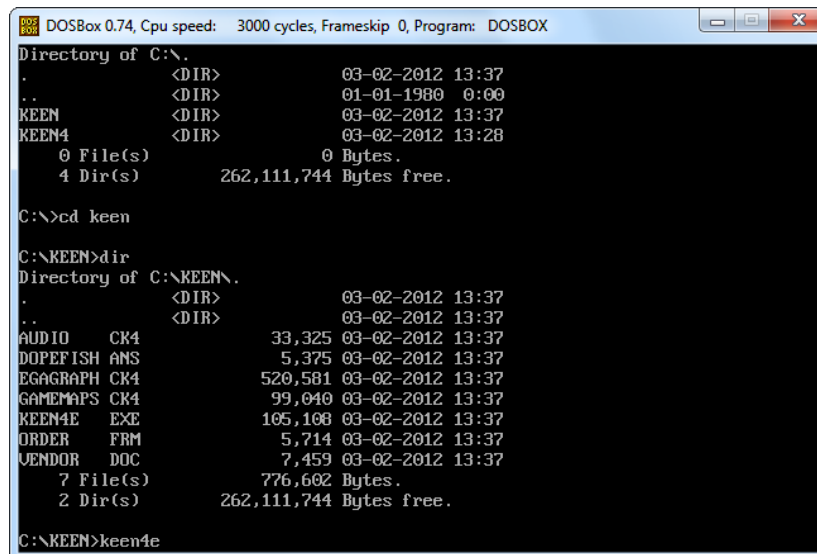
At this point, you're ready to play. You'll have to repeat the mount process each time you restart DOSBox, although you'll only have to install and configure the game once.
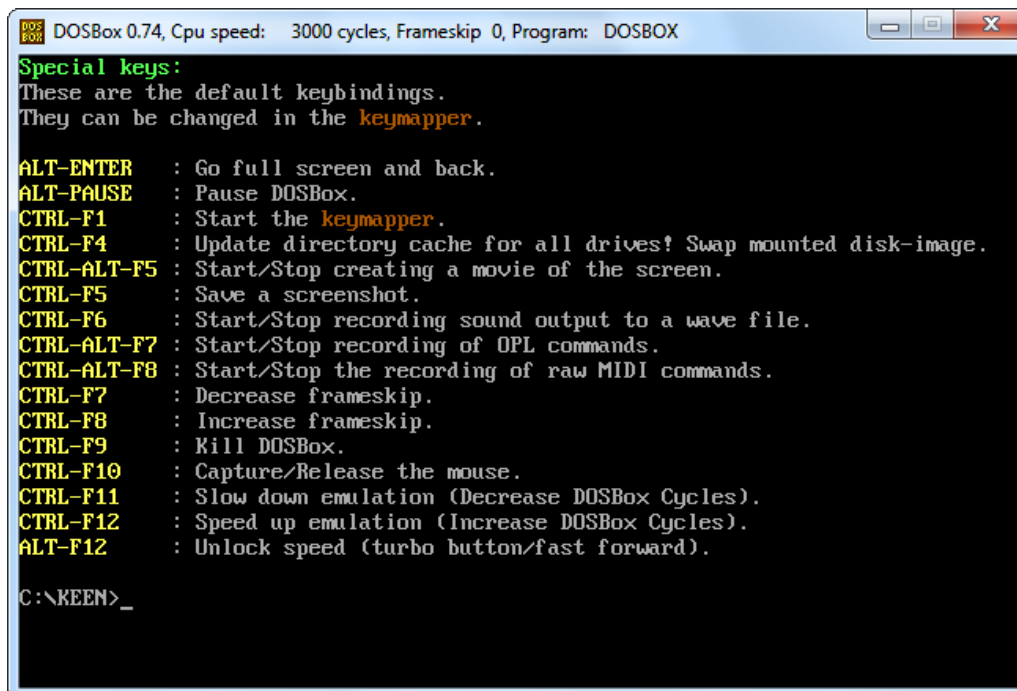
Keyboard Shortcuts

DOSBox has a variety of keyboard shortcuts. Here are the most essential ones:

- **Alt-Enter** - switches between full-screen and windowed modes.
- **Ctrl-F11 -** If a game runs too fast, you can slow it down by pressing it.
- **Ctrl-F12 -** speeds up slow games

DOSBox's emulated CPU speed, displayed in its title bar, will change each time you press these keys.

Type the **intro special** command to see a full list of DOSBox's shortcut keys.

DOSBox can also run DOS programs that aren't games — including the Windows 3.1 operating system itself — but games are its main use case. The DOS programs people used to rely on have been replaced, but classic games can never be replaced.

5. <u>Presentation Tools</u>

Ms.R. Nirmala, M.Sc, M.C.A., M.Phil(CS)
Asst. Professor, Dept of CS

<u>CyberLink PhotoNow!</u>

CyberLink PhotoNow! offers a step-based process for creating slideshow DVDs. Users can import files, add a menu template, then insert titles, transitions, and background music. Before burning to DVD, users can check their results in a preview window.

<u>PhotoStage Slideshow Producer</u>

Freeware

PhotoStage Slideshow Producer is a full-featured slideshow creator. The application consists of a preview window located on the left of the screen with a list of slides on the right.

<u>Scene Switch</u>

Freeware

During presentations, no matter how large the audience, unevitably questions arise. However, often business notebooks contain confidential documents which the audience shouldn't see, and also to quit the presentation and quickly search for the answer often appears unprofessional.

Acoustica MP3 Audio Mixer

Shareware

Acoustica MP3 Audio Mixer is an intuitive and easy-to-use tool to help you create your own sound mixes. Just load, drag and drop, or record as many audio files as you wish in MP3, WAV or WMA, arrange them in any order you like, add fade-ins and fade-outs, change their volume and pitch… and make your own original mixes with just a few clicks!

EasyWorship

Shareware

Preparing a religious service involves an extensive arrangement of different elements. This program will help you manage all those

elements from a single interface. Using this tool, you can make a detailed plan of your religious service by adding all the elements you need, from the hymns to sing, the portions of the Bible that will be read, videos, audios, etc.

Topaz ReMask

Shareware

Topaz ReMask is a multi-purposeful plug-in specifically engineered to handle the most common masking and extraction tasks facing photographers and designers. It allows users to have endless control over every aspect of color, detail, positioning and size in their images.

AVS Cover Editor

Freeware

Create a unique design for DVD/CD covers with AVS Cover Editor .Make colorful layouts: select pre-made templates or import your own images for a disc surface, front and back covers. Add texts, change color, size, make a round text, adjust opacity with AVS Cover Editor. Change tints and play with various fonts in your design.

DVD Photo Slideshow Pro

Shareware

As a photo to DVD maker, Photo DVD Slideshow can create slideshow DVD movies with transition effects, background music, subtitles and DVD menus. As a photo to movie maker, Photo DVD Slideshow can produce commom video formats like AVI, FLV, MPEG-2 for PC as well as MPEG-4 movies playable on iPad, iPhone, Android phones and tablets.

Aleo Flash Intro Banner Maker

Shareware

Aleo Flash Intro Banner Maker is a program that allows you to generate Flash intro, Flash banner, Flash slideshow, Flash AD and eCards. The program provides you lots of animated background effects, text effects and image effects. It also enables you to customize the effects, including texts, fonts, URL links, colors and sounds.

Free Screen Recorder

Freeware

Free Screen Recorder is a great application that you can download for free and use as many times as you want. As the program's title

suggests, this software allows you to record any region of your screen and save it as a video file, so you can watch it whenever you want.

HP Notebook Accessories Product Tour

Freeware

This package contains the HP Accessories Product Tour for the supported notebook models and operating systems. The HP Accessories Product Tour provides detailed information about HP Accessories including Docking Solutions, Expansion Accessories, Power Management and Security.

Presentation Director

Freeware

Presentation Director is a display configuration utility for your ThinkPad computer that enables you to create, manage, and use presentation and display schemes. You can access these schemes through an on-screen display menu that is shown when you press the Fn + F7 key combination on your keyboard.

Adobe Presenter

Shareware

Adobe Presenter helps you communicate more effectively with engaging videos and interactive presentations created in Microsoft PowerPoint. You can minimize the time, effort, and cost of producing and editing videos by doing it yourself at your desktop. Also you can add quizzes; deliver to the web, video sharing sites, desktops, and mobile devices.

Ulead PhotoImpact X3

Shareware

PhotoImpact X3 is a program with multiple functions and tools, for capturing, editing and retouching of photographs, as well as for building projects from still images, such as collages, calendars, video slideshows with menus, greeting or congratulation cards, creation of web templates and many more. It runs with Windows XP and Vista, requires 512 MB RAM and 1 GB RAM respectively.

Photo Slideshow Creator

Shareware

Photo Slideshow Creator can help you create slideshows easily. This tool allows you to create your slideshows by using any of the multiple themes available. A theme combines transition effects and

background music and it comes very handy for those users with poor design skills. However, you can also customize your video presentation as desired.

Microsoft Plus! Photo Story 2 LE

Freeware

Plus! Photo Story 2 LE, is an application from Microsoft oriented to album creation and video presentations, from digital photos, music and stories recorded by the user himself. It is very simple and easy to use, but it doesn't allow adding visual effects to presentations or editing pictures. It runs on Windows Vista and all versions of Windows XP.

Presto! Mr. Photo

Shareware

Mr. Photo 4 is an excellent program to capture, manage, edit and merge images and video files. This application combines many functions to perform the complete process of a digital image processing: from capture to final print or multimedia distribution of original compositions of image and sound.

Samsung Media Studio

Freeware

Samsung Media Studio was developed to manage audio, video, photo collections and so on. After you have installed it, this program, every time when you connect player to the computer, will start up offering you to check if there is any media files on the drive. The program has handy interface.

uvScreenCamera

Shareware

By using uvScreenCamera you can easily create animated demos or tutorials by recording your computer's desktop activity, including all mouse movements, window graphics, mouse clicks, etc. The recorded clips are stored into UVF, EXE, SWF or AVI movie files, streaming just 20 to 400 KB per minute. As an option, you can annotate recorded movies with text.

Dell Media Experience

Shareware

Dell Media Experience 3.1 is an application that was shipped on most Dell Inspiron notebook and Dimension desktop systems beginning in December, 2004. The software provided you with access to browsing and playback functionality for digital music, pictures, videos and DVDs, in a simple and easy-to-use interface.

Photo Story Platinum

Shareware

Wondershare Photo Story Platinum is a program to create video presentations with your pictures. It includes styles and decorations, lets you add music and backgrounds. Supported output formats include: MP4, AVI, WMV, 3GP, WMV2 and the possibility to burn DVD discs.

Screen2Exe

Freeware

Screen2Exe is a handy application that lets you record the screen activity and save it to self-executable EXE video files. Since it can also capture the sound from a connected microphone during the screen recording, this powerful tool represents a great help whenever you need to create tutorials, presentations, demonstrations, etc.

PowerPoint Slide Show Converter

Shareware

PowerPoint Slide Show Converter is a program for converting PowerPoint presentations into executable files. In a nutshell, by using this application you will obtain an .exe file that can be played on any

computer running Windows 2000 (SP4+), XP, Vista, and 7, even without Microsoft PowerPoint installed.

Swiff Point Player

Freeware

Swiff Point Player is an easy-to-use Microsoft PowerPoint add-in that allows its users to easily insert and play their Flash movies in their Microsoft PowerPoint presentations. This way, Swiff Point Player dramatically accelerates the production time.

ArcSoft PhotoStudio 2000

ArcSoft PhotoStudio is a powerful yet easy to use photo editing application that allows you to manage, enhance, print, and get creative with digital photos in a few steps. This incredible software features an array of advanced tools, filters and special effects to enhance all your photos.

Premiumplay Codec-C

Freeware

The PremiumPlay Codec-C is a first of its kind solution. It checks what kind of codecs the user has on his computer in order make sure that he is using the correct one – so with the PremiumPlay Codec-C the user maximizes his streaming video experience. The user will never have to watch movies with the wrong codec.

Livescribe Desktop

Freeware

Livescrive Desktop is an easy-to-use and very smart tool that allows you to record on your computer everything that you handwrite on the paper with the help of a smartpen. Now it's much easier to put your notes, your lectures, your drawings or everything else on your desktop and the program will convert them in to Flash movies.

Microsoft Producer for Microsoft Office PowerPoint

Freeware

Microsoft Producer for PowerPoint provides users with many powerful features that make it easier to synchronize audio, video, slides, and images to create engaging and effective rich-media presentations. It gives content and media professionals, as well as everyday PowerPoint users a host of new content authoring features.

Gateway Photo Frame

Freeware

Gateway Photo Frame allows you to watch a slideshow on your desktop. The software is free to install and comes on the CD with every purchase of the specified laptop. The application will start automatically when you insert media in your card reader of the laptop.

6.Contiki OS
Ms. B. Sowmya
Asst Professor, Dept of CS
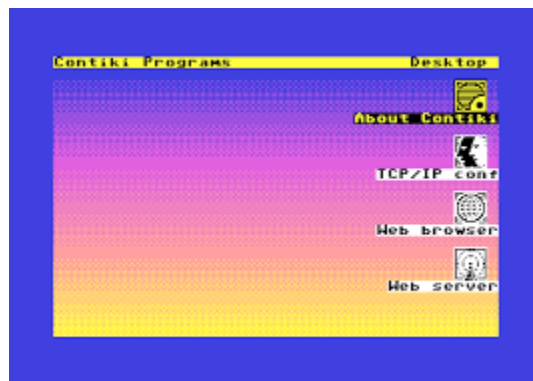
Contiki is an open source operating system for networked, memory-constrained systems with a particular focus on low-power wireless Internet of Things devices. Examples of where Contiki is used

include street lighting systems, sound monitoring for smart cities, radiation monitoring systems, and alarm systems.

Contiki was created by Adam Dunkels in 2002 and has been further developed by a world-wide team of developers from Atmel, Cisco, ENEA, ETH Zurich, Redwire, RWTH Aachen University, Oxford University, SAP, Sensinode, Swedish Institute of Computer Science, ST Microelectronics, Zolertia, and many others. The name Contiki comes from Thor Heyerdahl's famous Kon-Tiki raft.

Contiki is designed to run on classes of hardware devices that are severely constrained in terms of memory, power, processing power, and communication bandwidth. A typical Contiki system has memory on the order of kilobytes, a power budget on the order of milliwatts, processing speed measured in megahertz, and communication bandwidth on the order of hundreds of kilobits/second. This class of systems includes both various types of embedded systems as well as a number of old 8-bit computers.

Features

Contiki supports per-process optional preemptive multi-threading, inter-process communication using message passing through events, as well as an optional GUI subsystem with either direct graphic

support for locally connected terminals or networked virtual display with VNC or over Telnet.

A full installation of Contiki includes the following features:

- Multitasking kernel
- Optional per-application pre-emptive multithreading
- Protothreads
- TCP/IP networking, including IPv6
- Windowing system and GUI
- Networked remote display using Virtual Network Computing
- A web browser
- Personal web server
- Simple Telnet Client
- Screensaver

To run efficiently on memory-constrained systems, the Contiki programming model is based on protothreads. A protothread is a memory-efficient programming abstraction that shares features of both multi-threading and event-driven programming to attain a low memory overhead of each protothread. The kernel invokes the protothread of a process in response to an internal or external event. Examples of internal events are timers that fire or messages being posted

from other processes. Examples of external events are sensors that trigger or incoming packets from a radio neighbor.

Protothreads are cooperatively scheduled. This means that a Contiki process must always explicitly yield control back to the kernel at regular intervals. Contiki processes may use a special protothread construct to block waiting for events while yielding control to the kernel between each event invocation.

Contiki provides powerful low-power Internet communication. Contiki supports fully standard IPv6 and IPv4, along with the recent low-power wireless standards: RPL, CoAP. With Contiki's ContikiMAC and sleepy routers, even wireless routers can be battery-operated.

For a device that has an external flash memory chip, Contiki provides a lightweight flash file system, called Coffee. With Coffee, application programs can open, close, read from, write to, and append to files on the external flash, without having to worry about flash sectors needing to be erased before writing or flash wear-leveling. The performance of Coffee is within 95% of the raw throughput of the flash memory.

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