



# 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
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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