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# MS-DOS 7 Review

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# Overview

**MS-DOS 7 Options**

**Assumptions**

**Issues**

**Work we can start now**

**What is left to do**

This document summarizes some of the information and is intended to help in making a decision on which path to proceed.

### MS-DOS 7 Product Audience:

A) Users who hate Windows

B) Option for highly price conscious OEMs.

We may want to do separate products for each audience (that option is discussed below).

### MS-DOS 7 Competitors

- DR-DOS 7
- PC DOS

### PRODUCT OPTIONS

#### 1. Chicago - ChicagoGUI + new non-GUI components

##### Pros:

- Easy to differentiate from Chicago - could be priced low for Audience B.
- Somewhat addresses Audience A (need to add some polish to fully address).

##### Cons:

- A \*lot\* of work to implement. Would require tracking to a moving target (Control Panel components, network). Would be difficult for our team to do.
- Duplicates much of work being done in Chicago (setup, help, control panel components, shell/ProgMan)
- Running Win 3.x apps is sticky unless we include special support in the box (perhaps simply a setup program to configure WIN 3.1 to work with it; Chicago could also benefit from this program).
- Common code we do for Chicago (defrag, fdisk) must be done non-GUI.

#### 2. Chicago with full ChicagoGUI, but crippled to only run the System components

##### Pros:

- Addresses Audience B (differentiates by inability to run GUI apps).
- Easy to do - Maintain a list of system apps which are allowed to be run. Probably a little more complex than this, but certainly doable.
- Could have easy upgrade path for users who buy this to move up to Chicago (Key to unlock GUI).
- Common code we do for Chicago (defrag, fdisk) could be GUI.

##### Cons:

- Doesn't address Audience A.
- Potential PR problem (like the intel 486SX with disabled but present FPU)
- Some chance of 3-rd party add-on enabling sufficient functionality to compete with Chicago.
- Not the most exciting development work.

#### 3. Base Chicago minus ability to run Windows Apps

Base Chicago is not yet defined. Perhaps we could ship a modified form which doesn't allow users to run Windows apps as MS-DOS 7 (but does allow users to run the GUI system components). We could include a configuration program which would configure Win 3.1 to run on it if the user has 3.1 (so we'd be able to run the users existing apps).

##### Pros:

- addresses audience B
- It is work Chicago already must do.
- All common code we do for Chicago (defrag, fdisk) could be GUI.

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Cons:

- We've already made a big deal about Chicago including both OS and GUI.
- Doesn't address audience A.

#### 4. Chicago - NEWChicagoGUI + win31support

Pros:

- Addresses audience B.
- Can run Win 3.1 apps out of the box. This could be disabled and then enabled if user has WIN 3.1
- Less work than trying to write non-GUI components. Simply make GUI components work with WIN 3.1 UI. Still some work.
- Common code we do for Chicago (defrag, fdisk) could be GUI.

Cons:

- Doesn't address audience A.
- May not be strong enough differentiation from Chicago to justify cheap pricing.

#### 5. MS-DOS 6.2

Pros:

- No work.

Cons:

- Lacks key features in competing OS's (DOS extended components, multi-tasking, network, remote admin support).

#### 6. Updated MS-DOS 6.x with Cloaked DbtSpace

Pros:

- Addresses audience A.
- Could get cloaked DbtSpace development relatively free from Helix (but it will require substantial effort to test).

Cons:

- Lacks multi-tasking
- Dead-end development work (real-mode is dead)
- Introduces alternate protected mode technology, may be difficult to position.
- Common code we do for Chicago (defrag, fdisk) of little benefit to this product.

#### 7. Better Chicago support for Command-line lovers

Focus MS-DOS Development on making Chicago great for windows haters and for command-line lovers. This could include MS-DOS app compatibility focus, command-line enhancements, a command line window, and other polish. There would still be things which require GUI, but it would make Chicago a better product for those who hate Windows.

PROS:

- Addresses audience A (could possibly be sold as separate package).
- Makes Chicago a better all around product.

CONS:

- Doesn't address audience B (could we address them in base Chicago?).
- Requires development effort for relatively small market.

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# Assumptions

**Non-GUI Chicago is not an interesting option.**

- A lot of work (PnP, Help:winhelp viewer, Network, Setup)
- Moving target
- Uninteresting audience

**Drop MSAV from core product**

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# Issues

## Chicago Plan unclear on:

- CIP
- MS-DOS Undelete

Recommend: We do it for them.

## Chicago seems unfocused on MS-DOS Application Compatibility

Recommend: Focus our test team on identifying compat issues here. Chicago is also hurting on PnP testing - perhaps we could help here initially.

## No Compile Localization

We will only do this for things which make sense (since this is probably the last release of MS-DOS).

## Edit

Chicago has written a 15K editor to replace edit. It has a long way to go before it is ship quality. We could help them here.

## Help Viewer

Chicago's current plan is to not ship any online help for MS-DOS commands (other than /?). EmoryH has written a 30K help viewer we could ship

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# Work we can do right away

Program	LFN Enable	No Compile Localization	Run in VM	Convert to Win App?	Est. Dvlp Wks
Defrag	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8-12
DbfSpace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8-12
Fdisk	n/a	Done	Yes	Maybe	?
ScanDisk	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
Undelete	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
MemMaker	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	?
Attrib	Yes	Done	N/A	No	1
Find	Yes	Done	N/A	No	1
More	Yes	Done	N/A	No	1
Deltree	Yes	Done	N/A	No	1

Emergency Disk

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# What Is Left To Do

Detailed spec for identified work (Defrag, DS, etc.)

Spec for how to handle MS-DOS 7 (eg Restrict Apps which can be run on Base Chicago)

Plan for other features to make windows more appealing for command-line lovers.