vDos - Readme

vDos is a 32-bit Windows program emulating a DOS PC. There's also a not publicly advertised 64-bit version. That however doesn't add anything to the 32-bit version (running in Windows 32 and 64), but confusion, a larger footprint and slightly slower execution. It's only required for Wine under macOS Catalina and later.

vDos emulates only the hardware (like of course a CPU) and software (BIOS, DOS…) components required for serious DOS programs to function properly. If you **don't still use** (so rely on) a DOS application, but want to play/experiment with DOS, its command prompt, programs or games: **Forget about vDos**, it is not meant for you!

Specific key/mouse combinations:

- Win+F11 decreases, Win+F12 increases the font and so the window size. You can also use Ctrl+Mousewheel.
- Ctrl+S starts printing if the TIO:SPOOL (see Printing.pdf) option is in effect.
- Win+Ctrl+left mouse click starts selecting a rectangle block of text. Drag the mouse and release the mouse button: The selected text is copied to the Window Clipboard.
  Win+Ctrl+right mouse click pastes the Windows Clipboard text.
  Win+Ctrl can be omitted if the DOS program doesn't use the mouse, config.txt: no MOUSE = ON.
  Alt is to be used instead of Win with ALTMOD = ON in config.txt.

The vDos command line processor is intentionally quite basic, alternatively you can use another like 4DOS.
Added or modified internal DOS commands:

- **ABOUT** Displays a popup with information about vDos.
- **CHCP** Display or set the DOS code page (default that set in Windows).
- **CMD** Start a Windows program or command processor.
  CMD ["program"] [WAIT][HIDE] command line
  "program" If provided, the quotes are mandatory.
  WAIT Wait for the program or command processor to exit.
  HIDE Start the program or command processor minimized.
  command line Passed on to the program or command processor (eventual paths are those of Windows).
  Examples: CMD "notepad" WAIT mydoc.txt, CMD WAITHIDE /c mytest.cmd, CMD /c start /max notepad.
- **MEM** Reports the memory available to programs.
- **START** Essentially CMD /c start.
- **USE** Assign a vDos/DOS drive letter to a Windows drive letter, folder, or network location.
  USE [drive letter:] [Windows path\]
  Examples: USE C: D:\dosapp\, USE F: \\servername\share name\dosapp

The vDos command line processor recognizes Windows environment variables if enclosed by double percent signs. For instance ECHO %%USERNAME%%. Due to DOS limitations the maximum length is 127 characters, so for instance %%path%% will mostly return nothing. At startup, the vDos/DOS WIN_VDOS variable is set to the Windows VDOS environment variable, or the command line of vDos.exe.

If you have more applications and folders for them, with specific configurations, you don't have to copy all vDos files to those locations:

- Only config.txt and autoexec.txt are needed there.
- Create a shortcut to vDos.exe and give it some sensible name.
- Set the "Start in" property of the shortcut to the folder of the application (this will become vDos C:).

Printing:

- vDos supports printing to Epson, IBM Proprinter and PCL compatible printers. Mind, these are the printer types as set in the DOS program, the actual Windows printer type is of no concern.
- Read the Printing.pdf document for print options.

Windows programs:

- vDos detects when a DOS program starts a Windows program, and will then launch that outside the vDos window. This even applies to non-executables, given the DOS program allows to 'execute' such a file. The command line of the program to be started can be preceded with [WAIT][HIDE] (see CMD above).

vDos is provided 'as-is', without any express or implied warranty. In no event can the author be held liable for any damages arising from the use of this software.

vDos also comes in a 100% open source 'Base' edition, essentially the 2017.08.01 version, w/o printing and executing Windows programs. These are closed source, as are later developments. To alter the sources and redistribute your own version is subject to the following restrictions:

- The origin of this software (vDos) must not be misrepresented; you must not claim that you wrote the original software.
- You must make available all files needed to compile it into your version.