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Subject: Need program to read/write MS-DOS format in Pascal  
Posted by [pugsly%decvax.uucp](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 17:43:24 GMT  
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Date: Wed, 16-Jan-85 01:40:55 EST  
Article-I.D.: brl-tgr.7392  
Posted: Wed Jan 16 01:40:55 1985  
Date-Received: Mon, 21-Jan-85 03:43:40 EST  
Sender: news@brl-tgr.ARPA  
Organization: Ballistic Research Lab  
Lines: 21

Does anyone know of a public domain program to help read/write MS-DOS format (written in Pascal of course), on non-IBM-PC type machines? We have a need to do this on just about any kind of micro with a 5 1/4 disk drive. Apples, Osborne, Kaypro, etc... The reason for Pascal is that at least that much or it would be portable and the low level stuff could be done just for that machine. (Sort of like xmodem7 is patched.) Thanks in advance.

Oh, I have run across a program on a local R-CP/M system here called RDMSDOS.C which claims to work on CP/M systems.. But I am in the process of contacting the author before excepting it as Public Domain. I will let you know if it is or not.

David Roth  
...decvax!pur-ee!isrnix!pugsly  
Indianapolis, IN  
US Mail:  
COMMANDER USA Soldier Support Center  
ATSG-DTU-S  
Attn: Mr. David Roth  
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Subject: Re: Need program to read/write MS-DOS format in Pascal  
Posted by [shor](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 17:43:24 GMT  
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Message-ID:  
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Organization: U. Chicago - Computation Center  
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[]

- > From: news@brl-tgr.ARPA (David Roth
- > Does anyone know of a public domain program to help read/write MS-DOS
- > format (written in Pascal of course), on non-IBM-PC type machines? We
- > have a need to do this on just about any kind of micro with a 5 1/4
- > disk drive. Apples, Osborne, Kaypro,etc... The reason for Pascal is
- > that at least that much or it would be portable and the low level
- > stuff could be done just for that machine.
- > Oh, I have run across a program on a local R-CP/M system here called
- > RDMSDOS.C which claims to work on CP/M systems.

If it was done right, your RDMSDOS.C should work correctly on just about any CP/M system. The author should have used BDOS call 31, which returns the address of the disk parameter block in HL. Since the DPB is a fixed size across all CP/M systems, you now know where to stuff the information you have about the MS-DOS disk format. Needless to say, it's a little more complicated than that, since the MS-DOS FAT is somewhat different from CP/M's FCB, but it's really not that complicated.

BTW, could you send along a copy of your C program if it turns out to public domain?

Melinda Shore  
University of Chicago Computation Center