Lab 1-1
Using the Command Line
Internal Versus External Commands
Internal Commands

Built into the OS.
Already in memory if the OS is loaded.
Available anytime the computer is displaying a command prompt.
Generally, the more frequently used commands.
Examples include: DIR, COPY, PATH, CD, MD, DEL, TIME, DATE.
External Commands

Not a part of COMMAND.COM.
Located in another directory.
Must be loaded into memory as needed by the OS.
Examples include: FORMAT, DEFRAG, DISKCOPY, MEMMAKER, and SCANDISK.
Syntax

A specific set of rules that you must follow when writing commands.
The order in which you arrange the elements of the command.
The rules of grammar for the command line.
Commands have three parts:

Keyword  Parameter  Switch

Optional
Keyword - What action to perform.

Parameter - What is acted upon.

Switches - How to perform the action.
Keyword

A unique word or set of characters that identifies the action to be performed. Some are quite descriptive: FORMAT, COPY, MOVE. Others are abbreviated: DEL, DEFRAG, DBLSPACE. A few are little more than memory aids: EMM386 and MSCDEX.
Parameter

Additional directions for the command.
It may specify a directory or file on which to perform the action.
It may specify a hardware device.
It may specify a system setting.
Switches

A special type of parameter that enables or disables optional functions of the command. The \(/P\) switch with the \(\text{DIR}\) command displays the directory one screen at a time. The \(/W\) switch with the \(\text{DIR}\) command displays the directory in the wide format (five columns wide).
Two Common Forms of Commands:

Keyword | Drive/Files | Switches
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Or

Keyword | Source Files | Target Files | Switches
DEL SALES95.DOC

Keyword

File
DEL A:\SALES95.DOC

Keyword

File
COPY FILE13.TXT A:

Keyword

Source

Target or Destination
COPY FILE13.TXT A:
COPY FILE13.TXT A: /V

Keyword

Source

Target or Destination

Switch
Backslash Vs. Forward Slash

\ Backslashes are used as separators when specifying directory or file information.

/ Forward slashes are used to notify DOS that the next character is a command line switch.
Bad command or file name.
Getting Help.

Type **HELP** followed by the command you want to know about.

Type the command and then follow it with the switch `/?`. 