

## **The DOS Version That (was) Right For You**

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1987 was an important day for PC users. This was the day IBM introduced its PS/2 line of computers defining a new standard in PC hardware. IBM immediately discontinued its PC and XT computers and words like Micro Channel and OS/2 were added to our vocabulary. But while our heads were spinning at the technical beauty of the new hardware, and as we fretted about the implications of OS/2, IBM unveiled DOS 3.3. Although not considered a major upgrade, it had some important new features. Most obviously, DOS 3.3 supported the 1.44MB 3½ -inch disk drive which was now standard for AT-Class computers.

Most importantly DOS 3.3 added support for larger hard drives by permitting multiple partitions on one drive. Since the introduction of the XT, DOS had only supported hard drives up to 32MB.

This writer had a 40 MEG hard drive (*purchase price of \$ 895.00 in 1987*) with partitioned sizes of 30 MEG and 10 MEG size.

DOS 3.3 had no menu so a third-party program had to be installed. You then had to edit your autoexec.bat file putting the drive letter (C), then the directory (folder) where it lived and finally the executable file (.exe) to make the menu appear when you booted up. You also had to make the files and buffers in your config.sys file large enough to ensure everything would run smoothly.

The DOS Shell menu program wouldn't be introduced until DOS 4.0 (1988) and while it was a challenge to put all your DOS programs into it, DOS 5.0 was the best shell that was offered and that came in June of 1991.

Aren't you glad we don't have to do those procedures anymore!

If you would like to submit a question or suggest a topic for future column consideration, please email your questions or comments to: [info.vpcuc@gmail.com](mailto:info.vpcuc@gmail.com)

The next monthly meeting of the Vernon PC Users' Club will be Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria at the Schubert Centre.

We start off every meeting with a 'TANSQ' session. Come check us out!

Call Betty at 250-542-7024 or Grace at 250-549-4318 for more information.