

Running Wordstar 6 on Windows 7 Using DOSBox

IMPORTANT NOTE!

This file is now provided only for legacy purposes. Using DOSBox is no longer the best way to run Wordstar on a Windows 7 platform. The better way is to use vDOS which is a newer variant of DOSBox. VDOS is designed for character-based DOS programs like Wordstar, Paradox, etc. (DOSBox was designed for graphics-based DOS games.) For information on running Wordstar with vDOS, see see <http://www.writers.com/ws6-win7-vdos.pdf>.

DISCLAIMER: As explained below, I managed to get Wordstar 6 for DOS running on a Windows 7 (64-bit) computer using DOSBox. But so far, I've been unable to solve the printer problem which I explain at the end of this post. This means that I can't print anything to paper from within Wordstar. Since I use Wordstar for coding, this inability to print to paper doesn't much bother me. (I can use Wordstar to print to ASCII text files just fine, and I can then use some other application to print those files to paper if I need to.) But if printing Wordstar documents to paper is important to you, this method of running Wordstar on Windows 7 needs further work.

Getting Wordstar to run on Windows 7 using DOSBox is a two-phase process: first Setting up DOSBox and then Configuring Wordstar.

Phase 1: Setting up DOSBox

DOSBox is free Open Source software that you download (though they would appreciate a donation).

1. Download DOSbox from www.dosbox.com/download.php?main=1 and install it as you would any other piece of downloaded software. (I save it to file, then double-click on the saved file, and follow the onscreen directions.)

In the folder where you installed DOSBox there should be a useful README.TXT file. After installation, you should have a DOSBox icon on your desktop or in your Start folder. Double-click on it and you should see two windows, one labeled DOSBox Status Window and the other DOSBox version number. The second window should have a DOS command prompt like this: `c : \ .`

2. In order to run Wordstar in DOSBox, you have to enter several DOSBox commands. You can type them in by hand each time, but it's easier to set them up to run automatically by editing the DOSBox configuration file as follows.