



(For use with UNIX®
System V/386 Release 3.2)

Simul-Task 386

Version 2.0

Release Notes

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SIMUL-TASK 386 VERSION 2 RELEASE NOTES

Introduction

This document provides information concerning Simul-Task 386 Version 2. Refer to the *Simul-Task 386 User's Guide* for other information concerning Simul-Task 386. Topics covered in this document are:

- Installation Notes
 - Installing MS-DOS
 - Installing Microsoft C
 - Installing SideKick
- Software Notes
 - Applications That Cannot Run under Simul-Task 386
 - Colors under Simul-Task 386 within the XWIN System
 - Determining When **lp** Has Finished Spooling
 - The Asterisk Key on the AT&T 605 Terminal
 - Running out of Disk Space
 - Formatting with the /S Option
 - Cursor Shape in an XWIN Window
 - Background MS-DOS Process under XWIN
 - Running Flight Simulator

Installation Notes

Note that Simul-Task 386 is supplied on two types of media: 5.25-inch diskettes and 3.5-inch diskettes. Install whichever medium is appropriate for your system.

Installing MS-DOS

Path Length in AUTOEXEC.BAT

When you install MS-DOS applications, either with FACE or manually, be sure to check the path length in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file located on the C: drive. MS-DOS will probably allow you to make the path as long as you want; however, for any path that exceeds 128 characters, only the first 128 characters will be used. If the path exceeds 128 characters, it may overwrite portions of COMMAND.COM and prevent MS-DOS from booting. If this happens, invoke **dos -b** to boot from the MS-DOS System Disk. Then use **a:edlin** to edit **c:autoexec.bat** to shorten the path to 128 characters.

For FACE users only: If an entry is taken out of the path to shorten it, some entries on the *Programs* menu will cease to work. As an alternative measure, remove one or more packages through the *Software Setup* menu.

CONFIG.SYS File in MS-DOS Version 3.3

When you install AT&T MS-DOS Version 3.3, an additional line should be added to the CONFIG.SYS file located on the C: drive. This line is:

```
stacks=0,0
```

A number of applications require this line in order to function correctly under MS-DOS 3.3; the line is not required for MS-DOS Version 3.2. The error message "Cannot emulate instruction" is an indication that the "stacks=" line is missing from C:CONFIG.SYS.

Installing Microsoft C Version 5.1

The Microsoft C Version 5.1 setup utility does not work properly with some enhanced EGA display cards. If you have problems with any program, comment out the EGAROM statement in your **vpix.cnf** file and try again. Simul-Task 386 will use the EGA ROM on the display card.

NOTE

When you have successfully run the setup utility, uncomment the entry in the **vpix.cnf** file.

Installing SideKick

If you try to execute the SideKick V1.56A install program **SKINST.COM** from drives H:, U:, Y:, or Z:, the program produces the error message: "FCB unavailable Abort, Retry or Ignore?"

The reason for this is that UNIX System file system drives only support high-level MS-DOS file system service functions. If an application tries to access the MS-DOS low-level file architecture on UNIX System file system drives, the access will fail.

You can work around this situation by installing SideKick V1.56A on the pseudo D: drive. Then copy the file installed from D: to drive H:, U:, Y: or Z:. If you are running FACE, access *Program Administration* and update the form.

Software Notes

Applications That Cannot Be Run under Simul-Task 386

Simul-Task 386 does not support MS-DOS programs that use 286 privileged instructions.

Some MS-DOS applications packages are designed to use 80286 or 80386 privileged instructions to access extended memory (beyond the 640KB DOS addressing limit). These programs cannot run under Simul-Task 386. They must be run under native MS-DOS, where they then take control of the whole machine.

The following packages cannot run under Simul-Task 386:

- Professional Oracle V5.1A
- GCLISP Developer
- Paradox 386

The above list is intended to be representative rather than comprehensive.

Colors under Simul-Task within the XWIN System

When you are running CGA graphics applications, the colors you see may not be precisely the ones you might expect; you may see subtle differences in tone. The reason is that the XWIN System, rather than MS-DOS, has set the palette registers. Simul-Task 386 is using the closest comparable color.

If you zoom out from the XWIN window to full-screen mode, you will see the expected colors because Simul-Task 386 has reset the palette registers to the normal MS-DOS settings.

Determining When lp Has Finished Spooling

When you print files under Simul-Task 386, no message appears on the console screen when a file has finished being spooled to the printer. However, the **lp** command issues a message when it is done spooling the file. This message is ordinarily suppressed by the keyboard driver so that it does not display. The following procedure captures the spooling message from **lp** and places it in a log file which can then be consulted to determine whether **lp** has finished spooling to the printer. To create the log file, modify the appropriate LPT entry (i.e., LPT1, LPT2, etc.) as follows:

```
LPT1 /bin/lp > $HOME/vpix/printlog >2&1
```

You can examine the contents of **printlog** with the MS-DOS command **type** while you are in MS-DOS to determine that the spooling is done.

The Asterisk Key on the AT&T 605 Terminal

If you are using the AT&T 605 serial terminal in the PC scan-code mode, the <*> key, located in the extended portion (i.e., the right side) of the keyboard, will print an asterisk "*" and not a right parenthesis ")" whether the <NUMLOCK> key is toggled or not.

Running out of Disk Space

The Simul-Task 386 session can hang if the free disk space is used up. You can fix this by killing the Simul-Task 386 session from another terminal or from another Virtual Terminal on the console.

One reason this happens is that the pseudo drive C: never shrinks in size; therefore, the expansion of C: can use up the free disk space on the UNIX System file system where it resides. This causes one of the three results listed below:

- The error message "Not ready error writing drive C, Abort, Retry, Fail?" is displayed. This is the usual result.
- Simul-Task 386 hangs, in which case you must kill the Simul-Task session, as described above.

- The UNIX system hangs, forcing a reboot.

NOTE

When files are deleted from the C: drive, the space is reused at the next session.

Formatting with the /S Option

Under native MS-DOS, if you use the `/s` switch with the **format** command and the current drive does not have the hidden MS-DOS files and the `COMMAND.COM` file, you are prompted to insert a DOS diskette into the A: drive.

The **format** command behaves the same way under Simul-Task 386: You are prompted for the MS-DOS diskette. To avoid this prompt, issue the **format** command with the `/s` switch when the C: drive is the current drive.

Cursor Shape in an XWIN Window

When an MS-DOS session is in text mode in an XWIN window, its cursor is an underscore, even if an MS-DOS application changes the cursor shape. (One reason for changing the cursor shape is to differentiate between insert mode and overwrite mode.) If you zoom out from the XWIN window to full-screen mode, the cursor shape will be that set by the application.

Background MS-DOS Process under XWIN

If you start a background MS-DOS process from an **xterm** window by typing `dos -r &`, the process will terminate silently if you press `` inside the **xterm** window from which you started MS-DOS.

You can avoid this situation as follows: Zoom the process out of XWIN and back in—during startup or later, using `doscmd zoom` or the Simul-Task 386 menu option "(Z)oom OUT." You can also avoid this situation by starting MS-DOS with `dos -f -r &`.

Running Flight Simulator

Some versions of Microsoft Flight Simulator do not run properly under native MS-DOS or Simul-Task 386 in EGA mode with mouse software installed. Either of the following methods will allow you to work around this situation:

- Method 1
 1. Insert AT&T MS-DOS (Version 3.2 or greater) system disk in drive A:.
 2. Invoke Simul-Task 386 with the **dos -b** command.
 3. Remove the MS-DOS system disk and insert the Flight Simulator disk into drive A:.
 4. Enter **fs e**.
- Method 2
 1. Make sure you do not have the MS-DOS mouse driver installed; i.e., you should not have **device=mouse.sys** in the CONFIG.SYS file, and you should not be running **mouse.com** from the MS-DOS prompt.
 2. Make sure **buffers** is set to 30 or less in the CONFIG.SYS file.
 3. Reboot Simul-Task 386 when Steps 1 and 2 finish.
 4. Insert the Flight Simulator disk into drive A:.
 5. Enter **cd a:**.
 6. Enter **fs e**.

