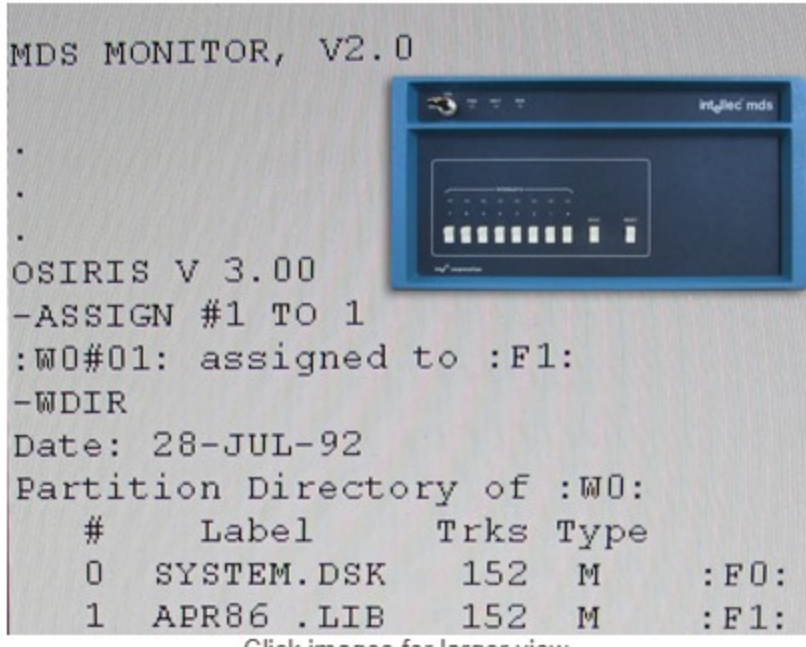


OSIRIS Operating System Archive

Last updated 30 Oct 2017



Click images for larger view

The standard operating system in the late 70's for Intel Intellec MDS800 or MDS888 Development System computers was ISIS and ISIS-II. Same for some future models including Series-II. CP/M would also run on these systems.

The OS on an MDS888 I'm restoring uses something called OSIRIS V3.0 and was possibly an unreleased interim version of ISIS or maybe a customized version for use with a hard disk, by Intel or a 3rd party.

This page serves as an archive to preserve this software and to explore with other vintage computer preservationists.

Hardware Overview

The system is comprised of these components:

- MDS888 computer with 64K RAM
- MDSDDR dual double-density 8" floppy drive subsystem (SBC202)
- UPP-101 PROM programmer
- External hard disk subsystem. Radio Switch #525 with ST-225 20mb drive
- 8080, 8049 ICE systems
- For more details, [see the MDS888 page](#).

Floppy Disk

One 8" SSDD floppy disk came with my system and it is labelled OSIMAN.300 System Mgr Disk.

Here is a [directory listing](#) as a text file.

```
-dir 4 i
Date: 28-JUL-92
Directory of :F4:OSIMAN.300
Name .Ext Blks Length Attr Name .Ext Blks Length Attr
ISIS .DIR 26 3200 IF ISIS .MAP 5 512 IF
ISIS .T0 24 2944 IF ISIS .LAB 54 6784 IF
ISIS .BIN 92 11470 SIF ISIS .CLI 41 4996 SIF
ASSIGN 33 4072 WSI BACKUP 73 9001 WSI
BYE 13 1531 WSI CHKDSK 54 6701 WSI
DATE 19 2227 WSI DIR 46 5747 WSI
IPART 57 7086 WSI IWDISK 43 5304 WSI
PASS 5 386 WSI RELABL 33 4024 WSI
REMOVE 22 2562 WSI RESTOR 63 7840 WSI
SYSLBL 31 3727 WSI WDIAG 89 11019 WSI
WDIR 32 3956 WSI DELETE 39 4794
HELLO 27 3224 PATCH 57 7047
INIDSK.CMD 16 1837 CPYSYS.CMD 3 239
RECOVR.CMD 4 267 STARTS.CMD 6 629
OSIRIS.LIB 9 918 RUN .MAC 2 9
SPOOL .QUE 28 3456 S00401.BAD 2 122
IBMCOM 25 3071
```

Here are the [floppy files in a zip](#).

WDIR

At bootup, the START.CMD submit/batch file runs and assigns the drives then displays a WDIR showing the partitions.

Here is a [Directory listing](#)

```
OSIRIS V 3.00
-ASSIGN #1 TO 1
:W0#01: assigned to :F1:
-WDIR
Date: 28-JUL-92
Partition Directory of :W0:
# Label Trks Type
0 SYSTEM.DSK 152 M :F0:
1 APR86 .LIB 152 M :F1:
2 CONTRA.VES 152 M
3 HEI582.SYS 152 M
4 HEI516.SYS 152 M
5 NEWS22.SYS 152 M
6 HEI530.SYS 152 M
7 JN1631.SYS 152 M
8 JN1395.SYS 152 M
10 TEMP .HEX 152 M
11 JN1560.SYS 152 M
12 JN1601.SYS 76 D
13 ABDEEN.SYS 76 D
14 JN1610.SYS 76 D
15 DRV516.S25 76 D
16 HEI522.BAK 76 D
17 KTMCH .SYS 76 D
```

SYSTEM.DSK

After bootup and the automatic assign's, :F0: is the first partition on the hard disk named SYSTEM.DSK.

Here is a [directory listing as a text file](#).

```
NEW582 85 10586 JER .OBJ 15 1726
RSSVR .OBJ 13 1425 CCIR22 52 6407
CONENC .SRC 248 31138 NTSC22.CMD 3 156
CCIR22.CMD 2 125 TEST .BAK 3 155
TEST .CMD 3 155 DAT516.ASM 35 4329
CJ922 .OBJ 10 1120 HE5828.CMD 3 166
T .BAK 2 47 GPIB4 .ASM 74 9193
T .CMD 2 53 JN2089 41 5066
JN2109 40 4922 J1642D.CMD 3 133
CDTEST.OBJ 2 73 HE5826 85 10589
HE5826.CSD 3 166 PROM2S.OBJ 5 464
COND6 .CMD 3 134 COND6 97 12043
TPROM .OBJ 5 422 JN1896.BIN 21 2482
HE522B 51 6390 HEI582 37 4481

7194

7254/ 7904 Blocks Used
```

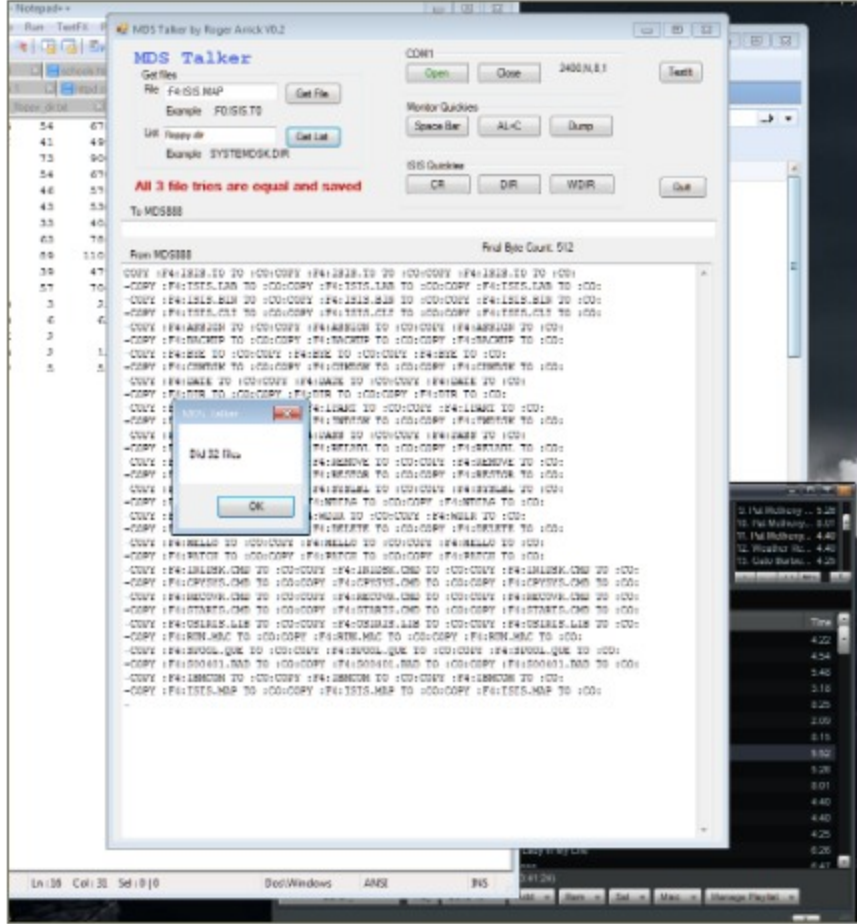
Here are the [SYSTEM.DSK files in a zip, excluding anything that looked like a user file](#).

MDS Talk

Capturing these files was done using a custom VB program I wrote called MDS Talk. It runs on a standard Windows PC using a standard RS-232 serial port. MDS Talk communicates to the MDS888 via its CRT port at 2400 baud (N81). The cable is 3 wires only - RXD,TXD,GND. No handshake is involved. The files are sent using the COPY command to :CO:. The allowed me to transfer the files without writing to any of the media in the MDS888.

With MDS Talk, I can boot the system providing a Space Bar, send commands such as DIR and ASSIGN, and transfer files. Data integrity is accomplished by transferring each file 3 times then comparing, along with matching file sizes to the DIR listing.

Here is a [screen shot of MDS Talk](#).



Alternative Transfer Method

Initially I transferred some of the files manually just to see if it was possible and it is. I communicated with the MDS888's CRT port at 2400 baud with a Windows PC running [RealTerm](#). With it I could issue commands like COPY :F0:FILE.NAM TO :CO: and capture the results which appeared as non-ASCII garbage on the screen.

After each transfer I edited the files using the [HxD hex editor](#). With HxD I could see and remove the initial CR/LF echoed by the initial command, then the final batch of text including the response "COPIED :F0:FILE.NAM TO :CO:". In the end, if done right, the file size matches the DIR listing.

Several files were successfully transferred this way and tested for integrity on another MDS including a large BASIC interpreter. It's not an automated process but I think you could transfer several dozen files an hour this way.

Ken Burgett, Creator of the ISIS Operating System

Here's a [conversation I had with Ken](#) about ISIS, OSIRIS, etc.

Related Pages

- [Roger's MDS800 MDS888 Computer page](#)
- [How to run Kermit](#) to transfer program on ISIS/OSIRIS.