

Mark Zbikowski

Mark Zbikowski is recognized as one of the core engineers behind the evolution of Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system. He joined Microsoft in 1981 at a pivotal moment when the company was expanding its software capabilities to align with the hardware advances of the era. Zbikowski's superpower was designing the file systems and programmable interfaces of several Microsoft operating systems. He led efforts in MS DOS, OS/2, Cairo and Windows NT and was the designer of the MS-DOS executable file format. The headers of that file format start with his initials: the ASCII characters 'MZ' (0x4D, 0x5A). He retired in 2006.