



Note: This IBM PC BIOS API call is for DOS/Win16 personality only. Use [Family API](#) for portability.

Note: [osFree Macro Library](#) provides macros for most of functions

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Int 16H, AH=00H

Version

IBM 5150 and higher

Brief

Read char from keyboard

Family API

[KbdCharIn](#)

Input

- AH = 00h

Return

- AH = BIOS scan code
- AL = ASCII character

Macro

[@CharIn](#)

Notes

- on extended keyboards, this function discards any extended keystrokes, returning only when a non-extended keystroke is available
- the BIOS scan code is usually, but not always, the same as the hardware scan code processed by INT 09. It is the same for ASCII keystrokes and most unshifted special keys (F-keys, arrow keys, etc.), but differs for shifted special keys
- some (older) clone BIOSes do not discard extended keystrokes and manage function AH=00h and AH=10h the same
- the K3PLUS v6.00+ INT 16 BIOS replacement doesn't discard extended keystrokes (same as with functions 10h and 20h), but will always translate prefix E0h to 00h. This allows old programs to use extended keystrokes and should not cause compatibility problems

Note

Text based on [Ralf Brown Interrupt List Release 61](#)

| IBM PC BIOS API | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Video I/O | INT 10H : 00H, 01H, 02H, 03H, 05H, 06H, 07H, 08H, 09H, 0AH, 0BH, 0CH, 0DH, 0EH, 0FH |
| Hardware info | INT 11H , INT 12H |
| Serial I/O | INT 14H : 00H, 01H, 02H, 03H |
| Tape I/O | INT 15H : 00H, 01H, 02H, 03H |
| Keyboard I/O | INT 16H : 00H, 01H, 02H |
| Printer I/O | INT 17H : 00H, 01H, 02H |
| Disk I/O | INT 13H : 00H, 01H, 02H, 03H, 04H, 05H |
| Date and Time | INT 1AH : 00H, 01H |
| osFree Macro Library | |
| Video I/O | @SetMode @SetCurSz @SetCurPos @GetCur @SetPage @ScrollUp @ScrollDn @Scroll @GetChAtr @PutChAtr @PutCh @SetPalet @SetColor @SetDot @GetDot @WrtTTY @VideoState @GetMode @GetDisplay @GetVideoState @GetEGAInfo @Cls |
| Hardware info | @Equipment @MemSize |
| Serial I/O | @AuxInit @AuxSendChar @AuxRecieveChar @AuxStatus |
| Tape I/O | @TapeOn @TapeOff @TapeRead @TapeWrite |
| Keyboard I/O | @KbdStatus @CharIn @CharPeek |
| Printer I/O | @PrnPrint @PrnInit @PrnStatus |
| Disk I/O | @DskReset @DskStatus @DskRead @DskWrite @DskVerify @DskFormat |
| Date and Time | @SetTime @GetTime |
| Mouse | @MouInit @MouShowPointer @MouStatus @MouSetPos @MouSetMickey @MouRegion |
| Memory manager | @ModBlok SET_BLOCK |

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| Family API | | |
|------------|-----------------|--|
| DOS | Process Manager | DosBeep DosExit DosSleep DosExecPgm |
| | File Manager | DosChDir DosChgFilePtr DosClose DosDelete DosDupHandle DosMkDir DosMove DosQCurDir DosQCurDisk DosSetFileMode DosOpen DosQFileInfo DosRead DosQFileMode DosQFSInfo DosQVerify DosRmdir DosSelectDisk DosFindClose DosFindFirst DosFindNext DosSetFileInfo DosSetVerify DosWrite DosFileLocks DosSetFHandState DosNewSize DosBufReset DosQFHandState DosSetFSinfo DosShutdown |
| | Memory Manager | DosFreeSeg DosSubAlloc DosSubFree DosSubSet DosAllocHuge DosAllocSeg DosReallocHuge DosReallocSeg DosGetHugeShift DosCreateCSAlias |
| | NLS | DosCaseMap DosGetCtryInfo DosGetDBCSEv DosSetCtryCode DosGetCollate DosGetMessage DosInsMessage DosPutMessage |
| | Date and Time | DosSetDateTime DosGetDateTime |
| | Devices | DosDevConfig DosDevIOct1 DosDevIOct2 |
| | Signals | DosHoldSignal DosSetSigHandler |
| | Misc | BadDynLink DosGetEnv DosGetMachineMode DosGetVersion DosError DosErrClass DosSetVec |
| KBD | | KbdCharIn KbdFlushBuffer KbdGetStatus KbdSetStatus KbdStringIn KbdPeek |
| VIO | | VioGetBuf VioGetConfig VioGetCurPos VioGetCurType VioGetPhysBuf VioReadCellStr VioReadCharStr VioScrollUp VioScrollDn VioScrollLf VioScrollRt VioScrUnLock VioSetCurPos VioSetCurType VioSetMode VioGetMode VioShowBuf VioWrtCellStr VioWrtCharStr VioWrtCharStrAtt VioWrtNAttr VioWrtNCell VioWrtNChar VioWrtTTY VioScrLock VioPopUp |
| Tools | | BIND |
| Modules | | DOSCALLS.DLL VIOCALLS.DLL KBDCALLS.DLL MSG.DLL |
| Libraries | | API.LIB OS2386.LIB FAPI.LIB DOSCALLS.LIB SUBCALLS.LIB |

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