Converting .DSK files to .PO Files

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How to Use DSK2PO on a Windows Desktop

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When I received my BOOTI[1] device, I quickly found out that I was not able to load my .DSK files for use on the card. The BOOTI device requires archival files to be in ProDOS block order (.PO) rather than in DOS track/sector order (.DSK), meaning I had to find a way to convert my .DSK files to .PO files.

With a <u>lot</u> of help from Chris Torrence (www.CT6502.org), I was able to accomplish this using a Python script called ***DSK2PO.py*** which, as the name suggests, converts .DSK files to .PO files.

Not being a Python programmer myself, and literally just starting to get into the Python environment, Chris guided me to success. I decided to put down the step-by-step, cookbook directions for using DSK2PO.py in a kind of "How To... For Dummies" – that is, assuming the reader has absolutely no experience with Python on their Windows system.

So without further ado...

How to Use DSK2PO on a Windows Desktop

In this example, we will be working on the Windows 10 desktop to convert a game file named *pegasus2* in .DSK format to *pegasus2* in .PO format. Commands are shown in **boldface**, filenames are *italicized*, and "<enter>" means you press the Enter key on your keyboard.

Critical Note: If you wish to keep a copy of your original .DSK file, make sure you have a copy of it somewhere other than your desktop directory as *dsk2po.py* <u>replaces</u> the .dsk file with a .po file!

1. Right-click on the Windows icon (lower left of screen) and select:

   Windows Powershell (Admin)

2. In the Powershell window, change the current directory to your desktop directory using the command:

   cd C:/users/{yourname}/desktop

3. In the Powershell window, type: **python** <enter>

   If python is not available on your system, you will be taken to the Microsoft Store to install. Once python is installed:

4. In the Powershell window, type: **python** <enter>

5. You should be in the python environment. If so, type: **quit**() <enter>

6. On your Windows desktop, copy *dsk2po.py* to your desktop.

7. Copy the file which you wish to convert to the desktop; e.g., "pegasus2.dsk"

8. In the Powershell window, type:

   python dsk2po.py yourfile.dsk <enter>

9. You will see the following in the Powershell window:

   dsk2po - convert dsk files to po files
   Writing po image to pegasus2.po

   and then you are returned to the Powershell cursor.

10. On your desktop, your original file *pegasus2.dsk* will be replaced with *pegasus2.po*. You are finished!

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[1] *"The BOOTI card is a hard drive emulator that allows you to mount up to 8 disk images in any Apple II (II, II+, original or enhanced IIe, and IIgs)."* You may order the BOOTI card from Chris Torrence at:

https://ct6502.org/product/apple-ii-booti/

The BOOTI card is a nice hard drive emulator card at a very reasonable cost – far less than alternatives available. One of it's best features is that it uses USB thumbdrives, meaning you can connect a USB extension cable to the BOOTI and route the business end outside the case, making changing thumbdrives a breeze!