



OttoTask - An Enhanced Task List for Windows 3.1

Purpose

Replace the Win 3.1 task manager, and add features to control existing programs and launch new ones. Provide quick access to 6 of your favorite utilities.

Prerequisites

Windows 3.1 including **toolhelp.dll**.

Installation

- (1) Copy **ottotask.exe** to you Windows directory, usually `c:\windows`.
- (2) Edit your **system.ini** file using notepad or other ASCII editor, and add the following line to the boot section:

```
[Boot]
taskman.exe=ottotask.exe
```

- (3) Install the CTL3D.DLL *carefully*:

1. Check your Windows system directory for CTL3D.DLL, usually `c:\windows\system`.
2. If you don't find it, copy the new one into the system directory
3. If you find an existing copy, try using OttoTask with it - if it works, stick with it.
4. If it doesn't work, rename the old version to CTL3D.OLD, copy the new version into the system directory, and test it.
5. If other programs have problems(this shouldn't happen), delete CTL3D.DLL, and rename CTL3D.OLD to CTL3D.DLL. OttoTask is not compatible with your

system.

- (4) Optionally copy the **ottotask.ini** sample configuration file to the Windows directory.

- (5) Restart Windows

Operation

Double click on the desktop, or hit the **Ctrl-Esc** keys, to launch Ottotask. It appears as a small, fixed size window at the spot you last used it. There is a list box with the current tasks (running programs) on the left, and an array of 6 iconic buttons on the right. You can highlight a task in the list box, and choose an option from the **Tasks** menu. Click on a program icon to startup the program, or choose it from the **Programs** menu. You can arrange the desktop windows with the various options under the **Windows** menu.

Setup

To get the most out of OttoTask you need to setup some program items which appear on the

iconic buttons and the **Programs** menu. After installing the program you should be able to double click on the desktop, and Ottotask appears. If you use the sample ottotask.ini file, you should see some icons for the standard Windows apps which also appear under the **Programs** menu:



The program items are configurable by choosing **Programs/EditItems...** which brings up the following dialog box:



Use the Up/Down arrows to choose an item to configure - as you change the number the current configuration is displayed in the fields. When you reach the item you wish to change, you can fill in the fields manually, or use the Browse button to traverse the disk and find the program. The Name field is displayed on the menu bar under **Programs**. Start Dir(ectory) and Params(parameters) are optional, but may be needed for one or another application depending upon the DOS path and the individual programs.

Task Menu

The task options let you Show, Hide, and Terminate currently running tasks. You can also choose to Exit OttoTask and Exit Windows. To select an option, highlight the task you wish to effect in the task list, and make a menu choice.

The hide option is fairly obscure - your program is left running, it consumes resources and

memory, but you can't do anything with it until you unhide it. Why you would want to use this is unclear, but it's fun to try out.

Programs Menu

You can configure OttoTask to launch 1 to 6 programs using the **Configure Items...** dialog. These same items appear on the Iconic Buttons and under the **Programs** menu. You can also select the Launch item which lets you browse the disk to find a program to start. See the **Setup** entry above for info on configuring the program items.

Window Menu

You can choose to **Tile** or **Cascade** all open windows, or **Arrange** icons. **Iconize All** attempts to iconize all running applications (some windows will not respond depending upon their configuration).

Special Option

You can configure OttoTask to display an additional menu item under the **Tasks** menu:

Tasks
(...)
Nuke (oh No!)

This item is a last resort offer to use the TerminateApp() function of ToolHelp to end a rogue application. It will terminate most any application, but may leave Windows in an unstable condition.

So, you should only use it if all else fails, the **Terminate** options is unsuccessful, and you desperately need to stop one application in order to save data in another. As soon as you have saved your data, reboot the system.

To display this option, edit the **ottotask.ini** file and add the following line:

```
NukeOK=1
```

Of course, you are forewarned that using this choice is risky and may lead to serious problems. It may also save 3 hours of your work.

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