



SmartTop

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How To Use SmartTop



Introduction

SmartTop is very easy to use. Simply click on the SmartTop Icon and an extended version of the normal menu will appear. There are three additional items, one to access this Windows Help File, one to access the normal "About" box, and one that says "SmartTop-It", which is the one that does all the work.



Setting Windows "On-Top"

Clicking on the "SmartTop-It" option causes the cursor to become either an "upward facing arrow" or a "downward facing arrow" or the normal pointer, depending on which area of the screen the cursor is over. While traversing the desktop the cursor will be the normal pointer, and clicking the left mouse button will have no effect other than to relinquish SmartTops' control of the cursor. As you pass over application windows or icons the cursor will become either the upward or downward facing arrow. When it is the upward facing arrow, clicking once with the left mouse button will cause the window below the cursor to become an "always on top" window. Conversely, if the cursor is a downward pointing arrow then clicking with the left mouse button will cause the window below to lose its "always-on-top" status.



Starting Applications in "On-Top" mode

You can also use SmartTop as a front-end to cause other applications to start as "on-top" automatically. To do this you simply replace the normal command associated with starting the application with a command to start SmartTop with as a parameter the name of the application you want to start "on-top".

For example, via the FILE|PROPERTIES menu item in Program Manager, change the start command for the calculator from "CALC.EXE" to "SMARTTOP.EXE CALC.EXE". You can then replace the original Icon via the "Change Icon" option, and then the calculator will always start "on-top". Anything you start in this fashion you can always relegate to "Not-On-Top" later by using SmartTop.

Occasionally you may attempt to do this and with some applications it will appear not to work. This can be because the application in question has an introductory window that appears before the real main window of the application. SmartTop then sets the introductory window "on-top", but it goes away after a few seconds, leaving the real main window in "not-on-top" state. You can attempt to overcome this by adding to the command line, AFTER A SINGLE SPACE, a number indicating the window you want SmartTop to attempt to set "on-top", i.e. "2" for the second window that appears. For example the command line could be "SMARTTOP.EXE TARGET.EXE 2".

Note however that sometimes there are actually more windows than you can see, and you may need to use "3" or "4" or even more. Also note that if you ask SmartTop to set window

"2" on top, and there isn't actually a window "2", then SmartTop may loop waiting for the window to appear and you will probably have to use CTRL-ALT-DEL to escape from it. For these reasons MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SAVED ANY IMPORTANT WORK before you try! Also note that this doesn't always work, and will fail where for example the program in question is actually a shell that starts a second program.



Other Things

And that is pretty much all there is to it. You can click the right button to cause SmartTop to relinquish control of the cursor if you change your mind. You can also use SmartTop to set itself as always on top, a state which it remembers from run to run. Note that if you use SmartTop to set or remove the always-on-top status of an application that also has that capability itself, then the application in question may get a bit confused. For example, Windows Help can end up displaying a check-mark next to its "Always-On-Top" menu item when it isn't in fact in that state, because it assumes that it is in the state it last set itself, and doesn't take account of anything else toying with it!



Advantages of Registering



On-Top-Time

The shareware version of SmartTop only keeps the Windows you set as "on-top" in that state for a limited period of time before they revert to their previous state. The registered version has no such limit.



And Other Goodies...

When we ship your registered copy, we always fill the disk up with the latest shareware versions of our other products. We at least always put on a copy of the latest version of our SmartCat Plus and Smart Accounts products, and include whatever else we have that will fit.



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In the United Kingdom

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3, Oakley Close,
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Cheshire CW11 9RQ
England.

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Fax (+44) (0)270 765272

CIS E-Mail 100024,1763

or by BBS via The Shareware Support BBS, on 0442-891109 or 0442-890807, which we visit at least once a week. Note however that we don't take orders via the BBS.

In North America

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CIS E-Mail 76226,2652

or by BBS via The Runway BBS, on 215-623-6203. Users of the BBS must join Conference 77

In France

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