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"GrabIt.WRI"

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In this file ...

Background & Feature Introduction

So often, so often we have to key in file or path names in windows or DOS. When we open Notepad or Word and want to open (or save to) a file in another directory or drive. I think most of us prefer to browse for that file, In the meantime, thinking impatiently, "Why do I always have to click sooooo many times for that single file!".   "Norton File Assist" in "Norton Navigator" is sure a neat way to solve it. It helps me quite a lot, but sometimes not enough. What's more, some programs, like windiff comes with Ms VC and all DOS programs, do not provide a browse function at all.

Whenever I had to do browsing like that, there was always a voice in my mind, "Why doesn't M$ provides a way that I can grab the file name with full path into clipboard, and let me paste to wherever I want!" The voice became greater and greater and finally it turned into a real product. That's my GrabIt!.

Installation and un-installation

Unzip the files into a temporary directory, surely you have done so. Right click on the file "GrabStd.inf" in Ms Explorer, and choose "install". This will automatically copy all the necessary files to C:\WINTOOLS directory and setup the registry. Currently you have no choice of where to install it, with such a small installation file. But you can move it to anywhere you want by the freeware Coa32 from ZD net. Wait till next version of my BIG installation program please.

You can always un-install it entirely by standard win95's Add-remove software utility. Besides, it won't take up too much disk space. The executable program in only 44K long. So small. Long live small goodies! You can delete the unzipped files afterwards.

Usage

Quite simple. After installation, whenever you want a full-path file (or directory) name, right click on it in Ms Explorer, and choose " Grab Long.f.n". Vala! "Your wish is granted".

You can find 2 menu items when you right click on any file or directory in the MS Explorer: "Grab Long.f.n" and "Grab SHOR~T". The meaning is clear by itself: click on one will get the

name of the file or directory, correspondingly in the form of either long or short, copied to windows clipboard.

There is a 3rd menu item when you right click on a file: "Grab Content". When you choose it, the whole content of the file will get copied to windows clipboard. This is extremely useful if you don't have a file viewer that associates itself with all kinds of files. You only need one instance of Windows Notepad and you can view any file's content. It's still convenient if you do have a file viewer associated as that, for those powerful tools always load themselves much slower than GrabIt, and they takes much space too. It is really not worthwhile to start those powerful tools for small file. For big files, I've tried to "grab content" of a 1,257,862 sized file. It took only a second or so to finish. *Oh, I can't believe it!*

Simple is the best. With my "Grab Content" you don't need to associate many kinds of files with Notepad any more. It can grab file whose size is bigger than Notepad can handle. To view the content, just "Grab Content", switch to Notepad, choose menu "Edit: select all" and then "Edit: paste". If you use my ACE (Alarm Clock for Everyday), Things get more easy. No instance of Notepad any more. ACE's clippad is always within easy reach. No "Edit: select all" and "Edit: paste" any more. Just a single click on "clipboard" is enough. And you'll find its "subjoin" function helpful at times too.

What if the content comes from a program's output, and you don't want bother create and then delete a file? Well, here is GarbIt again, use its stdin-reading ability, like this:

> **Someprogram** some parameters | **grabit** /s

The /s parameter tells GrabIt to read from standard input: keyboard, pipe or file redirection. I follow the /s parameter from the famous "List" and the list command   form 4DOS.

Please note:
•   To use GrabIt from DOS' command line, GrabIt must be in the current directory or resides in the path.
•   The length of stdin input is limited to 64K, about the same size Notepad can handle. The rest (longer part) get ignored. If you really want to grab the whole content, redirect it to a file.

Known bugs

Known bugs? Yes, it has. It will cause "trouble" when you launch your programs from Ms Office task bar -- the program refuses to launch! (To tell the truth, its name with full path is copied to clipboard) Only when I discovered this did I realize why such simple and elegant program ;-) never shows up in the world.

However, there are ways to workaround. It seems to me, the bug is not from my GrabIt but from Office: try right click a program on Office task bar, you will find the first menu item is my GrabIt and the second is the default "open", which means run. Office choose/run the first menu item instead of the default one! That's the real reason.

So here comes my first choice of workaround: always right click on Office task bar and click open to run. This is also a good habit even without my GrabIt, for you won't get to such nuisance: Click on a large program -- no need to be extremely large, Ms word will do -- after waiting for a few seconds, you don't notice any respond and click it again. Finally, waiting for extremely long time, you find you've got two copies of the program running! So, right click is the right way!

My second choice of workaround is: **give up Office task bar entirely**. It causes more pains than gains. It will annoyingly pop up when you don't want it. What's more, try drag and drop to Office task bar. It will not work. There is no reason to choose Office task bar. Try Norton task bar in Norton Navigator -- It will satisfy all your strict requirements, **including drag-n-drop support**!

Here is another tip that would cost you nothing. Try "Tray Shortcuts v.3.0 for WIN95" by Clovis Lofton. Bellow is the comment for the it form "Cool Freeware review" (http://www.yankeewebworks.com/wck/freeware.html):

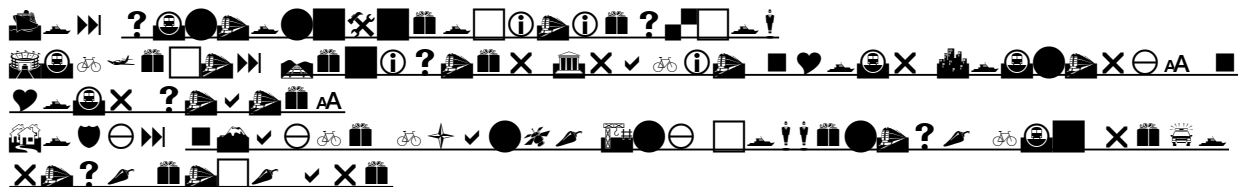

> *"Like having your most used programs in your tray but don't want to use up resources or have to "end task" too many programs? Tray Shortcuts is the small but excellent solution. This tiny utility lets you put shortcut(s) you want in your tray area. Merely copy the EXE to its own directory, in this directory make as many shortcuts to programs or documents that you want to have appear in your tray area. If you want it to run automatically when you start Windows, simply make another shortcut for the Tray Shortcuts EXE in your Startup folder."*

I know someone will object me. So I leave a last choice for them. If you insist on using Office in its own way, I've prepared another version of installation. But you have to compensate the loss for the gain: You can only grab directories in this Office-only version. To install this version, right click on the Grab4Off.inf instead of GrabIt.inf during installation.

Registration & Contacting the Author

I think most of you would like my GrabIt. I am sure it can be a five-star freeware and want to prove it. Please tell you friends to download it from ZD net for it is so small. But feel free to distribute this program as much as you like, but you may not make any modifications to the program **and this file**. You are not required to pay any money to use this program; However as **'payment'**, I kindly request you to send me an email. I want to know where my program goes. This program is free, but not public domain, and is (c) 1997-98 by SUN Tong.

Email syntax:

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•   Your state: Please choose a common used name or Initial.

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    http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Lakes/2659

The Legal Stuff

The author, Sun Tong, is not responsible for any side effects this program may cause. It will only copy the file name to clipboard. But if by using my program, you gain or loose   weight, or you loose your girl friend, that's none of my business.

Future Features

I know how to fix the bug -- try to register my program with a class ID. But I don't like the idea at all and I am quite happy with my workarounds. There is no plan to fix it in the near future.