cfOnTop

Version 2.0

cfOnTop provides the capability to force program windows on
your desktop to remain on top of all others. Some programs,
like MicroSoft's CLOCK.EXE, provide a way for you to specify
that the program's window or icon should always be displayed
above other windows. Unfortunately, most programs do not
provide this feature. *cfOnTop* provides this capability for
those programs that do not include this feature.

A typical use for *cfOnTop* is to force the icon for MicroSoft
Mail to remain visible. The MSMAIL icon changes appearance
when there is mail waiting in your in-basket. Many times,
however, mail will arrive and you will not be aware that it
has because the MSMAIL icon is obscured by a full screen
session, say MicroSoft WORD.

cfOnTop consists of a single program module, **CFONTOP.EXE.**
The CFONTOP.EXE program is used to load and run the program
whose window you want to force to the top. You specify the
target program/window via *cfOnTop* command line parameters.
The following command line will start the MicroSoft
Calculator mini-app, forcing it to run with its icon or
window always displayed on top of all others:

    CFONTOP.EXE /Scalc.exe

If you want the calculator to start initially as an icon,
use the **/ICON** parameter as follows:

    CFONTOP.EXE /ICON /Scalc.exe

The **/S** parameter must always be the last parameter on the
command line. You can also specify command line parameters
for the target program. The following example starts the
MicroSoft NOTEPAD mini-app with an initial file to be edited
as **CONFIG.SYS.** The NOTEPAD program will start up initially
as an icon:

    CFONTOP.EXE /ICON /Snotepad.exe c:\config.sys

The **/HIDE** parameter will suppress the display of the
cfOnTop icon during execution. The following example will
start up NOTEPAD as an icon, without displaying the CFONTOP
icon:

    CFONTOP.EXE /ICON /HIDE /Snotepad.exe

The **/HIDE** parameter is particularly useful in conjunction
with the **/MONITOR** parameter described below. The **/HIDE**
parameter is only available if you register your copy of
cfOnTop.

There are some situations where a program window positioned
permanently on top of all others can be very inconvenient
during actual use of certain program features. A good
example, again, is MS MAIL. Normally, I keep MAIL minimized
on my desktop, and want the icon to float on top of other
windows so I can easily tell if I have mail waiting. When
using MAIL in a window, however, there are time when I wish
it was not obscurring other windows. Particularly, if I am
reviewing a message that has an imbedded spreadsheet in it,
I want the spreadsheet window to appear on top when I
double-click the embedded icon. If MAIL is maximized, and
forced on top, then the spreadsheet window can never be
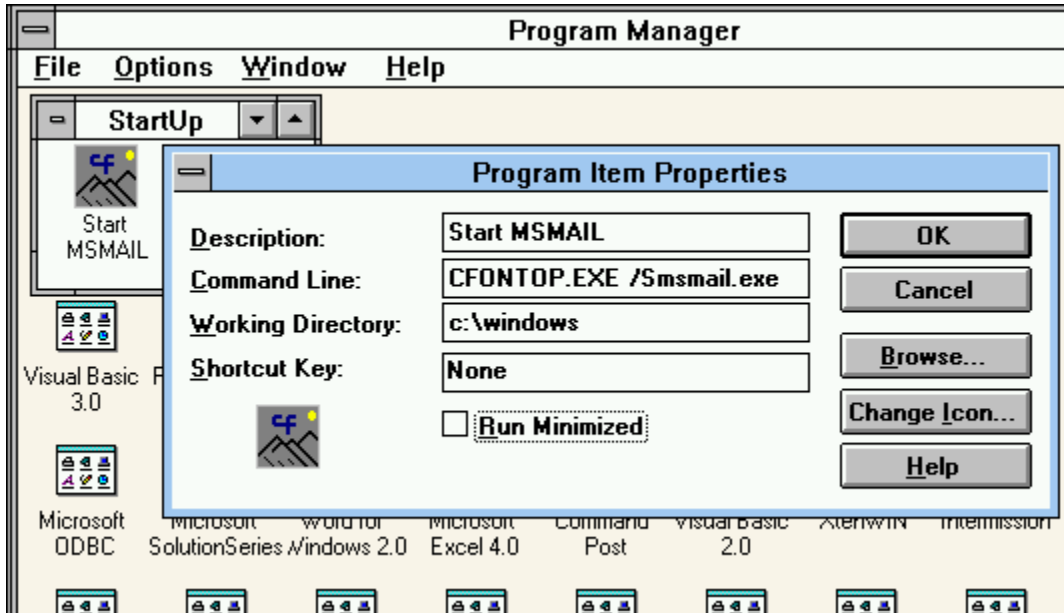displayed!

The **/MONITOR** parameter is used to tell *cfOnTop* to remain in
memory after it has started the targeted program, and
continually monitor the target program's window. When the
target program is minimized, *cfOnTop* forces the icon to the
top of the desktop. When the program is NOT minimized,
cfOnTop removes the program's window from the top of the
desktop, allowing it to move normally relative to other
windows. The following example starts MS MAIL as an icon,
and monitors it's window's status, forcing it to the top of
the desktop only when it is minimized. The CFONTOP icon
remains hidden:

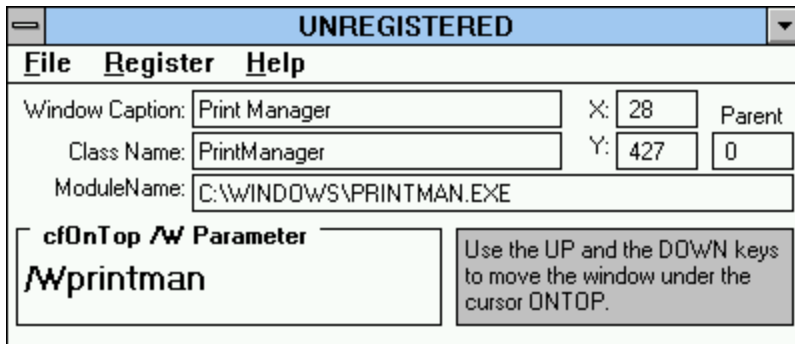   **CFONTOP.EXE /ICON /MONITOR /HIDE /Smsmail.exe**

Once the target program terminates, *cfOnTop* will remove
itself from memory.

It is easy to add *cfOnTop* to your Program Manager setup one
or more times to start your programs with your choice of
cfOnTop parameters. The following shows a setup using
cfOnTop to start MSMAIL as an 'on top' window each time

Windows is started (**StartUp** Program Group items are run each time Windows is started). The dialog box that is displayed below is opened using the Program Manager FILE - PROPERTIES menu command:

Finally, the **/INFO** parameter can be specified to view information about windows currently displayed on the desktop. The dialog box below will be displayed, and as you move the mouse over various windows on the desktop, information about the window underneath the mouse cursor will be displayed within the *cfOnTop* dialog box:

If the *cfOnTop* window is active (highlighted title bar), then the gray text box in the bottom right corner of the above dialog box will be displayed. The window that is currently under the mouse cursor (and whose information is displayed in the above dialog box) can be moved to the top via the UP key on the keyboard, or removed from the top with the DOWN key.

INSTALLATION

Installation of *cfOnTop* is straightforward. Copy the
following files to the indicated directories:

CFONTOP.EXE   to   **Windows Directory**   (c:\windows)
README.WRI   to   **Windows Directory**   (c:\windows)
VBRUN300.DLL   to   **System Directory**   (c:\windows\system)

CharityWare

and the

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

The *cfOnTop* program is distributed as CharityWare, meaning
that you are free to try it to see if you like it, but if
you intend to keep using it, you are asked to contribute a
small amount to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

If you find this program useful, please send a check ($10.00
suggested) made out to the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** to the
following address:

> **cfOnTop Registration**
> **11296 Briarstone Dr.**
> **St. Louis, MO 63126-3453**

If you cannot afford to contribute, but still wish to use
this program, send a request (no check) to the above
address.

Upon receipt of your registration request, a registration
number will be sent to you via return mail. Once you
receive your registration number, use the REGISTER *cfOnTop*
menu command to enter the registration number. To display
the *cfOnTop* menu bar, double click the *cfOnTop* icon whenever
the program is running (you may want to run *cfOnTop* with the
/ICON parameter). *Your generosity will be appreciated!*

cfOnTop
Compu-Serve: 76447,1030