FormatMaster 1.3 for Windows

A Floppy Disk Formatting Utility

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1 PROLOG

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FMW is a fully functional Shareware product. Shareware is a computer program distribution/marketing method that permits potential buyers to thoroughly try the program prior to purchase. It is NOT free and it is not in the Public Domain. If, after evaluating the program, you find it to be useful enough to use it on a regular basis, you are expected to pay for it by registering with New-Ware. The registration fee is $25.00 and the registered version, which is NOT distributed as Shareware, will not contain the opening Shareware screen nor the closing messages. A special TSR version that occupies only 6K of normal RAM that can be called from any application is available for an additional $10.00.

You may register FormatMaster in one of the following ways:

1) By mail with check or money order to:

New-Ware
8050 Camino Kiosco
San Diego, CA 92122-1820

2) By telephone with Visa/Mastercard to:

New-Ware
(619) 455-6225
Business hours ONLY please!
Monday thru Friday
    9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time
Saturday
    9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time

3) Electronically through the New-Ware BBS:

New-Ware BBS
(619) 455-5226
24 Hours per day
7 Days per week

4) Users in Japan:

Call P. & A. Ltd. at 0425-46-9141.

The New-Ware BBS operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Node #1 is dedicated to registered users only. Nodes #2 is open to all callers. Users registering via the BBS receive access to the latest registered version within 1 day after leaving their credit card data. Users who register by mail or phone may also access the registered version by BBS, but you MUST log on and leave a comment to the sysop to the effect that you are a registered user and desire access. The author can also be reached on CIS via PPN 71535,665 (please use EMAIL).

The Shareware version of FormatMaster may be freely copied and passed on to other individual users for their evaluation. Disk vendors and/or distributors that desire to distribute FormatMaster must adhere to the guidelines specified in the file named VENDOR.DOC.

3 VERSION HISTORY

Version 1.0
   - Initial release.

Version 1.1
   - Fixed bug that caused problem writing the FAT in certain
     systems after detecting bad sectors.
   - Fixed bug with electing to format another disk.

Version 1.2
   - Fixed minor bug that prevented saving/loading disk volume
     labels greater than 10 characters in length.

4 REGISTERING FORMATMASTER

FormatMaster for Windows is a Shareware product. It is NOT public domain software. New-Ware urges those who find FormatMaster to be of sufficient utility so as to use it on a regular basis to remit a registration fee of $25.00. Registered users will receive a copy of FormatMaster on disk that has the opening Shareware information screen removed. In addition, registered users will have access the Shareware Products BBS for retrieval of all future registered versions of FormatMaster. Selecting the Registration item from the program main menu will result in a pop-up window that will prompt you for all the necessary information and then print the form for mailing.

Registering FormatMaster is easy and may be accomplished in one of following ways:

  (1) Mail a check or money order in the amount of $25.00
       payable to New-Ware. California residents MUST

add 7.25% sales tax ($26.81 total).

(2) Mail your Visa or Mastercard number, card expiration
     date, phone number, and signature to New-Ware.

(3) Call (619) 455-6225 and leave your Visa or
     MasterCard number, expiration date, name and
     address, and phone number. NOTE: The answering
     system is a highly secure digital computer.

(4) Call the Shareware Products BBS and register on
     line. The number is (619) 455-5226, N/8/1,
     1200/2400/9600 (HST) baud. Your credit card can usually
     be validated within one day and this is the quickest
     way to get a copy of the registered version.

(5) In Japan please call P. & A. Ltd. at 0425-46-9141

    FormatMaster will be shipped via first class mail within two days
of receipt of a registration. If you are using Visa or Mastercard for
payment please ensure that you include the full card number (i.e., 1234
5678 0000 1234) and the card expiration date. Visa or Mastercard only,
please. No other credit cards can be accepted.

    If you call the voice number to register, you may get an answering
machine. Have your card or the form printed by FormatMaster ready so
you can leave your registration information quickly and accurately. The
answering machine is operated via a computer and is extremely secure.

5 WHAT IS FORMATMASTER

    FormatMaster for Windows (hereafter called FMW) is a sophisticated
yet easy to use program that specializes in formatting 3 1/2" and 5 1/4"
floppy diskettes. It offers time and labor saving features such as
configurable volume label and sequential serial numbers and a feature
that allows you to created a floppy disk that will pass the boot
sequence on to your hard drive.

6 INSTALLING FMW

    FMW is easy to install. Simply place FMW.EXE, FMW.HLP, and FMW.INI
in a directory on your hard disk. Start Windows and select the group
you wish FMW to reside in. Then select "File" from the PM main menu and
then select "New". A dialog box entitled "New Program Object" will
appear. Click the "Program Item" button and then click. The "Program
Item Properties" dialog box will appear. You should enter a short

textual description and then enter the full DOS path name for FMW. For example, suppose you created a directory named D:\WINUTIL\FMW and placed the FMW files there. Your entry into the "Command Line" field would be D:\WINUTIL\FMW\FMW.EXE. Leave the working directory entry blank and click on the "Change Icon" button. The FMW icon will appear. Click the "Okay" button and then you can simply click on the FMW icon any time you wish to run FMW.

7 THE FMW MAIN DISPLAY

   The main FMW display is organized into several main areas. The Options area contains seven check boxes that control various formatting options. There is an area where you may enter a disk volume label and/or a serial number. The top right quarter of the main display contains controls that select the target drive and whether the operation is to low (360K/720K) or high (1.2M/1.4M) density.

   There is a nine action button array where all of the FMW formatting operations may be launched. Please consult the FMW on-line help feature (F1) for more specific information.

   The bottom area of the display contains a status line that indicates which is the active drive and which capacity is currently set for that drive.

   Please note that the FMW main menu provides access to the same functions as do the Action Buttons and that each menu displays which accelerator keys control which functions.

8 EASY REGISTRATION

   FMW provides a registration template which can be filled out and set to your printer. Press the Alt+R key or access the "Help" menu and select the "Register FMW" item. Remember to use the Tab key to move from one field to the next and only press the Enter key if you are ready to print.

8.1 VOLUME LABEL LINE INPUT EDITOR

   You may enter a volume label by selecting the line editor that is labeled "volume Label". Up to 11 DOS legal characters may be entered here.

   FMW will label a freshly formatted target disk with the volume label that is in the line editor if the Options "Add Label" box is checked.

See the next section for how the volume label is used with disk serial numbers.

8.2 SERIAL NUMBER INPUT EDITOR

To use this feature, check the "add Serial #" box. Then select the "serial Num:" input editor and type any legal serial number. FMW will add the serial number to the volume label immediately after formatting a target diskette. If you desire to sequentially increment the serial number as a series of disks are formatted, check the "Incr Serial #" option. For example, if the "Volume Label" field contains "MYDISK" and the "Serial Num:" field contains "1000" and the "add Serial #" option is checked, FMW will add "MYDISK1000", "MYDISK1001", "MYDISK1002", etc., successively to each disk formatted. The volume label field can be blank and the "Add Label" option does not need to be checked.

8.3 COMMAND PUSH BUTTONS

A 3 x 3 array of nine command push buttons occupies the lower right quadrant of the FMW main window. Each button has a name that describes the command function that will be performed when the button is pushed. For example, push the "Quick Format" button to cause FMW to perform a quick format on the target disk.

A button may be pushed in three different ways. One way is to click on the button with the left mouse. An alternate method is to press the Tab key until the button is highlighted and then press the Enter key or tap the space bar. Each of the command buttons is duplicated in the FMW menu system and by one of the accelerator keys (Alt+Key).

9 THE FMW ON-LINE HELP SYSTEM

FMW is supported by a Window help system. To attain help at any time, press the F1 key or click on the Help button.

10 HOW FMW FORMATS A DISK

When the DOS FORMAT utility formats a floppy disk, it checks to see if the disk is already formatted. If the disk is not formatted, it performs a full track-by-track format and verify operation. If the disk is formatted, there is no need to actually format each track so FMW performs a track-by-track verification. In either case, FMW will initialize the disk boot sector, file allocation table, and root directory area and mark any bad sectors found during the verification.

You may check the "Force Full" box to force FMW to perform the track-by-track formatting of a previously formatted diskette.

    The FMW quick format option is the fastest method of initializing a previously formatted disk because it neither formats nor verifies the target disk. Instead, it reads the FAT and directory sectors, clears all but bad sector marks, and rewrites to the disk.

11 BOOTABLE DISKETTES

    FMW will format a diskette so that it is a system diskette which means that the system files (IO.SYS, MSDOS.SYS, and COMMAND.COM) are transferred to the diskette. If you are running DOS 6.0 and DBLSPACE.BIN is in your DOS path, it will be transferred as well. This makes the diskette bootable. Most diskettes, however, are formatted as "data" diskettes with no system files. These disks will not boot and your system will issue an error message and pause if you happen to have a non-system disk in drive A: when the system is booted.

    FMW can make a special non-system diskette that will automatically pass the boot sequence to drive C: if the special diskette is in drive A: with the door closed at boot time. To make a diskette capable of this behavior, place a formatted diskette in one of your drives, make the drive active, and select the "Make Bootable Floppy" item from the main "Misc" menu. The target disk should not be a system disk and must be formatted.

12 THE FM.INI FILE

    FMW is initialized at start-up by loading the FM.INI file. This is an editable ASCII text file that must be stored in the same directory with FM.EXE. The file can be updated in two ways. The preferred method is by setting the various options on the main FMW display as desired and then using the "Save FM.INI" function. The less preferred method is to edit the file with a text editor. Here a sample of the file format:
        ;Copyright 1993, all rights reserved:
        ;   New-Ware
        ;   8050 Camino Kiosco
        ;   San Diego, CA 92122
        ;   (619) 455-6225 (9:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM Pacific Time)

        ;Place this file (FMW.INI) in the same directory as FMW.EXE or
        in
        ;your Windows subdirectory.

```
[Desktop]              ;defines start position of the FMW main
window
Xorg=32
Yorg=9
Width=460
Height=390

[Startup]      ;affects FMW upon initial start up
Drive=A
CapacityA=0
CapacityB=0
VolumeLabel=
SerialNum=0

[options]
;yes will check the appropriate FMW check box
Addlabel=No
AddSerialNum=No
TransferSystem=No
ForceFull=No
NoWarning=No
IncrementSerNum=Yes
BothDrives=No
NoBeeps=no
ForeGround=40         ;amount of task time to the ;relative
amount of time allocated to the foreground ;when FMW is
formatting in the background
```

Since FMW may be operated in the background to format diskettes while you are working directly with another application, you may wish to experiment with the "Foreground=" item. The higher the number, the more time FMW will relinquish to the active task as it proceeds through is format sequence.

   You may place comments in this file, but they MUST be preceded with a semicolon as illustrated above.

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