Virtual Desktop

version 1.0

Introduction

Running multiple programs in Windows can get pretty messy. Programs get buried beneath each other, and switching between them can be a pain. This is where Virtual Desktop comes in.

Virtual Desktop is a DLL which allows you to expand the Windows desktop into "virtual screens". Think of virtual screens as having extra monitors hooked up to your computer. On each monitor, you can run one (or several) program(s), arranged any way you want (full screen, etc.). To switch between programs, just switch from one monitor to another.

Virtual Desktop provides functions that allow you to divide up the screen into as many "virtual screens" as you wish, both horizontally and vertically; switch from any screen to any screen; and tells you what screen is currently active.

Installation

Just copy the file VIRTDESK.DLL into your Windows\System directory (or anywhere in your path).

Using Virtual Desktop

Below is a listing of the functions contained in VIRTDESK.DLL and their descriptions.

Declare Function InitVirtDesk% Lib "virtdesk.dll" (ByVal X%, ByVal Y%)

This function initializes the DLL and sets up the number of "virtual screens" both horizontally and vertically respectively.

Call this function only once in your program (the Form_Load or Sub Main event is a good place for this). Successive calls to this function will be ignored.

Example:
ret%=InitVirtDesk(4, 3) 'Set up a virtual desk 4 wide and 3 tall

Returns:
1 or greater on success, 0 on failure

Declare Function SetVirtDesk% Lib "virtdesk.dll" (ByVal X%, ByVal Y%)

This function sets the current horizontal and vertical "virtual screen".

When implementing this, make sure you don't leave the user stranded on

a "virtual screen". Make sure the user has a way back to another screen, and it is a good idea to provide a way to launch files on this "screen". See the demo program for an example of this.

Example:
ret%=SetVirtDesk(3, 2) 'Move to screen 3(horiz), 2(vert)

Returns:
1 or greater on success, 0 on failure

Declare Function GetDeskH% Lib "virtdesk.dll" ()

This function returns the current horizontal screen number.

This function is used in the demo program to determine what "screen" another program is running in, in order to switch to that screen.

Example:
ret%=GetDeskH() 'Find the current horizontal screen position

Returns:
horizontal screen position on success, 0 on failure

Declare Function GetDeskV% Lib "virtdesk.dll" ()

This function returns the current vertical screen number.

This function is used in the demo program to determine what "screen" another program is running in, in order to switch to that screen.

Example:
ret%=GetDeskV() 'Find the current vertical screen position

Returns:
vertical screen position on success, 0 on failure

Adding Virtual Desktop to your VB Program

Just add the file VIRTDESK.BAS to your program, and a call to the InitVirtDesk function, and you're ready to go.

The demo program should be able to answer any questions you may have. Otherwise, see the section on Technical Support.

Purchasing Virtual Desktop

This version of Virtual Desktop is for demonstration purposes only. You may try it out in your programs, but you are not allowed to distribute it. For a registered version, please send in the enclosed purchase order along with $14.95 (+$2.00 S&H) to:

Zane Rathwick
Indigo Software
6029 Machado Way
Sacramento, CA 95822

Credit Card Orders

If you prefer, you may pay for your order by credit card. Arrangements have been made with PSL to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit card orders through the following numbers:

Phone: 800 - 242-4775
FAX: 713 - 524-6398
Int'l: 713 - 524-6394

Ask for product #11768

Note: These numbers are for ordering <u>only</u> - if you have other questions or comments or would like to discuss quantity discounts, contact the author directly (see Technical Support).

When you send in your order, you will receive a distribution version of the DLL that will not have the copyright message. You will also receive the latest version of the DLL, as well top priority for technical support.

Technical Support

You can reach Indigo Software several ways:

America On-Line: ZaneR

Compuserve: 74633,1314

Internet: ZaneR@aol.com

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