

# Button Works Help Contents

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## How to Contact Us

We welcome all questions and comments regarding Button Works and can be reached via Email or at the address listed below. Be assured we will make every effort to respond to your inquiry promptly.

Please note that the operators at PsL take orders only - they cannot answer technical questions regarding Button Works, and are unable to put you in touch with the author. Their job is to process credit card orders and forward them to us. So please, only call the 800 number if you are going to register the product. Thanks.

**CompuServe Email Address:** 72772,1552

**Internet Email Address:** 72772.1552@compuserve.com

**Hermco Systems, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 556**

**New City, N.Y. 10956**

## How to Register

You can register Button Works by credit card, by regular mail, or via SWREG on CompuServe. The cost is only **\$19.95** for a single user license. This will entitle you to the enhanced commercial version of the program (the one without the built in sales pitch), as well as your first upgrade. For information on site licenses or multi-user discounts, please contact us by e-mail.

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### by Credit Card...

You can register by credit card (Master Card, Visa, American Express, or Discover), through the Public Software Library. Operators are on duty Monday through Thursday from 7:00AM to 6:00PM CST and on Friday from 7:00AM to 12:30PM. The toll free number is **800-242-4775**. You can also dial 713-524-6394. When you call, make sure to supply the correct product name and ID. These are Button Works (PsL Product ID **14357**).

**Please note** that the operators at PsL take orders only - they cannot answer technical questions regarding Button Works, and are unable to put you in touch with the author. Their job is to process credit card orders and forward them to us at Hermco Systems, Inc. If you have a problem with, or question about the product, please see the topic on [How to Contact Us](#).

You can also Email credit card orders to PsL at their CompuServe ID at **71355,470** or reach them through the Internet at **71355.470@compuserve.com**. Alternatively, you can Fax your order to 713-524-6398. When making an Email or Fax Order you must include the following information:

Name:  
Email Address:  
Phone:  
Mailing Address:  
Credit Card Type (Visa, Master Card, Amex, Discover):  
Credit Card #:  
Expiration Date:  
PsL Product #: **14357**  
Product Name: Button Works  
Number of Licenses:

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### by Regular Mail...

Please make your check out to Hermco Systems, Inc. and send it to the address that follows. Be sure to include your own mailing address and your Email address.

**Hermco Systems, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 556**  
**New City, N.Y. 10956**

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### via CompuServe...

You can register via CompuServes Software Registration Service - just **GO SWREG** on CompuServe and look for SWREG ID **7453**.



## Setup

You invoke the Button Works setup program from either the File Manager or the Program Manager File Menu; more specifically the Run option. You will find it in the same directory as the file you just unzipped (for those users who receive a diskette from us directly, the setup program will be on the diskette). Once invoked, setup will prompt you for a source directory specifying the directory it ran from as the default. It will also prompt you for a destination directory which defaults to *c:\btworks*. Setup will then copy the proper files to your destination directory and your *windows\system* directory, and automatically create a Program Manager Group for Button Works and the corresponding Group Items. When you are finished, you may want to optionally copy the Button Works icon to your Program Manager Startup group so that the button bar is activated automatically when you start Windows.

## Getting Started (Desktop Mode)

Welcome to Button Works! When the button bar is first loaded, you will see it appear at the bottom of the screen. To configure a blank button, simply click on it (or to reconfigure a button, just click on it while holding down the CTRL key). A special window will appear which contains all the Program Manager groups and their respective items. First choose a group, then select an item within that group and click on the Use button. That's all there is to it.

In this mode the button bar resides at the bottom of the screen overlaying all other windows regardless of what application is running. To temporarily hide it from view, move the mouse to one of the bottom corners of the screen. To make visible again, move the mouse anywhere along the bottom edge of the screen **except** the corners. To configure other options, right click on any one of the buttons (or left click while holding down the CTRL and ALT keys together). For more information on automatic activation and deactivation of Button Works in Desktop mode, see the help topic on [Automatic Activation](#).

Note that in this mode you can also configure buttons by dragging and dropping files from the File Manager right onto them. However, in order to drag and drop icons from the Program Manager, you must be in Program Manager mode (holding down the ALT key while clicking anywhere on the button bar toggles between modes).

In the event that there is a conflict in the default key/click combination used to activate or deactivate Button Works while in this mode. See the help topic on [Configuration](#) for alternative combinations.

## Getting Started (Program Manager Mode)

Welcome to Button Works! When the button bar is first loaded, you will see it appear at the top of the Program Manager just below the menu bar. To configure it, simply hold down the CTRL key while dragging and dropping icons from the various Program Manager Groups directly onto the buttons you wish. That's all there is to it. A LEFT CLICK activates the application associated with a button, while a RIGHT CLICK displays the Configuration Window.

In this mode, the button bar is visible only when the Program Manager is visible. Thus when the Program Manager is minimized, Button Works is minimized with it. To configure various options, right click on any one of the buttons (or left click while holding down the CTRL and ALT keys together).

Note that you can additionally configure buttons by dragging and dropping files from the File Manager right onto them. You can also configure buttons as follows: If a button is blank, simply click on it (or if not blank just click on it while holding down the CTRL key), and a special window will appear which contains all the Program Manager groups and their respective items. First choose a group, then select an item within that group and click on the Use button.

To toggle between Program Manager mode and Desktop mode, just click on any button while holding down the ALT key.

## Configuring Button Works

The button bar comes with several of it's buttons already configured with a few common applications such as File Manager, Control Panel, etc. To changes these or to add new applications to the button bar you may use any one of the following methods:

When in Program Manager Mode only, you can simply drag and drop Program Manager icons directly onto the buttons you wish to configure. Just remember to hold down the CTRL Key while you drag and drop them.

In either Program Manager Mode or in Desktop Mode you can drag and drop files from the File Manager directly onto the buttons you wish to configure. This does however require some knowledge of the executable names of the applications you are dragging and the directories in which they reside. Unlike the previous method, it is not necessary to hold down the CTRL Key before you click and drag.

Please note that certain behavioral characteristics apply when using one of the previous 2 methods. If you drop an icon/file onto a button that is already configured, the old button will be over written unless there are blank button(s) to it's right. In this case, the button(s) will be shifted to the right before the icon/file is dropped. Note that this is the recommended method of configuration.
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You can also configure buttons in either mode as follows: If a button is blank, simply click on it (or if not blank just click on it while holdong down the CTRL key), and a special window will appear which contains all the Program Manager groups and their respective items. First choose a group, then select an item within that group and click on the Use button.

In addition, you can manually configure a button through the Configuration Window. Just RIGHT CLICK on the button you wish to configure and you can edit fields such as description, command line, default directory, and icon path, as well as assign various attributes that control the button's behavior when clicked.



## Deleting & Rearranging Buttons

A button which has already been configured can be moved to a new button position or **Rearranged** simply by holding down the SHIFT Key and dragging the button to it's new position. Note that certain behavioral characteristics apply when shifting buttons around. If you drop an icon onto a button that is already configured, the old button will be over written unless there are blank button(s) to it's right. In this case, the button(s) will be shifted to the right before the icon is dropped.

Buttons may be cleared or **Deleted** by holding down the CTRL Key and the SHIFT Key together and clicking on the button you wish to clear. Buttons may also be cleared via the Configuration Window.

## Displaying Button Descriptions

Note that since screen real estate is always at a premium, it was decided to display either the icon or the description, not both. The icon is displayed by default. If you want a text description instead, just make sure the icon field on the Configuration Window is blank and the text will be displayed in it's place. We suggest no more than four characters or things start to look a bit cramped.

## Norm, Min, Max

These options are mutually exclusive and determine the window state that a given application defaults to: Normal (a sizable window); Minimized (an icon); and Maximized (full screen). Note that some applications force the display mode on startup and override this setting. This may be set separately for each button.

## Lock Update

This option prevents a given button from being over written accidentally. This may be set separately for each button.

## Popup Menu (multiple instances)

By default, a button may launch only a single copy or *instance* of an application. This means for example, that you can only launch one copy of the Calculator program from the button bar even though the application itself permits multiple copies running concurrently. Subsequent clicks to the button will just bring the existing instance of the Calculator to the foreground. For an application like Calculator where it is unlikely that you will need multiple copies, this works fine. However, for an application like Notepad, this may not be the case. There could be times when you want multiple instances of the Notepad application running simultaneously, displaying different text documents.

When checked, the Popup Menu option will cause a button to behave as follows: a) if there are no instances of the application, and there are no Menu Items defined for the button, then a new instance of the application is launched; b) if there are any existing instances of the application, or if there are any Menu Items defined for the button, then a popup menu is displayed containing the existing instances, any Menu Items, and an additional entry to launch a New instance if so desired. Note that the 'Menu Items' mentioned here refer to favorite file settings in the *btwbar.ini* file.

The following is an example which illustrates use of Menu Item settings for a button which launches the Notepad application. The first three settings are text files commonly edited by notepad, though not necessarily associated with it via the File Manager. The last setting is blank. There can be up to four favorite Menu Item settings defined for a button. This option may be set separately for each button.

```
[Button 1]
Name=Notepad
IconPath=C:\WINDOWS\notepad.exe
IconIndex=0
DefaultDir=c:\windows
CmdLine=NOTEPAD.EXE
WindowState=0
MultiInstance=1
LockUpdate=1
HideButtonBar=0
Menu1=C:\AUTOEXEC.BAT
Menu2=C:\CONFIG.SYS
Menu3=C:\WINDOWS\WIN.INI
Menu4=
```

## Hide Button Bar

The button bar is automatically hidden after clicking a button which has this option set. Note that when in Desktop Mode (with the button bar at the bottom of the screen), Button Works is hidden from view completely. When in Program Manager Mode (with the button bar at the top of the Program Manager), the entire Program Manager is minimized and Button Works with it, thus hidden from view. This option may be set separately for each button.

## Drag Drop Server

It is now possible to configure a button as a drag drop server. What does this mean? Well suppose you are in the File Manager and double click a file called *data.dat* which you would like to edit using Notepad. You know for sure that the file contains text data and you should be able to edit it; however, the File Manager returns an error that says 'No application is associated with this file'. You have to bring up the Notepad application first, and then open *data.dat* from within Notepad. When a button is configured as a drag drop server, this whole process is made easy. You simply drag the file onto the button which contains Notepad and it will be opened regardless if File Manager detects an association or not. The same for any other application which is configured as a drag drop server. Just drag a file to the desired button and that file will be opened using the application defined for that button. To set up a button as a drag drop server check off both the Lock Update and the Drag/Drop Server options on the Configuration Window. This option may be set separately for each button.

Note that the Print Manager is special case of drag drop. Although it can be configured as such, you can only drag files onto it that are already associated with an application (this is unlike other drag drop servers which can accept any file regardless of association). The reason for this is that if there is no association, the Print Manager does not know how to format the dropped file for printing. In effect, the Print Manager configured as a drag drop server behaves like it would if it were minimized on the Windows Desktop. We just carry over that functionality to the button bar for convenience and compatibility.

## Narrow, Medium, Wide

This refers to the bevel width of the buttons as a whole and is purely cosmetic and a matter of taste. You may want to set the bevel width to medium or wide, at screen resolutions higher than 600x800. Try the different settings and see for yourself. Note that these options are mutually exclusive.



## Desktop Mode

Checking this option will cause the button bar to go into Desktop Mode automatically on startup. Then, depending on which Automatic Activation option was chosen in the Configuration Window, one of several methods may be used to activate and deactivate the button bar.

## Desktop Mode Activation / Deactivation

When in Desktop Mode, there are 3 options each for both activating and deactivating Button Works.

### Activation

1. Move the mouse anywhere along the bottom of the display except the corners (default).
2. Right click the mouse anywhere along the bottom of the display.
3. Move the mouse to the top of the display.

### Deactivation

1. Move the mouse to either one of the bottom corners of the screen (default).
2. Move the mouse off the button bar.
3. Move the mouse to the top of the display

## Registration Code

This is the field where you enter the registration code for enabling the commercial version of Button Works and disabling the shareware banner which is displayed on startup and on exit. Note that all alphabetic characters in the code are upper case and all 0s are zeros. Also note that once the code is keyed in, it will not appear the next time the Configuration Window is displayed. This is normal.

## Hot Keys

RIGHT CLICK - on a button causes the Configuration Window to be displayed.

ALT + LEFT CLICK - anywhere on the button bar toggles between Program Manager Mode and Desktop Mode. Note that when switching into Program Manager Mode from Desktop Mode, the Program Manager becomes active and visible automatically.

CTRL + LEFT CLICK - (while holding the left button down) allows drag and drop of an application icon from the Program Manager directly onto the button bar. Note that Button Works must be in Program Manager Mode to do this.

SHIFT + LEFT CLICK - (while holding the button down) allows drag and drop of a button from one location on the button bar to another.

CTRL + ALT + LEFT CLICK - on a given button causes the Configuration Window to be displayed (maintained for compatibility with older versions).

CTRL + SHIFT + LEFT CLICK - on a given button clears the button.

## Trouble Shooting

1. If you are running a Windows shell other than Program Manager or are running any other program that alters the title of the Program Manager window, you will need to specify that title in place of the Program Manager title entered in the [System] section of the Button Works initialization file, 'btworks.ini'.
2. When in 'Program Manager' mode only, there are certain situations where the title bar of a group window will be obscured by the button bar and clicking inside the group does not bring the title to the foreground. In this case simple click on the frame of the group window in question, or click on another group first and then go back and click inside the group window to make the title bar visible again.
3. This program requires **vbrun300.dll** which we do not distribute with our application. If you don't already have this file in your *c:\windows\system* directory, you can download it from the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe, or if you like we can send you a special Button Works distribution which contains it. Also, there are certain other .DLL files which are normally found in the *c:\windows\system* directory that are needed by Button Works. They are ddeml.dll, shell.dll, commdlg.dll, and toolhelp.dll. If for some reason these files are not there, you can restore them from your Windows distribution media, or if you like we can send you a special Button Works distribution which contains them.
4. A Command Line which contains a .PIF or .BAT file will always allow multiple instances regardless of how the Popup Menu option is set. Also, having multiple buttons for the same application may produce unpredictable results.

## Configuration Window

This is the window where you set attributes that effect both individual buttons and all the buttons as a whole, as well being the place where you enter the Registration Code for the product; manually enter/edit command lines, icons, directories, and descriptions; change modes, etc. To get to the Configuration Window, just RIGHT CLICK on a button and it will appear, automatically displaying the settings for that button. To display the settings for the other buttons, you can scroll back and forth inside the Configuration Window using the << and >> command buttons. Help may be obtained for changing the following attributes and options inside the Configuration Window:

Button Description

Registration Code

Narrow, Medium, & Wide

Drag Drop Server

Hide Button Bar

Popup Menu

Lock Update

Norm, Min, Max

Desktop Mode Activation / Deactivation

Desktop Mode

Button Size

Mode Switching

## Button Size

Button Works now supports 8 different button sizes ranging from full size to half size (buttons which are half as high and half as wide), which means up to twice as many buttons using half the amount of screen real estate. First bring up the Configuration Window, then move the slider control to the desired position and click on the Save button. Note that when shrinking icons there is sometimes a loss of image quality or some distortion present. The smaller icons may appear a bit rough. This is normal.

## Switching Modes

There are two ways to switch between Program Manager Mode and Desktop Mode. The first is holding down the ALT Key while LEFT CLICKING anywhere on the button bar. The second is the *Mode Command Button* on the Configuration Window. Note that when switching between modes using the second method, the Configuration Window is automatically unloaded without saving any changes.



