WideOpen

Version 1.4

Introduction (Shareware Version)

WideOpen allows you to take advantage of many of the new features of Windows 95 without having to upgrade your existing 16-bit applications. It does this by seamlessly replacing the Open and SaveAs dialogs of a growing list of popular applications with the new Windows 95 dialogs. In addition to long file names, you also get shortcuts, document icons, and many other features of Windows 95.
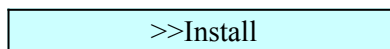
This document describes the features specific to the shareware version of WideOpen, which supports Microsoft Word 6. For a full description of the low-cost registered versions of WideOpen for other applications, please see ORDER.DOC.

To learn what has changed relative to previous versions, please see the revision history at the end of this document. Some of the more significant changes are: support for the German version of Word, correct default long filenames and file formats for SaveAs, and several important bug fixes..
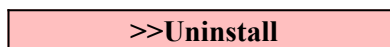
Installation

Before installing WideOpen, please uninstall previous versions of WideOpen (if any) and make sure that the WideOpen application is not running.

Double-click below to automatically install *WideOpen* for Word 6*:*

>>Install

WideOpen dialogs should now be automatically used whenever you select Open, Save, or SaveAs from the menus or toolbar. (Try it!)

Double-click below to uninstall *WideOpen* for Word 6*:*

>>Uninstall

You can also uninstall WideOpen at any time by selecting "Tools | Macro" from the menu bar and double-clicking on WidenUninstall.

Manual Installation

If you running any difficulties with automatic installation, it is simple to install WideOpen manually. Just copy WIDEN14.EXE to your WINDOWS directory (or some other directory on your path) and all of the macros in WIDEN.DOT to NORMAL.DOT.

Special features for Word 6

The WideOpen dialogs are automatically used in response to both menubar and toolbar commands, and for the most part behave exactly as if they were built into Word 6.

To temporarily use the normal Word 6 dialogs, hold down shift as you select the command. This is useful if you need a specific feature of the Word dialogs that is not supported by the WideOpen dialog, such as password protection.

One "misfeature" of Microsoft Word is that if you take a very long time to select a file to open or save (about three minutes), Word will get impatient and start flashing the menu bar. Simply ignore this and choose your file. After you close the dialog, Word will ask if it should keep waiting. Say yes and everything will work fine. I would be very interested if anyone knows a way to teach Word some patience! Also, WideOpen has no way to control the title displayed on the document menu bar, so Word will continue to use the short name.

Also, if you close a document by clicking on the close icon without first saving it, Word will use the old style dialog. (There doesn't seem to be any way to override this.) Selecting close from the menu bar works correctly, however.

Internationalizing and Customizing WideOpen *(for tech folk only)*

All of the WideOpen macros (WidenInstall, WidenUninstall, FileOpen, FileSaveAs, FileSave, WidenSaveAs) can be customized. This is particularly useful for non-English versions of Word.

I have attempted to make WideOpen language independent; however, I have not been able to test with any non-English versions, so I have no guarantee that this will work. Also, some file formats may be missing from FileSaveAs because I don't know the foreign translations of the format names. This version of WideOpen now features format names in German thanks to the help of several German users of WideOpen. Please contact me for information on customizing WideOpen for full functionality in your language of choice.

Also, by changing *filter$* in WidenSaveAs, you can add support for additional file formats. Just be sure that the file format description exactly matches the one that Word uses in the default save dialog.

Getting in Touch

Please send all comments and questions to *pbogle@lcs.mit.edu*.

Revision History

1.4   Made the default SaveAs filename identical to the actual long name of the document file. Made the default SaveAs format identical to the actual format. Made FileClose use FileSave instead of FileSaveAs. Made overwriting of already existing files using behavor correctly. Fixed a bug that prevented SaveAs from working in many cases. Gave the Widen executable a distinct name and DDE topic to prevent confusion with earlier versions.

1.3   Fixed the alignment of the WideOpen window with the application window. Prevented WideOpen from always returning to the default document directory after every file operation. Added default file-name in SaveAs dialog. Set document title property to be the long filename. Added shift-key disabling of WideOpen dialogs. Fixed a bug that prevented WideOpen from working with non-English versions of Word.

1.2   Increased performance on "underpowered" machines by making WideOpen a DDE server. (There will be a slight delay the first time the program is used; after that dialogs should pop up very quickly.) Modified the install program to work with international versions of Word.   Fixed a bug that prevented saving a file under a different format than the one it was opened in. Added additional save and open formats. Fixed a bug which made the Open and Save dialogs always on top of other windows.

1.1:   Added informative dialog boxes if WIDEN14.EXE is not found where it should have been installed. Fixed a synchronization bug that occasionally caused FileOpen to do nothing. Made the installation and deinstallation macros more robust. Renamed to WideOpen from Widen. Fixed a few typos.

1.0:   Initial version of WideOpen