Smartsoft Design SmartBarXP BETA4.9 – v0.990

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Introduction

SmartBarXP is a bar that runs down the side of your screen, and can be configured to display interactive panes, display shortcuts to common locations, or even replace your existing taskbar. A huge selection of panes are available to be added to the bar, which range from media Players and a running slideshow pane, to live news, weather and stock feeds, and much more.

To add to the incredible flexibility of functionality, SmartBarXP can be fully customized in almost every aspect you could think of. Every pane has extensive options where needed, and can be customized to function and look just the way you want it to. The bar itself can also be customized, with several options for positioning, auto hiding, pane scrolling, fading and translucency effects, changing the language and regional setting, and more. You can also select the theme the bar takes on; it can match your current Windows XP theme, the Classic Windows theme, or even use a third party SmartBarXP theme.

With a wide range panes to choose from, and seemingly endless ways to customize it, SmartBarXP can be configured to the needs of almost any computer user – be it for home or business use.

Installation Notes

Run the installation application to install the program, and then you can run the SmartBarXP from the start menu.

You need Windows Messenger 4 installed to run this program with the MSN features. If you do not have Windows Messenger 4 installed, then you can disable the MSN reference by running config.exe, which is in the SmartBarXP directory

NOTE: These will NOT work with MSN Messenger 5 on Windows XP. They may do the future versions, but for now if you want to use them you'll have to stick with Windows Messenger 4.

It is recommended that you have your screen resolution set to at least 1024x768. If you have a lower resolution, you can auto hide the bar and scroll the bar panes.

If you experience any problems running the setup program then please contact me.

What's New?

- New and improved visuals and transitional effects
- The 'Slide Show' pane has been updated
- The 'Clock' pane has been repaired and updated
- The 'eBay' pane has been repaired and updated
- The 'Weather Channel' pane has been repaired and updated
- The 'My Inbox' pane has been repaired and updated
- The 'Clipboard' pane has been updated
- The 'My Desktops' pane has been updated
- Themes and modifications have been reorganized
- The default set of news feeds have been reorganized
- New support for PDK1.0+ panes
- Several other new options and settings
- Several other smaller bug fixes and repairs

Skinning the Bar

BETA4.9 still allows you to skin the bar and/or the MP3 player. Skins should be placed in the SkinData folder in the SmartBarXP directory. This should be now done automatically by double clicking the theme file.

Visit the smartbarxp.com for more information and to download any skins or skin creation tools.

Custom News Panes

In BETA4.9, news panes can be added by clicking "New" on the "Panes" tab in the Properties dialog.

Languages

The language of the bar can be changed by creating a new .txt file in the Languages folder, based on the English.txt file. Language files can then be loaded by selecting them from the Regional Settings tab in the options dialog.

As language files are created, they will become available from the SmartBarXP website.

Notes on updating the Weather Summary panes

To update the weather summary, right click on it when it isn't expanded, and click 'Update'.
To enable auto update, turn this option on in the Properties dialog.

Known Issues

> SmartBarXP may not run correctly on non Windows XP systems.
> The bar looks strange if you have 120dpi fonts.
> The start button does not work with the classic style start menu
> The bar will use a large share of CPU resources if the VB6 runtimes are not up to date.

Troubleshooting

If you experience problems, then try running 'config.exe', which can be found in the SmartBarXP directory and disabling some options. If you do not manage to solve the problem, then enable error reporting, and contact me with any error messages you receive when running the bar. To copy error messages, press CTRL+C while the message is displayed, and it will copy it to the clipboard in text format.

Startup issues are commonly caused by one of two things; either the MSN reference, or the dhtmled.ocx and triedit.dll file references. Try disabling the MSN and DHTML Edit references in config.exe to bypass the problem.

Visit smartbarxp.com, and browse the SmartBarXP forum to see if the problems you are encountering have already been reported or resolved.

Contact

If you find a bug then PLEASE notify one of us.

Rick (Lead Developer):   rick@smartbarxp.com
George (Assistant Developer & Lead Tester):   george@smartbarxp.com
Liam (Website Developer):   liam@smartbarxp.com

If you are contacting us about a problem with the bar, then please state your computer specifications, and a clear description of the problem, including any error messages you receive. To copy error messages, press CTRL+C while the message is displayed, and it will copy it to the clipboard in text format.

I am open to any suggestions for additions and changes that I could make to the bar, so please email us if you have any ideas.

Visit the SmartBarXP website at smartbarxp.com for the latest information on updates and fixes.