

NeXT Application Bar version 2.1 - January 1992

As the name implies, this program was inspired by the Application Bar on the NeXT machine. Before I wrote this program, there were at least 2 other versions of the NeXT Application Bar that I came across. This program was written as an improvement over those versions.

For the program to work, you have to ensure that the following files: "NEXT.INI" and "NEXT.WRI" are copied into the WINDOWS directory. Then edit the file "NEXT.INI" to correctly indicate the location of the NEXT.EXE & ICONs files. The default location is "c:\windows\next\."

Features:

Version 1.0

1. The number of programs that can be launched by the *NeXT Application Bar version 1.0* is no longer limited to the vertical dimension of the screen (as in the other versions). In fact, you have up to 50 entries in the NEXT.INI file. (Well, it is a matter of changing the array definition if I want to increase this value of 50. But 50 is quite a lot actually.)

2. Like on the NeXT machine, the Application Bar can be moved vertically. To move it, place the mouse cursor on any part of the Bar. Then depress the right mouse button. Keep the button depressed while moving the mouse, and the Bar will follow. Movement will stop upon the release of the right button. (Note: If the mouse travels faster than the Bar can catch up, the Bar will be left behind. Thus, you may want to move slowly or to position the mouse at the center of the bar before moving.)

3. Double click the right mouse button once on the Bar (except on the NeXT icon) will cause the Bar to be aligned with the top of screen. Double click a second time will cause it to drop to the bottom of the screen, revealing only the program icons.

4. The Applications are launched by double clicking the left mouse button on the Icons. Like the Program Manager, if you hold down the Shift Key while you double click, the application will be minimized. You can exit the NeXT Application Bar program by double clicking on the first icon (the NeXT Logo).

5. The second Icon is the Tool Icon. It consists of 4 child icons that can be separately selected. The 'e' child icon allows you to edit the NEXT.INI file. Changes will only take effect on the next execution. The '?' child icon brings up the 'About NeXT' dialog box. The 'up' and 'down' arrows child icons work only if the Bar has more icons than the screen can show at any one time. The 'up' arrow child icon will scroll up the Bar by one icon. Similarly, the 'down' arrow child icon will scroll down the Bar by one icon. If you double click on the background of the Tool icon, it will bring up this file.

6. The NEXT.INI file contains entries under the heading

[Applications] in the form of:

number={application name with path};{icon name with path}

Note that there should be no spaces immediately before and after the semi-colon. The numbers should be in increasing integral values.

7. You can create your own Icons by using any Icon editing program available. In order for the Bar to look good, icons that you create should have a button-like background. You can refer to the icon 'blank.ico' for details.

New in Version 1.1

8. Yes, the NeXT Application Bar can be loaded as the shell, replacing the Program Manager. To do that, edit the file "SYSTEM.INI" located in the WINDOWS directory. Under the keyword "shell", replace the filename "progman.exe" with "next.exe."

(Note: Although version 1.0 can also be loaded as the shell, it won't execute the "run=" & "load=" entries in the file "WIN.INI" & it may not run well in all cases.)

New in Version 1.2

9. Now, you can scroll the Application Bar using the keyboard keys: Up arrow, Down arrow, Home and End keys.

10. For those who prefer the Application Bar to be on the left side of the screen, your wish is granted. By changing the settings in the file NEXT.INI under the heading [settings], change the value of the keyword "position" to 1 for left or to 0 for right.

11. The NeXT Application Bar now remembers the last position of the Bar before you exit. It also records the scroll position.

New in Version 2.0

12. An optional digital clock is added to the Application Bar. I have included the "seconds" status too. It can be enabled or disabled by setting the keyword "clock" in the "NEXT.INI" file to 1 or 0 respectively.

13. A pair of "Eyes" that tracks the mouse cursor is included in the Application Bar. Like the clock, it is optional and can be enabled or disabled by altering the keyword "eyes" in the "NEXT.INI" file.

New in Version 2.1

14. A restart feature has been included in this version. After making changes to the "NEXT.INI" file, you can double click the right mouse button on the NeXT icon to restart the NeXT Application Bar so that the changes can take effect immediately without having to restart windows.

I hope that you will find this program useful. This program is a **NOT FREE** software. The programmer has spent many hours to write this. You can keep and try it for a maximum of **10 DAYS**, after which if

you so decide to keep it, you are to send a "**MONEY ORDER**" of **US\$15** to the following address. Registered users will be given a registration number and will receive future upgrades at no additional cost (except S & H costs).

You use this program at your own risk. I will not be held responsible for any ill effects that this program may cause to your system.

If you have any suggestions or questions, do feel free to write to me at:

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(Note: Address valid before May 1, 1992)

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HAVE FUN!!!

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