WINDOWS PROGRAM MENU 1.06

The Windows Program Menu makes using Microsoft Windows simpler with a "program selector" that eliminates the chore of clicking through endless screens. You'll find no bells, whistles, or icons here to waste valuable memory--just a simple, functional tool to make your life easier. The design philosophy was, first, to use as little memory as possible, and second, to make writing the "menu.mnu" file easy. In keeping with the philosophy of doing one thing really well, we think the Windows Program Menu is a success.

DESCRIPTION

The Windows Program Menu is a customizable Windows program selector that enables a Microsoft Windows 2.x user to combine all the steps required to run a program into a single menu entry that can be selected with either the keyboard or a mouse. The Window's environment can be customized to be as easy to use as was intended.

INSTALLATION

To install the **Windows Program Menu** on your system, copy the files MENU.EXE and MENU.MNU to the directory that Microsoft Windows is installed. From the Window's MS-DOS Executive, you can run MENU.EXE. If you wish the **Windows Program Menu** to run each time you run Windows, put the statement "RUN=MENU.EXE" under the "[windows]" heading in the WIN.INI file.

> *NOTE: You can reduce clutter on the screen by having the MS-DOS excec window automatically minimize after running the menu, by putting the statement* "minimizeMSdos=yes" *under the* "[windows]" *section in the WIN.INI file.*

MENU.MNU FORMAT

The MENU.MNU file contains menu entries in the form of "command lines". Each command line in the MENU.MNU file is made up of four possible fields. Each field is separated by one or more spaces. Each command line contains all the information needed to run a

program. They are, from left to right:

[menu entry] [full path] [program] [data]

menu entry   This is what you see in the list box when the Program Menu comes up

full path   This is where you want the program to run, ie. which disk and which

            directory

program   This is the program name--including the extension (i.e., PM.EXE).

data   This is optional information to start the program with (i.e., a file you want

            to use with the program).

Note: If any field contains more than one word or contains spaces and/or tabs the information should start and end with quotes.

EXAMPLES

Excel D:\EXCEL EXCEL.EXE

This example runs Microsoft Excel. The menu entry is Excel. When selected, Windows would first change to drive D:, then change the directory (chdir) to \EXCEL, and run the program EXCEL.EXE. It would be like typing:
    D:
    CHDIR \EXCEL
    EXCEL

"Phone Directory" D:\WINDOWS CARDFILE.EXE PNUMBERS.CRD

This example runs the card file. The entry is similar to the first example, but has two words in the menu entry and includes "PNUMBERS.CRD" at the end of CARDFILE.EXE. It would be like typing:
    D:
    CHDIR \WINDOWS
    CARDFILE PNUMBERS.CRD

"Solitaire Card Game" ? SOLITAIR.EXE

This example runs the program solitair.exe. A question mark is used if the path is not important. It would be like typing:
SOLITAIR

NOTE: If the path is not specified in the menu item information, there is no way to know what directory it will be run in. Furthermore, if the program is not in a pathed directory, there is no way of knowing if it will work every time.

Here are some guidelines to follow when setting up a command line in the MENU.MNU file:

1)   A command line must be one line only.

2)   A command line has a maximum of four fields.

3)   Fields are separated by spaces.

4)   Fields can contain spaces if the entire field is enclosed in quotes.

5)   Fields contained in quotes must be separated by spaces also.

6)   The full path must start with a Drive specification (i.e., C:\ WINDOWS).

7)   A question mark is used in the full path field, if the full path is not changed.

8)   The "Data" field can be anything. If it needs spaces, it also must be in quotes.

9)   The MENU.MNU must be less than 8K in size. Any information beyond 8192
        bytes will be ignored.

10)   The Windows Program Menu has a limit of 50 menu entries.

11)   Comments can be used at the end of a command line. Start comments with a
        semi-colon ';' preceded by a space.

Note: Use comments sparingly. Although not counted as fields, they are included in your 8192 byte limit.

UPDATING THE MENU

After editing the MENU.MNU file, MENU.EXE must be run again to incorporate the changes.

SELECTING MENU ITEMS

Selecting items is the easy part. Simply double click on an item (click the left mouse button twice real fast). For keyboard users: Highlight the item you wish to run, activate the Control Menu (press [alt] [space]), then press [E] for "Execute Program".

MULTIPLE MENUS

You can even have multiple menus if you wish. You can specify the file name for the Windows Program Menu simply by adding it after the program name, ie typing "MENU MYMENU.MNU". The extension ".MNU", is used as default, if no extension is given, .MNU will be used. Adding the line "**mnu=menu.exe ^.mnu**" to your win.ini file under the heading "**[extensions]**" will allow you to double click on a menu from the MS-DOS executive.

DEFAULT MENU LOCATION

The position the menu starts at can be saved with the "Save Position" command in the system menu. The default locations are referenced by the menu file name used to start MENU.EXE. Many menus can be used and all have there own starting position on the screen.

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Now that all the legal mumbo jumbo is said: If you like this program, please send a donation of $10.00 for continuing Shareware programs like this and better to:

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VERSION INFORMATION

Version 0.1   Created   /*   Initial concept   */

Version 1.0   Released   /*   Tested version   */

Version 1.01   Updated/BUG FIX /*   Added /fixed features
        */

        (1)   At user's request, added an "hour-glass" mouse cursor
when loading
          programs

        (2)   Dis-allowed non-existent menu options from being run.

Version 1.02   BUG FIX   /*   Changed Window Class
*/

        Changed the "window class" (the name Windows knows
        this program as). FINDER.EXE, a program on Public
        Domain, does not register a window class, MENU.EXE did
        not register a window class either. Depending on this being
        the only "system level dialog box" was poor planning.

Version 1.03   Updated   /*   Changed Icon
        */

        Responding to user request, changed menu icon to what I
        hope is a more descriptive picture.

Version 1.04   BUG FIX   /*   Corrected keyboard
interface*/

        Non-mousers could not select anything in the list box. (For
        you windows programmers, I added a routine to "SetFocus"
        to the list box every time a listbox keystroke was typed)

Version 1.05   Updated   /*   added features
        */
        1)   Responding to user request, added the ability to run

menu with a
        file name other than menu.ini. and changed the
default file from
        menu.ini to menu.mnu for consistency.

2)   Changed default file from menu.ini to menu.mnu.
Added "Save
        Position", "Move To Default" and "Center Window"
commands to
        system menu

3)   Menu looks for a default screen position when it
starts up. The
        Screen position is saved by "Save Position" and is
referenced
        by the file name used to start the menu, so many
defaults may
        be used allowing the menu will pop up in a special
place each
        time.

Version 1.06   Shareware Released   /*   QAed and
checked   */
        1)   Added "begging" for shareware.
        2)   Enlarged Stack

END OF DOCUMENT