



Internet Text Translator for Windows

(formerly [DOS/UNIX Text Translator for Windows](#))

Shareware from **VB Expressions**

Copyright © 1994-6 by P.M. Chefalo

The Internet has become a very popular on-line destination for Windows users. This previously foreign territory is dominated by UNIX servers, full of UNIX-formatted text. Windows and Macintosh users have things to share with these foreign services, among them text files of their own. In your office, your "U:" drive may be a UNIX server with gigabytes of data storage - part of it text - and your "M:" drive may be a Mac volume, where you share information with your Apple-hosted coworkers. And, you may be transferring binary files through E-mail systems by converting them to encoded text files.

DOS, Mac and UNIX text files differ - by just a (different) byte per line! But that difference is enough to confuse some applications and editors in the three environments. Decoding mailed binaries, or including your binary data in your Internet mail, can be a chore. In addition, plain DOS text saved from early versions of Netscape Navigator is peculiarly double-spaced, collapsing when edited.

The VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows** (TEXTTRAN, for short) will help you bridge the gap between the Windows and the Internet (or any UNIX or Macintosh computer) by allowing you to convert between these differing text formats inside the Microsoft Windows operating environment.

The **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is a Copyrighted product of VB Expressions, 64 Burning Brush Drive, Rochester, NY 14606-4642. **Use without registration after 15 days trial is a violation of international Copyright laws.** If you decide that Texttran isn't right for you, please follow the instructions for deinstallation.

Overview

New Features

Installation

Operation

Watchouts!

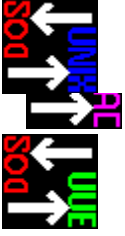
Deinstallation

To transfer from one topic to another, use the "Browse" button.

Click here on [Revision History](#) for the history of **Internet Text Translator for Windows** improvements.

All Product Names Trademarks of Their Publishers. All rights reserved.

Registration Information



The **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is a Copyrighted product of VB Expressions, 64 Burning Brush Drive, Rochester, NY 14606-4642. **Use without registration after 15 days trial is a violation of international Copyright laws.** If you decide that Texttran isn't right for you, please follow the instructions for **deinstallation.**

To register VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows** for personal use, send \$15 to:

VB Expressions
64 Burning Brush Drive
Rochester, NY 14606-4642

Kindly include the version number being examined and the source where you got the VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows**. In return for your registration, you receive the right to continue to use the program; and a disk with the most recent version of the **Internet Text Translator for Windows**, without the opening and closing "nag screen", without the nagging "About..." screen on usage and with all necessary support files. Please indicate the disk size required with your registration.

Registration is also available for this software delivered by E-mail for \$10. Send your fee to the address above, and include your E-mail address. You will not receive the disk, just the software, when registering by E-mail.

Online registration for **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is now available through CompuServe! The fee for this service is \$15, plus shipping/handling. The fees will be billed directly to your CIS account. The Shareware Registration database number is 5575. You will receive a disk with the latest versions of the files required for TEXTTRAN in return. "Go CIS:SWR" for more information.

For use in your business or a government agency, please contact VB Expressions to negotiate registration fees. You can reach us by E-mail on CompuServe, ID 73457,3603 or AmericaOnline, ScreenName PMChefalo. Our preferred Internet address is 73457.3603@compuserve.com.

Installation

VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows** will normally be delivered with the executable, TEXTTRAN.EXE, this Help file TEXTTRAN.HLP and the required CMDIALOG.VBX and UUCODER.VBX support programs compressed in one file.

The other required file, VBRUN300.DLL, is the Visual Basic Version 3.0 runtime library. Look for this file in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory - it may very well already be there, supplied by a shrink-wrapped commercial application. Otherwise, the on-line system, bulletin board or shareware distributor where you acquired the **Internet Text Translator for Windows** can provide this file. Because of the large size of the runtime library (almost 400k uncompressed), it is impractical to include it with TEXTTRAN.

Install VBRUN300.DLL, CMDIALOG.VBX and UUCODER.VBX by copying the files to your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. If a later-dated version of any of the files is already installed, it's best not to overwrite it. (The Windows File Manager affords a convenient way to copy these files.)

The executable, TEXTTRAN.EXE, can be installed in any directory. The Help file, TEXTTRAN.HLP, can be installed in any directory in the DOS path, but perhaps the best place for it is in the \WINDOWS directory.

TEXTTRAN.EXE can be started by double-clicking the file name in File Manager, or by setting up an icon in Program Manager or your favorite Windows shell. See the shell documentation for advice.

The **Internet Text Translator for Windows** was formerly known as **DOS/UNIX Text Translator for Windows**. Upgrades for registered users of that program and the previous version of this are available for a nominal fee by mail, or by E-mail. Please inquire at the addresses above.

Revision History

Version 1.00S - First Shareware Version

Version 1.05S - Maintenance release. Fixed Help file text and call from application, removed error message if ASCII 12 (Page Feed) character is encountered.

Version 1.10S - Maintenance release. Amended Help file text. Fixed problem translating files with names without extensions. Adjusted Common Dialog title.

Version 1.15S - Maintenance release. Extended the path returned from the Common Dialog to maximum allowed by Windows 3.1. Modified batch operations for efficiency.

Version 1.20S - Maintenance release. Allowed user to continue translation of file if target format is detected, instead of by-passing file.

Version 1.20aS - Minor bug fix. Fixed "non-text warning" dialog box text.

Version 1.25S - Added ability to translate double-spaced DOS text. Changed name to "Internet Text Translator for Windows".

Version 1.50S - Added ability to translate Macintosh text. Corrected duplicate D/S and changed Select accelerator keys, and updated Help system.

Version 1.55S - Corrected backup naming in directories with "dot". Repaired "bug" in nag screen.

Version 2.00S - Added UUEncoding and UUDecoding for text-encoded binary files. Added right click interactive Help.

Overview

Translating text files between the DOS, Macintosh, UNIX and encoded binary formats was seldom an issue for standalone PCs or PC-centric networks. But in today's Internet-connected world, PCs often have access to text files generated on Mac and UNIX computers, and binary files encoded as text and received through E-mail.

UNIX boxes make excellent file servers for PCs, so your drive "U" may be a shared UNIX volume! Macs are dominant in many offices, especially those in academic and graphics arts-oriented organizations, while PCs are the workhorses for number-crunching and CAD. Many PC users are "traveling" the **Internet** in an ever-expanding quest for the ultimate cyberspace wisdom, and Mac and UNIX "aliens" are common "species" in that universe! Leveraging E-mail systems for transferring binary files expands your capabilities to communicate with people around the world.

Most UNIX-based file service software providers offer DOS/UNIX translation utilities. But these utilities most often are one-way: DOS-To-UNIX or UNIX-To-DOS; they are character DOS or UNIX-based, not Windows GUI utilities; they don't allow browsing to select files; they don't offer conversion of multiple files in one pass; they allow you to "double" up the translation, embedding extra spaces in the files, by running the software against a file more than once; they don't check to see whether the files being processed are indeed text; they can't decode UUEncoded files and they don't offer a way to keep a back-up copy of the file being converted.

More rarely do you see Mac-to-DOS text translation utilities. Often Mac text transported to the DOS world is marred with relic characters.

And how frustrating it is to receive a binary in your E-mail that you must first translate to use, or to find that person who needs your binary data has only an old-fashioned, text-only E-mail account.

The VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows** addresses all these limitations in a single, easy-to-use, affordable utility.

In addition to the capabilities above, VB Expressions has added the ability to convert "double-spaced" DOS text files made available by some Internet sources into conventional single-spaced DOS text. How do you know when you've got such a file?

The **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is a Visual Basic Professional Edition Version 3.0 application. As such it requires the user to have the files VBRUN300.DLL, CMDIALOG.VBX and UUCODER.VBX available on the DOS path. Its executable name is TEXTTRAN.EXE.

Installation Instructions.

"UNIX", as used here, is a catch-all term for all the numerous operating systems based on AT&T's original creation. Each vendor porting the OS has used its own name for its proprietary version of the software.

Therefore, we have AIX from IBM, Ultrix and OSF/1 from DEC, HP/UX from Hewlett-Packard, SunOS and Solaris from Sun Microsystems, A/UX from Apple, Irix from Silicon Graphics, Linux from GNU, NeXTStep from NeXT, Xenix from Microsoft, UNIXware from Santa Cruz Operation (SCO), etc. There really isn't any one operating system called "UNIX" ... but as far as we at **VB Expressions** know, all systems referred to as "UNIX" share the same text file format.

Texttran Operation

Using VB Expressions **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is simple. Click on any topic below for details:

Selecting Translation Direction

Selecting Files To Translate

Translating Files

Keeping Backup Files

Special Translation for Macintosh Files

Double-Spaced DOS Text

Encoding/Decoding Binary Files

Configuring Texttran's UUE Capability

Getting Help

Quitting Texttran

Selecting Files To Translate

Click on the "Select File(s)" button, or enter an "Alt+F" keystroke, to open a dialog box to select files to translate. Click on a file to select it, or enter its name in the edit box; to select multiple files, hold down the "Shift" key while clicking. Of course, the multiple file selections must all be in the same disk directory. If you type in the names, Windows will check for valid file names before you can leave the dialog box.

The selected file name will appear in the status area below the control buttons if a single file is picked; the message will read "Multiple Files Selected" otherwise.

Note: there is a limit on the number of files you can select in a multiple selection. Due to limitations in the Windows 3.x Common Dialog File Open subroutine, a maximum of 2048 characters are returned for file paths. This means the maximum number of files that can be selected is around 160 files (probably more, but around that number). In the unlikely circumstances that you exceed the file limit, Texttran will ask you to re-select a smaller number of files.

If you select files again before translating, your previous selection is not saved, as is normal for Windows operations.

If you select a file that is marked "Read Only" by DOS, you will receive an error message asking you to re-select your files.

You must have access to the files through DOS file services to translate them: that is to say, a DOS file-name must be available. This warning is made because, although UNIX and Macintosh computers allow long file names, these cannot be processed by TEXTTRAN.

Translating Files

Click on "Translate", or enter an "Alt+T" keystroke to translate selected files. If no file is selected, the program will alert you and ask you to select a file.

Then TEXTTRAN will check for non-text characters in each file. If it finds any, it will ask whether to continue translation of the file. Unless you know that the files selected are truly text, VB Expressions recommends that non-text files not be processed, so that their content is not inadvertently changed.

Next the **Internet Text Translator** will check to see whether any file already contains text formatted in the target environment. If so, it will alert the user, then skip the file.

During file translation, the TEXTTRAN Window caption will change to "Translating..." and there will be a pulsing red "Translating..." status message in the status area below the control buttons.

You can switch to another application while TEXTTRAN is translating. To avoid interrupting a translation and losing data, the "Select File(s)", "Translate" and "Cancel" buttons are disabled while a translation is in progress.

Internet Text Translator for Windows can be iconized (minimized) while translating. (Click the "Down Arrow" in the upper right, or select the "Minimize" command in the System Menu in the upper left, to minimize.) The icon title will change back from "Translating..." to "Internet Text Translator" when translation is complete.

Note: if multiple files are selected with the same file name but different file extensions, and "Keep Backup" is checked, only the **LAST ONE SELECTED** will be backed-up by TEXTTRAN; it overwrites backups with the same file name without warning.

Note: that if a previously backed up version of the file is on the logged disk and directory, TEXTTRAN will overwrite it. TEXTTRAN uses the "Filename.DOS" file name as its source file when translating a DOS file, "Filename.MAC" file name as source when it translates a Mac file, "Filename.UNX" file name as source when it translates a UNIX file, and "Filename.CCL" file name as its source file when translating a double-spaced DOS file. **Rename** your backups if you wish to retain them permanently.

Note: There is no need to keep back-ups of UUEncoded or UUDecoded files with this version of the Internet Text Translator. The source files are retained, unaltered in their original location. However, the single encoded file "Filename.UUE" may contain parts of one or several files inside it (much like a compression archive such as ZIP.) If a file in the directory containing "Filename.UUE" has the same name as a file contained in "Filename.UUE", and the UUE file is decoded with TEXTTRAN, the file will be overwritten without warning.

Selecting File Translation Direction

Selecting the direction of the translation is done by clicking on the options (radio) buttons on the TEXTTRAN form, or by entering the keystroke:

- * "Alt+D" to translate DOS files to UNIX
- * "Alt+U" to translate from UNIX text to DOS
- * "Alt+M" to translate from Mac text to DOS
- * "Alt+O" to translate from DOS text to Mac format
- * "Alt+S" to translate from double-spaced DOS text to DOS
- * "Alt+E" to Uuencode a file, and
- * "Alt+C" to UUDecode a file.

If you select the wrong direction, the **Internet Text Translator** will detect the problem, alert you, then skip the translation. Of course, for any set of selected files you can only choose one option at a time.

Keeping Backup Files

Check the "Keep Backup" box or enter an "Alt+B" keystroke to cause the **Internet Text Translator** to keep a backup of the original file. The file name will be the same, but the extension will be changed. If the file was originally a DOS file, the backup's file extension will be ".DOS"; if the file was originally in Macintosh format, the new extension will be ".MAC"; if the file was originally in UNIX format, the new extension will be ".UNIX"; if the file was originally a "double-spaced" DOS file, the backup's file extension will be ".CCL".

Note: that if a previously backed up version of the file is in the logged disk and directory, TEXTTRAN will overwrite it. TEXTTRAN uses the "Filename.DOS" file name as its source file when translating a DOS file, "Filename.MAC" file name as source when it translates a Mac file, "Filename.UNX" file name as source when it translates a UNIX file, and the "Filename.CCL" file name as its source file when translating a double-spaced DOS file.

Rename your backups if you wish to retain them permanently.

Note: if multiple files selected for translation have the same file name but different file extensions, and "Keep Backup" is checked, only the **LAST** file backup will be preserved by TEXTTRAN; it overwrites the same file name without warning.

Note: There is no need to keep back-ups of UUEncoded or UUDecoded files with this version of the Internet Text Translator. The source files are retained, unaltered in their original location. However, the single encoded file "Filename.UUE" may contain parts of one or several files inside it (much like a compression archive such as ZIP.) If a file in the directory containing "Filename.UUE" has the same name as a file contained in "Filename.UUE", and the UUE file is decoded with TEXTTRAN, the file will be overwritten without warning.

Quitting The Internet Text Translator for Windows

Click the "Exit" button to close TEXTTRAN, or enter an "Alt+X" keystroke. As with all Windows applications, double-clicking on the System Menu (the box in the upper left corner) will also close the application.

Quitting the **Internet Text Translator** while it is translating is not a good idea; the file with the name originally selected is deleted at the start of the translation and rebuilt. If you try to quit Windows, or the TEXTTRAN application, during translation, you will be asked to confirm your decision. If you must quit, the original file is still present as a backup. See the naming convention explained in [Keeping Backup Files](#).

To return to the original Help browse sequence, select a destination below, or choose the "Contents" button in the Help button bar.

Overview

Installation

Watchouts!

Registration

Deinstallation

Getting Help

There are three ways to get online Help for **Internet Text Translator**:

- * new with this Version: use your mouse to reach the interface element you want Help on, and click with the right mouse button, and a brief Help topic will appear on-screen.
- * select the "Help..." menu item, or press the F1 key - this file will open.
- * use the tab key to reach the interface element you want Help on, and press the F1 key, and this Help file will open to the appropriate section Also called context sensitive help.

Watchouts!

We thought this would get the attention of the experienced Windows user, who might otherwise charge into TEXTTRAN without looking at the Help. This information is in other sections, gathered here for emphasis. See the Operation section for complete instructions.

During Installation: Install VBRUN300.DLL, UUCODER.VBX and CMDIALOG.VBX in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. If a later dated version of either file is already installed, it's best not to overwrite it.

During File Selection: You must have access to the files through DOS file services to translate them: that is to say, a DOS file-name must be available. This warning is made because, although UNIX and Macintosh computers allow long file names, these cannot be processed by TEXTTRAN.

During File Selection: There is a limit on the number of files you can select in a multiple selection. Due to limitations in the Windows 3.x Common Dialog File Open subroutine, a maximum of 2048 characters are returned for file paths. This means the maximum number of files that can be selected is around 160 files (probably more, but around that number). In the unlikely circumstances that you exceed the file limit, Texttran will ask you to re-select a smaller number of files.

Before Translation: TEXTTRAN will check for non-text characters in the selected file. If it finds any, it will ask whether to continue translation. Unless you know that the files selected are truly text, answer "No", as VB Expressions recommends that non-text files not be processed.

During Translation: If a previously backed up version of a file to be translated is on the logged disk and directory, TEXTTRAN will overwrite it. TEXTTRAN uses the "Filename.DOS" file name as its source file when translating a DOS file, the "Filename.MAC" file name as source when it translates a Mac file, the "Filename.UNX" file name as its source when it translates a UNIX file and the "Filename.CCL" file name as its source file when translating a double-spaced DOS file. **Rename** your backups if you wish to retain them permanently.

During Translation: If multiple files selected for translation have the same file name but different file extensions, and "Keep Backup" is checked, only the **LAST** file backup will be preserved by TEXTTRAN; it overwrites back-ups with the same file name without warning.

During Translation: A single encoded file "Filename.UUE" may contain parts of one or several files inside it (much like a compression archive such as ZIP.) If a file in the directory containing "Filename.UUE" has the same name as a file contained in "Filename.UUE", and the UUE file is decoded with TEXTTRAN, the file will be overwritten without warning.

Quitting: If you quit during translation, the file being translated will be incomplete. TEXTTRAN will ask you confirm that you have to quit.

De-installing The Internet Text Translator for Windows

The **Internet Text Translator for Windows** is easy to remove from your computer. Using the Windows File Manager, highlight the file names TEXTTRAN.EXE and TEXTTRAN.HLP in the directory you selected to install them in and press the "Delete" key. There is no INI file to delete. If you installed the files VBRUN300.DLL, UUCODER.VBX and CMDIALOG.VBX in the \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory, VB Expressions recommends that you leave them there, for use by other Visual Basic applications. If you didn't follow our installation directions(!) and used them from the same directory as TEXTTRAN, then you should delete them as above.

Double-Spaced DOS Text

The origin of the double-spaced text files is now fairly clear. They apparently result from the program Netscape Navigator, the acclaimed World Wide Web browser. In versions before 2.0, if you saved a Web page as Plain Text, you instead got a Double-Spaced DOS text file. There are problems using these files; see below. This bug has been reported to Netscape Communications Corporation, and although they didn't respond to our E-mail, they seem to have corrected the problem in the latest Windows versions.

In many Windows word processors, and in Windows Notepad, the files appear normal, but when printed, are double-spaced. Ami Pro Version 3.0, however, will show the double-spaced format when the file is opened as ASCII. Also, if the files are edited in Notepad, they will "collapse" into long text lines, losing their format.

A simpler way to determine if you suspect the files have the double-spaced format is: try to translate the files with the **Internet Text Translator**: the program will check out the format for you, and won't do the translation if the file is not in the odd format!

Special Translation for Macintosh Files

Translating text files that originate on Macintosh computers poses a little more difficulty. The Macintosh uses some different characters for apostrophes and single and double quotes, which when translated to ASCII character values, fall in the foreign capitals section of the ANSI character set used in Windows.

To make your use of the files more "enjoyable", the **Internet Text Translator for Windows** converts these characters to the minute and second symbols present on a standard IBM keyboard, and used in DOS text files during "Mac to DOS" translations. However, the application does not try to parse out the correct character when converting from "DOS to Mac".

Encoding/Decoding Binary Files

The newest feature of the **Internet Text Translator** is the capability to decode and encode UUE files. But what are these files and how do you use them?

THE "WHYS" of UUE

UUE stands for "UNIX-to-UNIX-Encoded" format. This format was developed in the pre-World Wide Web Internet days to allow binary files (such as graphics files, or executable programs, or word processor and spreadsheet files) to be transferred across the primitive, normally text-only UNIX e-mail systems, and especially to be stored in Usenet newsgroup servers.

This "trick" is accomplished by using sixty-four printable ASCII symbols to represent binary data at six bits per symbol. This results in the encoded file's size being expanded by approximately one third because every three bytes of binary data become four ASCII characters after encoding.

THE "HOWs" of UUE - Decoding

Once a binary file is encoded, it must be decoded for use. Download the UUEncoded files to your computer. Files in this format usually have either a .uu or .uue file extension. Select the file names with Texttran, and select the "UUDecode" option, then "Translate." The full file name and extension will be restored in the same directory as the encoded file. If there is more than one binary file contained in the encoded file, all will be restored. (This is similar in concept to the Zip file that contained the Shareware version of Texttran.)

Often there is a limit on the size of a file that can be sent by E-mail. If the encoded file size is larger than the limit, the binary file will be split into more than one text file. When UUDecoding split files, Texttran expects the file names of the parts to follow a pattern. Select the **first** file of the split sequence. If the **Internet Text Translator** finds a file continuation mark in a file while decoding, it will attempt to find the next encoded file in the sequence automatically. If the file name it expects cannot be found, Texttran will ask the user to select the next file manually. If you don't know the next file name, you can cancel the translation.

When a file is successfully decoded, the **Internet Text Translator** can open the file in an application, based on the registered or associated file type, as determined by the decoded file extension.

For more details on the **Internet Text Translator's** file opening configuration, click [here](#).

THE "HOWs" of UUE - Encoding

The type of files encoded and the expansion of file size while UUEncoding can require files to be split into parts so that each part is short enough to be contained in a single e-mail message. The **Internet Text Translator** allows you to set a maximum UUEncoded file size

allowed by your e-mail system, and automatically names the parts. (Check your E-mail or newsgroup provider for guidance as to the maximum size.) select the "UUEncode" option, then "Translate."

For more details on the **Internet Text Translator's** encoded file size configuration, click [here](#).

File "registration" is the method that Windows 3.1 and later versions use to record the interaction between applications. The information is stored in the Registration Database, and can be used to launch applications based on the file name extension, to add an OLE object to a document or to mediate DDE conversations. The Registration Database is more sophisticated than the file association method used by File Manager, but can be used in a similar manner.

File "association" is the technique used by the Microsoft File Manager since Windows 2.0 to launch files and to decide what icon is shown for a file in directory windows. If a file is associated with an application, then the icon for the file in File Manager is a little document with "writing" on it; otherwise it shows a blank piece of paper. Windows keeps a list of file extensions in the WIN.INI file, with a list of the programs that use them, in a mini-database. When you double-click on a file name in a File Manager window it checks for an entry in the database, then launches the associated application with the filename, hoping that the program will load the file (not all programs do this, but a proper Windows program should.)

This file association method used by File Manager is less sophisticated than the Registration Database used since Windows 3.1, but it still can be used in a similar manner.

For **decoding**, if the first file in the encoded chain is for instance UUF1E1.UUE, the next file that Texttran will attempt to use is UUF1E2.UUE, then UUF1E3.UUE, and so forth. Likewise, when Texttran splits a binary during **encoding**, if the input file is INPUT.EXE, the output files will be named INPUT1.UUE, INPUT2.UUE, etc.

Configuring Texttran's UUE Capability

There is a new UUConfigure item on the **Internet Text Translator** menu bar. A click on it drops down the following configuration choices:

Open UUDecoded Files?

This option causes Texttran to try to open the file just decoded in the associated or registered application.

Clicking on this option will turn the option on or off, with the check mark indicating that the option is on. Opening the files in the application is the default. Changing the value during use will immediately change the operation of the program. If you close and then re-open Texttran, your last choice will be recalled on the next use.

Output File Size . . .

Clicking on this option will open a dialog box, where you will be asked to pick the maximum size in kilobytes of UUEncoded files. This value will depend on the capabilities of the target E-mail system. Check with your administrator to determine the maximum size allowed. The default value is 58 kilobytes (K.)

Changing the value during use will immediately change the operation of the program. If you close and then re-open Texttran, your last choice will be recalled on the next use.

[Click here to exit the application.](#)

[Click here to translate selected files per the settings above.](#)

[Click here to select files from a dialog box.](#)

Select direction for DOS-to-UNIX conversion.

Double-spaced DOS files originate from saving Internet documents in a Netscape browser.

Select direction for DOS-to-Macintosh conversion.

Select UU coding direction - Encode to convert Binary to Text, Decode for Text to Binary.

Check this box to keep a back-up of the file that is translated. (Inactive for UU translation.)

The status bar shows the name of the file selected or the status of the translation.

