How to use Desktop Maid

To toggle the desktop icon display between visible and invisible, simply click on the Desktop Maid icon found in the icon tray on the Taskbar.   When the icons are visible, Desktop Maid's icon will appear in the tray.   A red circle with a slash running through it on top of the Desktop Maid's icon indicates that the icons are hidden.   The desktop is considered "clean" when the icons are hidden.

More options are available from Desktop Maid's menu.   To access the menu, right mouse click the Desktop Maid icon found in the icon tray on the Taskbar.   The menu will appear with the following items to choose from:

» **Desktop Items**

A list of all desktop items.   See description below.

» **Clean Desktop**

Select this menu item to toggle the desktop icon display.   When a check mark is next to this item, the icons are invisible.   If there is no check mark then the icons are visible.   This is the default command and has the same effect as clicking (with the left mouse button) on the Desktop Maid icon found in the tray.

» **Windows Startup**

Select this menu item to load Desktop Maid during the Windows startup process.   If a check mark is next to the item, Desktop Maid will auto-load during the startup process.

» **Show Menu Icons**

Toggles the menu item icon display.   The menu will display faster if the menu icons are turned off.

» **Help**

This will display the Help submenu.   Additional information about Desktop Maid, how to registered the program, obtaining technical support, and more can be found here.

» **Exit Desktop Maid**

Select this menu item to unload Desktop Maid.   Hidden desktop items will be made visible again when Desktop Maid closes.

In addition to the menu items mentioned above, all desktop items will appear as menu items.   This allows easy access to the desktop item without having to find the item on the desktop.   Selecting a desktop item from the menu has the same effect as double clicking the desktop item itself.   The desktop items are available from the menu even if the desktop items are hidden.

Install/Uninstall Desktop Maid

Three installation options are available, based on the download option chosen. One is a self-extracting program, one is a ZIP archive with a setup program, and the third is another ZIP archive with the minimum number of files needed to run Desktop Maid.   No setup program is provided for this final option. Follow the steps below for the appropriate option.

Option 1 (self-extracting)

Follow the steps to install Desktop Maid:
▸   Run the program **setupdtm.exe**.
▸   Follow the Install Wizard instructions as they appear on the screen.

Option 2 (ZIP archive with setup program)

Follow the steps to install Desktop Maid:
▸   Unarchive the download file **dtmaid.zip** to a temporary directory.
»   Run the program **Setup.exe**.
»   Follow the Install Wizard instructions as they appear on the screen.

Option 3 (ZIP archive with minimum files)

This option involves installing Desktop Maid manually, therefore it is more complex than the previous options.   This option assumes you have strong knowledge of Windows operating system and tools such as Explorer.

Follow the steps to install Desktop Maid:
»   Unarchive the download file **dtm-min.zip** to a directory such as c:\dtm or c:\windows.
»   Run the program **dtmaid.exe**.
»   Follow the instructions below to setup a shortcut in the Startup folder.

At this point, Desktop Maid has been installed.   Desktop Maid can be setup to automatically run during the Windows startup.   To set this option, run Desktop Maid.   The Desktop Maid icon, a computer monitor, will appear in the icon tray found on the Taskbar.   Right mouse click this icon and select the **Windows Startup** menu item.   This will place a shortcut to Desktop Maid in the Startup folder.   Read the section entitled How to use Desktop Maid for more instructions on using this program.

Uninstalling Desktop Maid

There are two ways to uninstall and remove Desktop Maid, depending on how it was installed.   If *Option 1* or *Option 2* was used with the setup program, go to Add/Remove Programs from the Control Panel. From the Install/Uninstall tab, scroll through the list of installed programs.   Select Desktop Maid and push the Add/Remove... button.   Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the uninstall process.

If Desktop Maid was installed using *Option 3*, load Explorer and navigate to the directory where it was installed.   Delete the files installed from the archive.   As a minimum, this should include **dtmaid.exe** and **DesktopMaid.hlp**.

Introduction

What is Desktop Maid?

Desktop Maid is a program for Windows 95 and NT that allows you to show or hide the icons found on your desktop. It also provides a quick access menu to your desktop items, making it easy to run items found on the desktop even when the item is hidden by another window. Desktop Maid is ideal for use duing presentations, screen prints, and for low resolution monitors (i.e., 640x480, laptops, etc.).

Desktop Maid is a shareware program and comes with a free evaluation period.   During this evaluation period, Desktop Maid will display a friendly message box each time you select an item from its menu. Registering Desktop Maid will prevent the message box from displaying.

In addition, registered users will receive the following benefits:

- FREE upgrades to all future versions of Desktop Maid.
- FREE technical support by e-mail and through WESoft Online.
- E-mail notifications of new releases as well as information on other West End Software products.

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- Question, comment, suggestion, or bug report

If you are reporting a bug, please include the following information in addition to the information mentioned above:

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- Total amount of RAM
- Total amount of free hard drive space

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Thank you for your support!

Ordering Desktop Maid

Desktop Maid can be purchased online through PsL (Public software Library) or CompuServe's Shareware Registration.   In addition, orders can be placed by fax or e-mail.   Users can obtain a license for Desktop Maid by registering the program for US$10.   For the latest purchasing information and pricing, please visit WESoft Online at http://www.thecave.com/wesoft/.

PsL (Public software Library)
You can order by credit card through PsL, a credit card order service.

On the Internet, go to the Desktop Maid home page at http://www.thecave.com/wesoft/products/DesktopMaid/ and click on "Purchase".

Or you can FAX your order to PsL at 713-524-6398.   Please use the file Order.txt to place your order by fax.

Or you can e-mail your order to PsL at "30028@pslweb.com".   Please use the file Order.txt to place your order by e-mail.

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Thank you for your support!

Desktop Maid is a desktop utility allowing you easy access to your desktop items, even when they are not visible.   In addition, Desktop Maid users can hide or show desktop item icons, providing a cleaner desktop.

wesCommonLibrary is an Active X Automation server. It is intended to provide Microsoft Visual Basic 4.0 developers commonly needed functionality beyond that provided by Visual Basic for Applications (VBA).

wesError is an Active X Automation server. It provides application developers with a standard means of handling errors trapped in a procedure, either displaying the error or raising the error for trapping and handling in the calling procedure.

wesObjectCache is an Active X server. It is intended to provide application developers with a means of improving performance by caching Active X objects for reuse, particularly objects that must retrieve their properties from a database, file, remote data source such as a World Wide Web site, etc.

Revision History

March 1, 1997   Version 2.1
- » Improved load time.
- » Shortcut in Startup group will also read Desktop Maid.
- » Spacing problem on popup menu fixed.
- » Documentation updated to include product item numbers for PsL and SWREG.

February 28, 1997   Version 2.1
- » Retains current settings each time it is loaded.
- » Provides better font support on the popup menu.
- » Allows user to delete registration information from the menu.
- » New logo on about box.
- » Renamed executable to dtm.exe to prevent installation problems.
- » Updated help file to include latest purchasing information.

January 22, 1997   Version 2.1
- » Add support for Windows NT 4.0.
- » Added ability to turn off menu icons for better performance.
- » Program prevents multiple instances.

December 29, 1996   Version 2.01 Final Release
- » Added Help file.
- » AboutBox now closes when user clicks URL hyperlink.
- » Startup dialog will only display if product is not registered.

December 21, 1996   Version 2.01 Release Candidate 2
- » Improved evaluation period support.

December 19, 1996   Version 2.01 Release Candidate 1
- » On-line registration now available.
- » Registered, or licensed, version will disable the shareware nag screens.
- » The correct display name for folder items appear on the popup menu.
- » Three install versions are available, giving the user the choice between faster download time verses easier installation.

December 8, 1996   Version 2.01 beta release
- » Desktop icons are displayed adjacent the menu item.
- » Memory leak problem has been fixed.
- » Shareware nag screens have been put into place.
- » Install program is now provided.

November 30, 1996   Version 2.01 beta release
- » Fixes display name problem for Folders.

November 24, 1996   Version 2.01 beta release
- » Includes menu items for each desktop item.

November 10, 1996   Version 1.0 (initial release)
- » Includes support to hide/show desktop icons and create shortcut in the Startup folder.

Acknowledgments

Thanks goes to Mike Jones for recommending the desktop item menu items.   I have found this a very useful in my day-to-day activity.   Additional thanks goes to Dean Richards, Jennifer Johnson, Anita Forrester, and Allen Gholston for their comments and suggestions.

System Requirements

Desktop Maid runs under Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0.   The same version is compatible with both Windows 95 and NT 4.0.

Minimum System Requirements

- Processor capable of running Windows 95, NT 4.0, or greater
- 500 KB Hard Drive space (1 MB for the installation process)
- Windows 95, Windows NT 4.0, or greater
- Mouse or some other pointer device

What is Shareware?

Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a Shareware program and continue using it, you are expected to register. Individual programs differ on details -- some request registration while others require it, some specify a maximum trial period. With registration, you get anything from the simple right to continue using the software to an updated program with printed manual.

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