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How to Register

Thank you for trying the shareware version of Button Works. We at Hermco Systems hope it meets with your approval and provides the kind of functionality you expected prior to downloading. After a free 14 day trial period, we request you register with us. This will entitle you to the enhanced commercial version of the program (the one without the built in sales pitch), as well as 2 free upgrades including Button Works 95. The cost is only \$19.95 for a single user license. You can register via CompuServe's Software Registration Service - just go SWREG and look for Registration ID **7453**, or you can mail payment to us directly. Please make checks out to Hermco Systems, Inc.

Corporate discounts are available. If you have any questions or comments we can be reached through one of the e-mail addresses listed below or through our regular mailing address.

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Setup

You invoke the Button Works setup program from either the File Manager or the Program Manager File Menu; more specifically the Run option. You will find it in the same directory from which you ran *btwzip22.exe* (for those users who receive a diskette from us directly, the setup program will be on the diskette). Once invoked, setup will prompt you for a source directory specifying the directory it ran from as the default. It will also prompt you for a destination directory which defaults to *c:\btworks*. Setup will then copy the proper files to your destination directory and your *windows\system* directory, and automatically create a Program Manager Group for Button Works and the corresponding Group Items. When you are finished, you may want to optionally copy the Button Works icon to your Program Manager Startup group so that the button bar is activated automatically when you start Windows.

Getting Started with Button Works

Welcome to Button Works! When the button bar is first loaded, you will see it appear at the top of the Program Manager just below the menu bar. To configure it, simply hold down the CTRL key while dragging and dropping icons from the various Program Manager Groups directly onto the buttons you wish. That's all there is to it. A LEFT CLICK activates the application associated with a button, while a RIGHT CLICK displays the Options Window.

This default method of operation is called **Program Manager Mode** and it is the recommended mode for quick and easy configuration. Note that in this mode, the button bar is visible only when the Program Manager is visible. Thus when the Program Manager is minimized, Button Works is minimized with it.

The other mode of operation that Button Works supports is called **Desktop Mode**. In this mode, the button bar resides at the bottom of the screen overlaying all other windows regardless of what application is running. This is also the mode in which the button bar can be temporarily hidden from view by moving the mouse to the top of the screen, or activated by moving the mouse to the bottom of the screen. Note that Desktop Mode does not support drag/drop of Program Manager icons and the button bar cannot be configured as easily in this mode. It is recommended that Button Works be switched to Program Manager Mode for configuration, then switched back when done. As with Program Manager Mode, a LEFT CLICK activates the application associated with a button, while a RIGHT CLICK displays the Options Window.

See the topic on Button Works Configuration for other methods of configuring buttons and the topic on Automatic Activation for other methods of activating the button bar while in Desktop Mode.

You may toggle from one mode to the other by holding down the ALT key and clicking anywhere on the button bar. It is also possible to switch operating modes through the Options screen (you must first RIGHT CLICK on a button to display the Options Window).

Configuring Button Works

The button bar comes with several of its buttons already configured with a few common applications such as File Manager, Control Panel, etc. To change these or to add new applications to the button bar you may use any one of the following methods:

When in Program Manager Mode you can simply drag and drop Program Manager icons directly onto the buttons you wish to configure. Just remember to hold down the CTRL Key while you drag and drop them. Also note that certain behavioral characteristics apply when using this configuration method. If you drop an icon onto a button that is already configured, the old button will be overwritten unless there are blank button(s) to its right. In this case, the button(s) will be shifted to the right before the icon is dropped. *Note that this is the recommended method of configuration.*

In either Program Manager Mode or in Desktop Mode you can drag and drop files from the File Manager directly onto the buttons you wish to configure. This does however require some knowledge of the executable names of the applications you are dragging and the directories in which they reside. Unlike the previous method, it is not necessary to hold down the CTRL Key before you click and drag. Though the same behavioral characteristics apply.

In either Program Manager Mode or in Desktop Mode you can manually configure a button through the Options Window. Just RIGHT CLICK on the button you wish to configure and you can edit fields such as description, command line, default directory, and icon path, as well as assign various attributes that control the button's behavior when clicked.

Deleting & Rearranging Buttons

A button which has already been configured can be moved to a new button position or **Rearranged** simply by holding down the SHIFT Key and dragging the button to it's new position. Note that certain behavioral characteristics apply when shifting buttons around. If you drop an icon onto a button that is already configured, the old button will be over written unless there are blank button(s) to it's right. In this case, the button(s) will be shifted to the right before the icon is dropped.

Buttons may be cleared or **Deleted** by holding down the CTRL Key and the SHIFT Key together and clicking on the button you wish to clear. Buttons may also be cleared via the Options Window.

Displaying Button Descriptions

Note that since screen real estate is always at a premium, it was decided to display either the icon or the description, not both. The icon is displayed by default. If you want a text description instead, just make sure the icon field on the Options Window is blank and the text will be displayed in its place. We suggest no more than four characters or things start to look a bit cramped.

Norm, Min, Max

These options are mutually exclusive and determine the window state that a given application defaults to: Normal (a sizable window); Minimized (an icon); and Maximized (full screen). Note that some applications force the display mode on startup and override this setting. This may be set separately for each button.

Lock Update

This option prevents a given button from being over written accidentally. This may be set separately for each button.

Popup Menu (multiple instances)

By default, a button may launch only a single copy or *instance* of an application. This means for example, that you can only launch one copy of the Calculator program from the button bar even though the application itself permits multiple copies running concurrently. Subsequent clicks to the button will just bring the existing instance of the Calculator to the foreground. For an application like Calculator where it is unlikely that you will need multiple copies, this works fine. However, for an application like Notepad, this may not be the case. There could be times when you want multiple instances of the Notepad application running simultaneously, displaying different text documents.

When checked, the Popup Menu option will cause a button to behave as follows: a) if there are no instances of the application, and there are no Menu Items defined for the button, then a new instance of the application is launched; b) if there are any existing instances of the application, or if there are any Menu Items defined for the button, then a popup menu is displayed containing the existing instances, any Menu Items, and an additional entry to launch a New instance if so desired. Note that the 'Menu Items' mentioned here refer to favorite file settings in the *btwbar.ini* file.

The following is an example which illustrates use of Menu Item settings for a button which launches the Notepad application. The first three settings are text files commonly edited by notepad, though not necessarily associated with it via the File Manager. The last setting is blank. There can be up to four favorite Menu Item settings defined for a button. This option may be set separately for each button.

```
[Button 1]
Name=Notepad
IconPath=C:\WINDOWS\NOTEPAD.EXE
IconIndex=0
DefaultDir=c:\windows
CmdLine=NOTEPAD.EXE
WindowState=0
MultiInstance=1
LockUpdate=1
HideButtonBar=0
Menu1=C:\AUTOEXEC.BAT
Menu2=C:\CONFIG.SYS
Menu3=C:\WINDOWS\WIN.INI
Menu4=
```

Hide Button Bar

The button bar is automatically hidden after clicking a button which has this option set. Note that when in Desktop Mode (with the button bar at the bottom of the screen), Button Works is hidden from view completely. When in Program Manager Mode (with the button bar at the top of the Program Manager), the entire Program Manager is minimized and Button Works with it, thus hidden from view. This option may be set separately for each button.

Drag Drop Server

It is now possible to configure a button as a drag drop server. What does this mean? Well suppose you are in the File Manager and double click a file called *data.dat* which you would like to edit using Notepad. You know for sure that the file contains text data and you should be able to edit it; however, the File Manager returns an error that says 'No application is associated with this file'. You have to bring up the Notepad application first, and then open *data.dat* from within Notepad. When a button is configured as a drag drop server, this whole process is made easy. You simply drag the file onto the button which contains Notepad and it will be opened regardless if File Manager detects an association or not. The same for any other application which is configured as a drag drop server. Just drag a file to the desired button and that file will be opened using the application defined for that button. To set up a button as a drag drop server check off both the Lock Update and the Drag/Drop Server options on the Options Window. This option may be set separately for each button.

Note that the Print Manager is special case of drag drop. Although it can be configured as such, you can only drag files onto it that are already associated with an application (this is unlike other drag drop servers which can accept any file regardless of association). The reason for this is that if there is no association, the Print Manager does not know how to format the dropped file for printing. In effect, the Print Manager configured as a drag drop server behaves like it would if it were minimized on the Windows Desktop. We just carry over that functionality to the button bar for convenience and compatibility.

Narrow, Medium, Wide

This refers to the bevel width of the buttons as a whole and is purely cosmetic and a matter of taste. You may want to set the bevel width to medium or wide, at screen resolutions higher than 600x800. Try the different settings and see for yourself. Note that these options are mutually exclusive.

Desktop Mode At Startup

Checking this option will cause the button bar to go into Desktop Mode automatically on startup. In this mode, Button Works will appear at the bottom of display, overlaying all other applications. Moving the mouse to the top of the display will make the button bar temporarily invisible. Then, depending on which Automatic Activation option was chosen on the Options Window, one of three methods may be used to re-activate the button bar.

Automatic Activation

When in Desktop Mode, moving the mouse to the top of the screen temporarily deactivates Button Works, while one of the following three methods may be used to automatically re-activate it.

Moving the mouse to the bottom of the display. (This excludes the corners to prevent accidental activation of the button bar when clicking on scroll arrows. Moreover, when you move the mouse to the bottom of the display on an angle, Button Works checks if you are moving the mouse *towards* the scroll arrows in the corners. If so it will delay activation of the button bar. If you find this delay is a problem, you may need move the mouse down to the bottom of the display in a straight line in order to activate the button bar.)

Moving the mouse to the far bottom right hand corner of the display. This should not interfere with the scroll arrows as that area of the display is blank even when scroll bars are present.

Hold down the CTRL Key while moving the mouse to the bottom of the display. Note that using this method will always work regardless of which option has been set, unlike the other methods which are mutually exclusive. Also note that using this method when in Program Manager Mode will force Button Works into Desktop Mode.

Registration Code

This is the field where you enter the registration code for enabling the commercial version of Button Works and disabling the shareware banner which is displayed on startup and on exit. Note that all alphabetic characters in the code are upper case and all 0s are zeros. Also note that once the code is keyed in, it will not appear the next time the Options Window is displayed. This is normal.

Hot Keys

RIGHT CLICK - on a button causes the Options Window to be displayed.

ALT + LEFT CLICK - anywhere on the button bar toggles between Program Manager Mode and Desktop Mode. Note that when switching into Program Manager Mode from Desktop Mode, the Program Manager becomes active and visible automatically.

CTRL + LEFT CLICK - (while holding the left button down) allows drag and drop of an application icon from the Program Manager directly onto the button bar. Note that Button Works must be in Program Manager Mode to do this.

SHIFT + LEFT CLICK - (while holding the button down) allows drag and drop of a button from one location on the button bar to another.

CTRL + ALT + LEFT CLICK - on a given button causes the Options Window to be displayed (maintained for compatibility with older versions).

CTRL + SHIFT + LEFT CLICK - on a given button clears the button.

Trouble Shooting

If you are running a Windows shell other than Program Manager or are running any other program that alters the title of the Program Manager window, you will need to specify that title in place of the Program Manager title entered in the [System] section of the Button Works initialization file, 'btworks.ini'.

When in 'Program Manager' mode only, there are certain situations where the title bar of a group window will be obscured by the button bar and clicking inside the group does not bring the title to the foreground. In this case simple click on the frame of the group window in question, or click on another group first and then go back and click inside the group window to make the title bar visible again.

This program requires **vbrun300.dll** which we do not distribute with our application. If you don't already have this file in your *c:\windows\system* directory, you can download it from the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe, or if you like we can send you a special Button Works distribution which contains it. Also, there are certain other .DLL files which are normally found in the *c:\windows\system* directory that are needed by Button Works. They are *ddeml.dll*, *shell.dll*, *commdlg.dll*, and *toolhelp.dll*. If for some reason these files are not there, you can restore them from your Windows distribution media, or if you like we can send you a special Button Works distribution which contains them.

A Command Line which contains a .PIF or .BAT file will always allow multiple instances regardless of how the Popup Menu option is set. Also, having multiple buttons for the same application may produce unpredictable results.

Options Window

This is the window where you set attributes that effect both individual buttons and all the buttons as a whole, as well being the place where you enter the Registration Code for the product; manually enter/edit command lines, icons, directories, and descriptions; change modes, etc. To get to the Options Window, just RIGHT CLICK on a button and it will appear, automatically displaying the settings for that button. To display the settings for the other buttons, you can scroll back and forth inside the Options Window using the << and >> command buttons. Help may be obtained for changing the following attributes and options inside the Options Window:

Button Description

Registration Code

Narrow, Medium, & Wide

Drag Drop Server

Hide Button Bar

Popup Menu

Lock Update

Norm, Min, Max

Automatic Activation

Desktop Mode at Startup

Tiny Buttons

Mode Switching

Tiny Buttons

Button Works now supports buttons which are half as high and half as wide, which means twice as many buttons using half the amount of screen real estate. To activate tiny buttons simply check the appropriate check box on the Options Window. Note that when shrinking icons there is sometimes a loss of image quality or some distortion present. The smaller icons may appear a bit rough. This is normal.

Switching Modes

There are two ways to switch between Program Manager Mode and Desktop Mode. The first is holding down the ALT Key while LEFT CLICKING anywhere on the button bar. The second is the *Mode Command Button* on the Options Window. Note that when switching between modes using the second method, the Options Window is automatically unloaded without saving any changes.

