VISIBLE MODEM
Version 1.01

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Introduction

Visible Modem is a Microsoft Windows 3.1 program that displays the state of many of the modem signals, and allows you to modify the state of two of them.

Visible Modem allows you to select any communications port in the range COM1 – COM4. For the selected port, it displays the state of the DTR, DSR, RTS, CTS, DCD, and RING signals, and allows you to toggle the state of the DTR and RTS signals.

Although Visible Modem will monitor a port even while another Windows program is using that same port, it will not allow you to toggle the DTR and RTS signals unless the port is free. This protection extends even to a port being used by a serial mouse.

WARNING

WHILE ANY NON-WINDOWS DOS APPLICATION IS USING A COMMUNICATIONS PORT, ATTEMPTING TO RUN VISIBLE MODEM ON THE SAME PORT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN LOST DATA IN THE DOS COMMUNICATIONS SESSION.

Installation

The Visible Modem distribution package includes the following two files:

   VISMODEM.EXE is the executable program.

   VISMODEM.WRI is this Windows Write document.

Place VISMODEM.EXE in any directory convenient for you.

Keep this VISMODEM.WRI document wherever you like. You may, of course, print it.

Once you have placed VISMODEM.EXE in its directory, you can create a program item in the Program Manager (or whatever you use as a substitute). Enter the full path to VISMODEM.EXE in the Program entry.

If you also enter a number (1 – 4) in this entry as a program argument (one or more spaces should separate the program path from the argument), then Visible Modem will start with the indicated communications port (COM1 – COM4) already selected. Otherwise, it will start with COM1 selected.

Execution

When you run Visible Modem, the program places itself in the center of the icon portion of the screen. You can, of course, move it to any location you may prefer.

You can select a communications port (COM1 – COM4) at any time by clicking the appropriate button with the mouse. If Visible Modem has focus (is the currently active window), you also can select the port by typing the appropriate underlined number (1 – 4), or by using the cursor arrow keys to move the selection to the desired port.

For the currently selected port, Visible Modem displays the current status of the following signals:

DTR – Data Terminal Ready is a computer-to-modem signal. It is frequently used to hang up the modem (drop DTR to hang up). On many portable computers, it is used to control power to the modem.

DSR – Data Set Ready is a modem-to-computer signal. It usually indicates the power-up state of the modem.

RTS – Request To Send is a computer-to-modem signal. With high-speed modems, it is frequently used for hardware flow control (modem transmits to computer only when RTS is asserted).

CTS – Clear To Send is a modem-to-computer signal. With high-speed modems, it is frequently used for hardware flow control (computer transmits to modem only when CTS is asserted).

DCD – Data Carrier Detect is a modem-to-computer signal. It usually indicates the presence of a modem at the other end of a telephone line.

RING – Ring Detect is a modem-to-computer signal. It usually indicates the presence of a ring signal on the telephone line (the phone is ringing).

The four modem-to-computer signals (DSR, CTS, DCD, and RING) are grayed to indicate that you cannot use Visible Modem to change them.

You can change either computer-to-modem signal (DTR, RTS) at any time by clicking the appropriate button with the mouse. If Visible Modem has focus (is the currently active window), you also can change the signal by typing the appropriate underlined letter (D, R).

If you attempt to change a signal on a port that is in use by another Windows program, or by the mouse, a message box will appear to inform you that the port is not available.

Finally, the last entry on the System Control Menu (Alt-Spacebar, or click on the System Control box to the left of the title bar) is the About command, which displays the About box.

Cabbages and Kings

VISMODEM.EXE and VISMODEM.WRI are the property of Martin D. Richek.

You may use and distribute Visible Modem as you wish, but you must distribute the entire package without any changes to its contents, you may not charge any amount for its use, either directly or indirectly, and you may not charge more than a reasonable fee for its distribution.

Comments, questions, suggestions, and complaints are welcome. You can reach me at the following addresses:

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