

## Virtual Desktop 2.0 For Windows 95

Thank you for trying out Virtual Desktop 2.0 !

This program will run in Windows NT 3.5 and up, as well as Windows 3.0 and up. However, due to limited resources (financial and otherwise) on my part, it has not been extensively tested. A warning for those using NT and versions of Windows less than '95. Some of the Virtual Desktop's functionality is not available and could cause a system crash, especially if used in Windows 3.0, 3.1 and 3.11. Using it in 3.0, 3.1 and 3.11 is **not** recommended. You have been warned.

To install, merely unzip the vdeskzip file to a handy directory, read the documentation and run it. There should be only 2 files in this zipped archive namely vdesk.exe  
virdesk2.doc, so beware of imitations.

***Although I have worked as hard as I could to remove all bugs and problems, I will not accept any responsibility or liability for how this program might affect the sanity of yourself, your relatives, pets, spouse, kids or PC. No responsibility will be accepted for any damage that you think may be attributable to this program in terms of your hardware, software or PC in general. I am not responsible and will not be held liable for any loss of data or functionality of your PC or workstation.***

Phew, now that that's out the way, let's begin.

This program was written in an effort to increase productivity, decrease irritation and to try and enable you to access the full resources of Windows 95. In essence what this program does is allow you to take specific windows and group them into an area outside the visible desktop and access them individually, all together or in varying combinations.

The main screen looks roughly like the one below, vaguely calculator-ish in appearance.

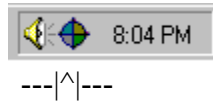


Whenever you start Virtual Desktop 2.0 it will appear on the bottom right of your screen. The numbered buttons designate different groups of windows that you can configure. Access to the various groups is controlled by clicking on one of the buttons, after which the windows which are currently visible will disappear and the ones in the group selected will appear.

Immediately you should be able to see the possibilities !

It would be possible to have a spreadsheet running in one group, a word processor in another, a program development IDE in another, and a whole set of file managers for your various drives in yet another group.

Right clicking anywhere on these buttons will pop up a menu of available options including hiding or showing the clock, making this window stay on top, clearing off your desktop icons (My Computer, Recycle Bin, Network Neighborhood etc) and hiding or showing this main window. One question you may ask yourself (and I did it myself without thinking during development) is how do you get this window back when you've hidden it ? NT Users and 3.x users have a problem here (see warning at top). Windows '95 users will be pleased to note that an icon has been placed in the system tray on the taskbar thus :



which allows all the functionality of the Desktop with a single right click on the mouse button. Double clicking with the left mouse button toggles the hiding/showing of the main window.

So how do I group ? Good question, I'm glad you asked !

In order to explain the grouping of windows, it will be easier if I show you what happens when they're grouped.

Right click on the button area or on the icon in the tray and select the "List" option. If the main window is hidden, it will appear, but slightly differently, a la -



Behold, a list of all your windows appeared ! As you can see, on my machine at the moment I have 4 windows open, in 4 different groups, 1 of which is visible. Let me explain:

A **(1..9)** next to a window title left of the list describes which group the window is in. "5" means it is in the group currently onscreen

An **"m"** next to a window title (not shown) means that it is open but minimized. To find out which group it's in, unminimize it and its group number will appear.

An **"x"** (not shown here) next to a window title means that the window has moved into temporary storage to make room for the group you just clicked.

The window **"c:\WIN95\Desktop\Internet"** is in group 1 (I would click the "1" button to access it).

The window **"c:\WIN95\Desktop\No Fixed Abode"** is in group "2", (I would click button 2 to access it), and so on.

The window **"My Computer"** is in group "3", (I would click button 3 to access it), and so on.

*As a side note, "Program Manager" won't move in Win '95 even if you try and do so. It won't do any harm if you do try, just don't get your expectations up ! I allowed it to appear, because in 3.x you CAN move it Future versions of Virtual Desktop will increase compatibility with Windows 3.x. Thus for '95 users it will ALWAYS appear in group5, the default view*

Now, to move !

At any stage, you can move a window in any group to any other group. There are two ways to do this. Simply select the window title you want to move from the list with the mouse and drag it over the button of the group you want to send it to. Then drop it. Alternatively, you can take the longer way and right click in the list once you have selected the window title and pick the group you want to send it to. Note that multiple selections are supported, so you can use Ctrl and Shift as you would in any other Windows app. Note : Group 5 is where all windows open by default. If you open a new window this where it appears, select "List" and then move it if you don't want it here.

*As mentioned before, "Program Manager" won't move in Win '95 even if you try and do so. So even if it falls inside your selection, don't worry about deselecting it, as it will stay where it is.*

Note that you can move this app around on screen by clicking and dragging (as you would on the caption bar) in any flat gray area which is not the list, clock or button panel.

Clicking on the list option again will keep the main window visible, but back in the size and position you saw when it was first loaded. You can also select the "Show" option again or double click on the icon in the tray to hide the window again. If you reshew the window it will reappear with the list open.

And that's all there is to it !

Other menu options include showing or hiding the clock (Clock).

Clearing the Win 95 desktop (Desktop).

Making this main window always stay on top (Top).

Showing info about Virtual Desktop 2.0 (About)

A check mark next to any of these options means that this is currently enabled. Clicking on the option toggles it.

To close Virtual Desktop, right click on the icon in the tray or over the buttons and select "Close". This will bring any windows which are still out there into the visible section (Group 5), and bring back your desktop if you cleared it off.

### ***Known Undocumented Features (Not Really Bugs)***

- 1. Clearing the desktop in Windows 3.x can (but not always) cause a crash. (OK, this is not a bug, merely from the fact that Windows 3.x is not really supported.)***
- 2. Terminating Windows '95 while this app is running may be difficult (i.e. it won't), please close this app before closing windows, otherwise '95 appears to be rebellious ("no Stephanie, no disassemble, Johnny 5 alive !"). It doesn't do any harm if you do try to shut down, it just won't. Just right click and select "Close". Then shut down as normal.***
- 3. Sometimes if you Minimize a window in a group, and then Restore it, it will reappear in group 5 (the visible area). You might just have to move it again. (I don't know why).***

***4. If you have a window without a caption or title, Virtual Desktop cannot access it and so it does not appear in the list.***

***Future Versions of Virtual desktop will include:***

1. The ability to assign groups to be run or opened automatically when Virtual Desktop starts up (rather like the a startup cum launchpad).
2. An optional password protection feature which does not allow other users to access your desktop without your permission.
3. The ability to launch your screensaver RIGHT NOW !
4. The ability to change your desktop wallpaper to any other bitmap on the fly (can help you remember where each group or window was if you assign a different bitmap to each button/group).

I hope you enjoy using Virtual Desktop 2.0 as much as I enjoyed developing it.

This version is **shareware** and may only be distributed free and as widely as possible. It costs a modest \$10 (or R30 if in South Africa) to register your version, and this will enable you to receive notification of improvements, optional upgrades and any word of other software I write which may be of interest to you.

Plus it will make you feel better, and you will feel a part of the worthwhile business that is shareware. You will have helped support those itinerant programmers who work hard trying to improve on existing software and generally trying to make your life a bit easier. You will also be able to remove the irritating nag screen which pops up now and again.

**Do NOT pay anybody or allow anybody to charge you for this product !**

(unless it's me of course).

Any contributions made will be an extra incentive to improve upon existing features and to add new ones as time goes on. Any comments, criticism (constructive please), suggestions or possible bugs, please email me at

**badkarma @pixie.co.za**, (flames will be ignored)

or

**snail mail to:**

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