WindowControl version 1.45 for Windows 95 or Windows 3.x

WindowControl allows the user to control the positioning of any program's windows. There are couple of window positioning programs on the market, so what differentiates WindowControl? Well, at first it was just an exercise in programming, then I decided that I could improve on all of the products out there, by having more features and also making the program simple to use, while still being powerful. I think I have achieved this goal, but if you feel that any features are missing, or any part of WindowControl could be improved, then please contact me.

It was designed primarily as a tool to control windows when using the Internet, and when programming. Standard uses for WindowControl are therefore, hiding the "Connected To.." dialog box when logged onto the Internet. Hiding all DCC file transfers on IRC. Having file downloads placed on top, so that you can talk on IRC and also monitor your downloading at the same time. Automatically maximising Notepad so that you have a full screen to work with. Tiling two frequently used files side by side each time they run. Obviously there are many other uses for WindowControl and these are just some of the things it can be used for.

Features.
It takes only a few minutes to get up and running with WindowControl. Here are the main features of the program.

AutoPlace
With AutoPlace, you can automatically move, resize, hide or top any window or windows. You can do this both for specific window titles, or all windows of a certain class. Built in features to automatically minimise or maximise windows as well.
There are three parts to AutoPlace, AutoPlace itself, AutoHide and AutoTop. They all work together, and it is totally configurable so that each part of it can be switched on or off as you need it.

View Hidden or Visible Windows
At a touch of a button lets you view all visible or hidden windows. An alternative Task-Manager.

Minimise All Visible Windows
Minimises and Restores all visible desktop windows. Quickly minimises (faster than the Windows 95/NT4 version) or restores all visible desktop windows.

Hide All Visible Windows
New in version 1.4 is the ability to hide and unhide all visible desktop windows. Unhide only restores windows previously hidden by Hide All.

Hide All, and now Minimise All are customisable, so that certain windows, or classes can be disabled from these actions.

Hide selected windows
Allows you to clear up clutter by hiding unused windows from your screen. This removes a window from the ALT-TAB chain, and if in Windows95/NT4 also from the Start bar.

By using the AutoPlace/AutoHide function, WindowControl can be made to check to see if any of your AutoHide windows are running, and if so, will hide them.

Restore windows
Will automatically show any hidden windows, and if they were minimised, it will show them in their Normal status.

Sometimes you hide a window by mistake, or a program hides another window, and you want to be able to see it again, this allows you to do this.

Window Placement
This is one of Window Controls most powerful features. You can move any window to a desired location on the screen. This can be done manually, but when used with AutoPlace, this means that you can have any window you want always appearing in the same position each time that it is run.

Minimise, Maximise and close windows
Standard window options directly from Window Control. No need to go into the actual program itself to carry these out. Both minimising and maximising can be done automatically using AutoPlace.

Change window captions
When working with more than one copy of a program, this lets you change its caption so that you can tell which one you are working with.

For example if you are running to copies of mIRC, and both are in different networks, you could have one set to "mIRC - UnderNet" and another at "mIRC - Dalnet". Use in conjunction with AutoPlace you could make these windows automatically tile with each other.

Set windows to be OnTop of all other windows
Very handy when you want one window to always be on top of all other windows.

Shutdown and Restart
You can quickly Shutdown your computer, Restart Windows or Restart your computer with just one click of the mouse.

How to Use Window Control.

There is complete documentation and tutorials being constantly updated on the WindowControl homepage. So, this file only contains a brief user guide. For more details, goto the WindowControl homepage, http://members.aol.com/HarCohen/

Since version 1.30 WindowControl has had a menu for easy access to all of its features, whereas in previous versions you had to right click to do anything. That was fine for these versions, and very fast. However, with all the new features, this was no longer practical, and a menu was added. Some features are still available by right clicking, and most of the others now have shortcut keys for quick access.

When you first run WindowControl you will be presented with a screen with a list of all visible program windows (from this point on called the 'window list'). If you selected any item from the list by left-clicking once, you will see that programs icon. If you double click, it will restore that window and set the focus to it. If you right-click, it will bring up a list of options for that window. From here you can minimise, maximise, restore, hide, close, top or untop a window. If you want to see the properties

of any window, press the shift key down and click the item. If you want to change a windows' caption, just select it and type in a new name in the text box above the window list and press return to accept your change.

To use the most powerful feature of Window Control, **AutoPlace**, you must have AutoPlace checked in the general tab of the preferences. Version 1.20 introduced the Window Wizard for adding new entries to AutoPlace. The wizard is designed to be intuitive and self-explanatory with explanations for all 5 steps of the wizard. Therefore, I will not describe how to use it here. If you want more details of the Wizard, check out the website. (The wizard has been updated in Version 1.45 to take account of incomplete titles).

A sometimes quicker method of adding entries to AutoPlace without using the wizard is to manually add entries, this is done as follows. Press F4 to bring up the AutoPlace window.

It won't contain any windows to start with, so you must add them. From the main window, choose a program you want to control. Click and drag its icon onto the AutoPlace list. This loads the windows current position into the AutoPlace window. You can now select the AutoPlace features you want for this window. If you have AutoTop enabled, then if you select *Topped*, the window will automatically top when found. If AutoHide is selected, then the window will be hidden if you select *Hidden*. You can manually change the window position by typing in new values, or select Left, Top, Height or Width then press the + or - buttons to change these values by the value in the box between these two buttons. If you have any of these entries as blank, that aspect of the window will not be affected.

That is it, pretty easy once you have done it once. You can now add as many windows as you like to the list. If you want to add a window class, you must know the name of a windows class. To do this, select a window from the window list, and goto it's properties. Within properties, you will see Class. That is the value you want. For example, Notepad is easily enough, Notepad. Windows Explorer is ExploreWClass and its counterpart in Windows 3.1 File Manager is WFS_Frame. To add a class, either drag and drop a window and then select it from the AutoPlace list, type in the name of the class instead of the Window Title, then press EDIT. Alternatively, just type in the name, and press ADD. Now change the entry from *Title* to *Class*. You can now do all the same things you can with windows except Top. This is disabled because it is unlikely you will want to automatically top every window of any given class.

New with version 1.4, is the Hide All command. It hides all visible windows, and obviously, you can quickly restore them again. This is handy to just get rid of everything temporarily. Due to the fact that hiding something like "Program Manager" would make your PC virtually unusable, both Hide All and (now) Minimise All are customisable. You can add windows and window classes within the preferences dialog (Tools Section) which won't be hidden or minimised when either of these actions is carried out. This makes Minimise All far more useful than the current Window version, and remember, it is faster already as well.

ShortKeys
(Note these have changed considerably from v1.20 to comply more with standard Windows keystrokes. Since 1.30 with the addition of Hide All, the keystrokes for Restore All and Minimise All are now the same (F2) as they are the compliment of each other. Hide All now has the F3 key.).
In Window Control:
CTRL + N = Open the Wizard to add a new AutoPlace entry.

CTRL + S = Save a programs icon to a bitmap.
CTRL + INSERT = Show a window's properties.
CTRL + X = Exit
CTRL + Z = Undo/Redo last command.
CTRL + T = Copy window's title to the clipboard.
CTRL + C = Copy window's class to the clipboard.
CTRL + P = Copy window's program path to the clipboard.
CTRL + H = Copy window's handle to the clipboard.
CTRL + F1 = General Preferences
CTRL + F2 = Program Preferences
CTRL + F3 = Tools Preferences
F1 = Show Help.
F2 = Minimise All/Restore All
F3 = Hide All/Undo Hide All
F4 = Show the AutoPlace window.
F5 = Refresh the window list.
F6 = Show all visible windows.
F7 = Show all invisible windows.
F8 = Shrink.
F9 = AutoHide list
F10 = Exit

NOTE: To minimise WindowControl screen space without minimising WindowControl itself, press F8. This will Shrink the program to a small box in the corner of the screen (you set which corner from the preferences). Right click on this box to bring up a window list where when you select any item it is restored. ESC will close this list. Alternatively left-clicking will restore WindowControl to its previous position.

In Preferences:
F1 = General Options
F2 = Program Options
F3 = AutoPlace Options
F4 = Tools Options
ESC = Close Preferences
F10 = Exit

Remember, more detailed help will be available online on the WindowControl homepage, http://members.aol.com/HarCohen. To get help from me directly on any feature of Window Control, email me on WindowControl@USA.NET. If you want support, then I would normally expect you to register the program first.

Registering Window Control
WindowControl is not unique, but I think it is the best program out there for manipulating windows. Therefore, I don't think I'm being unfair asking for £10/$15 for this program. WindowControl has no nag screens or disabled features, so I'm relying on your good natures to register this program.

If you register, I'll notify you of any updates to Window Control, put your suggestions at the top of the ToDo list, and you'll get any future upgrades to WindowControl 1 for free. You might even feel better at helping out a poor programmer, but I guess that might be stretching reality too far.

To register, send a cheque, postal order or bankers draft (or cash if you want to take the risk) for £10 (UK) or $15 (US) made payable to Harry Cohen to the following address.

Harry Cohen
73 Milverton Road
Giffnock
Glasgow G46 7LQ
Scotland
UK

Include your email address so that I can send you your registered version of Window Control, and can add you to the list of registered users so that I can inform you of upgrades to Window Control.

If you want to contact me about alternative methods of payment, then email me to WindowControl@USA.NET

Legal Necessities
The author of this program accepts no responsibility for damages resulting from its use and makes no warranty or representation, either express or implied, including but not limited to, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

This software is provided "AS IS", and you, its user, assume all risks when using it.

I guess all that means, if you use Window Control, you use it at your own risk, and if anything happens to your computer due to use of Window Control, I am in no way liable for it. In saying that, WindowControl has been thoroughly tested, and I've never heard of any problems when running it.