

TeleFinder User Help Contents

TeleFinder/User for Windows

Copyright (c)1988-94, Spider Island Software, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

The Contents lists Help topics available for TeleFinder User. Use the scroll bar to see entries not currently visible in the Help window.

To learn how to use Help, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu

[About TeleFinder/User for Windows](#)

[Setting up TeleFinder User](#)

[Dialing a BBS](#)

[Icons received from the bulletin board](#)

[BBS Auto Message](#)

[Mail is waiting for you](#)

[Sending Mail](#)

[Conferences and Message Topics](#)

[Transferring Files](#)

[File Information](#)

[Using Chat](#)

About TeleFinder/User for Windows

TeleFinder/User is a Windows application that connects your PC to a TeleFinder bulletin board system (BBS). TeleFinder requires an IBM PC or compatible with an 80386 or better processor running Windows 3.1, and a Hayes-compatible modem. Through your TeleFinder User-BBS interface, you'll find business services, customer support, as well as "friendly chat." A BBS can also serve as a conference forum, provide electronic mail service, and store files to transfer. The individual or company operating the BBS (the Sysop) determines which services to offer its callers. The Sysop also decides whether the BBS will be open to public use, or kept for private use.

We invite you to connect to Spider Island Software's support BBS, at (714) 730-5785. Please use the name "Guest" and password "Guest" to log on. There are TeleFinder bulletin boards operating all over the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and many other locations around the world. Many of them advertise their BBS phone numbers on the Spider Island BBS.

What is this guide for?

This guide helps you get up and running with TeleFinder User quickly. Getting Started presents a condensed version of the steps you need to take to make a connection to a TeleFinder BBS. It tells you how to transfer files, send mail, participate in a conference, and use real-time chat.

Setting up TeleFinder User

Open the TeleFinder User application (TFUSER.EXE). You will be presented with a window with the following menu bar:

TeleFinder User uses the Modem Setups file (MDMSETUP.DAT) to store settings necessary to make a connection to a TeleFinder BBS. These settings configure the modem, set communications parameters, and provide your name and password. You need to perform these steps only once. The program saves the modem settings once you load them.

- Select the "Open Auto Dialer" command from the Connection menu. This opens the Auto Dialer window.

- Select the comm port that your modem is connected to.

- Select the modem setup appropriate for your modem from the list at the top right of the window. Scroll through the Modem Settings list until you find the modem name that most closely matches the name of your modem. Click on the name that most closely matches the name of your modem to select it. Hardware Handshake

Notice that for some modems, there is a standard version and an "HH" version. "HH" stands for "Handshake Hardware" cable. Using a hardware handshake cable permits faster transfers with V.32, V.32 bis, error-correcting modems. Your modem will not function properly if you select an "HH" setup but do not have a Handshake Hardware cable.

Dialing a BBS

- Enter your name, password and the telephone number of your BBS in the Auto Dialer. Use the name "Guest" and password "Guest" to log on to the Spider Island BBS at 1 (714) 730-5785.

- Click in the Redial button to place the call.

TeleFinder/User dials the number using your modem and then waits for the BBS to answer your call. TeleFinder/User will make repeated attempts to connect to a busy line. You normally see the following messages while TeleFinder/User is connecting.

Waking up the modem...

Initializing the modem...

Dialing the number...

Waiting for an answer...

Connected at 9600 bps.

(Or 2400bps, 14.4K bps, etc.)

After the modems connect, TeleFinder/User logs on to the bulletin board. This is when the bulletin board checks your name and password. The BBS starts this process. You should see these messages displayed in the dialer as log on takes place.

Waiting for the host.

Sending name and password.

Waiting for verification.

Sending confirmation.

Successful connection!

If the log on fails, it is usually because the modems did not make a good connection. Poor connections often result from using the wrong settings. Select different modem settings if you have problems connecting.

If your name or password are wrong the BBS sends a "TeleFinder Message" saying that your name or password did not match. Correct the name and password entered in the Auto Dialer and dial again.

Icons received from the bulletin board

After a successful connection, the BBS sends the icons you have access to. TeleFinder/User opens a window and presents the icons in the BBS Desktop window. You can either double-click on the icons to open them, or select them and choose the "Open" command from the File menu.

This snapshot above is an example of what you see after connecting to the Spider Island Software BBS. The "Guest Files" area provides you with access to demos, utilities, and public domain software. The "Guest" mailbox icon contains your mail. The "Conferences" icon contains message threads with news, information, and public discussions. The "Channel 3" icon opens to a real-time multi-user chat room. The BBS administrator chooses the icons and names of BBS areas.

BBS Auto Message

When you connect a "Read Me" document may open on your screen. The administrator of the BBS uses this for special announcements. You can save the document as a text file or print it.

The Session Time window shows your current connection time and time remaining.

Mail is waiting for you

When mail is waiting your mailbox icon shows a letter sticking out of it. No letter means there are no files in your mailbox. Mail items remain in your mailbox until you delete them. You can delete mail by selecting a message's icon, then choose the "Delete" command from the file menu.

Your mailbox can contain both messages and files. You can read the messages by opening their icons. Reply to a message by clicking in the window's "Reply" button. Create a new message by selecting the "New Message" command from the Mail menu. Use the Mail form to compose, address, and send messages.

When a file is in your mailbox select its icon, then select the "Download File" command from the File menu. This transfers the file to your PC. After the file transfer is complete, you can open the file with the application used to create it.

Sending mail

Select the "New Message" command from the Mail menu. The mail form uses the standard Windows text editing commands found in the Edit menu.

- Address the message by typing a user's name in the field next labeled "To."
- Enter a subject for the message in the field labeled "Subject."
- Enter your own name, if it is not already there, in the field labeled "From."
- After composing your message, click in the Mail button in the Mail window to send it.

If you are not already on-line, you will need to connect to the BBS before you can mail the message.

Conferences and Message Topics

TeleFinder BBSes use conference icons to organize public discussions. You'll find message topic icons, and possibly other conference icons, in a conference. Message Topic icons are two-way containers of public messages. You can post messages to them, and use them to read messages written by others.

Open the icon as shown above to begin reading the messages in it. Click in the Post button to add a question or message to the topic. Use the Reply button to add a message to topic using the same subject. Use the arrow and number buttons to read different messages in the topic.

Transferring Files

Sending files

You can send files to the BBS, using the "Upload File" command or to another user using the "Drop-Box" icon.

Uploading files to the BBS

You can send files to the "New Uploads" folder by selecting the "Upload File" command from the File menu. This command also opens the "Send File" dialog so that you can select the file you wish to send. The person who sets up the BBS decides which folder stores files uploaded in this manner.

Select the name of the file you want to send, then click in the OK button. That is all that is necessary to begin a file transfer using TeleFinder. TeleFinder will automatically setup and negotiate the file transfer using the ZMODEM file transfer protocol. After the transfer is complete, there is an exact copy of the file on the BBS's hard disk.

Shown here is the Drop-Box icon for guest mail. TeleFinder uses Drop-Box icons to send files to the mailboxes of other users. Select the "Get the Drop-Box of..." command from the Mail menu. Enter the user's name then click in the OK button. Then the BBS sends the user's drop-box icon to your desktop window. Open this icon to open the "Send File" dialog that you can use to select the file you want to send to the other BBS user. TeleFinder transfers a copy of the file to the user's Mailbox.

The "Locate a User" command is useful to get a Drop-Box icon. Select this item from the mail menu and enter a small portion of another user's name. TeleFinder then presents a list of users in the Users List window. Select the correct name from the list. Then click in the "Mailbox" button of the user list window.

Downloading Files

Use the "Download File" command in the File menu to transfer a copy of a file from the BBS to your own hard disk. By default TeleFinder will save files in the same directory as the TFUSER.EXE program. You can specify a different directory using the "Set Download Path" command.

Select the "Set Download Path" command from the File menu to open this dialog. Enter the pathname of the directory that you want TeleFinder to use when it downloads files. Then click in the OK button.

File Information

Select a file icon, then select the "Get Info" command from the File menu. TeleFinder displays the file's name, size, and date information in the Info window. A description of the file may also be present.

Folder access privileges

The icons in the upper left portion of windows describe the access privileges you have for a given folder. The BBS administrator may assign you any combination of Write, Delete, See Files and See Folders access.

The most common access for a file download area is "No Write, No Delete, See Files and See Folders." With these privileges you can download the files contained within that folder but cannot delete or add new files to the area. Conference areas are usually : "Write, No Delete, See Files and See Folders." With these privileges you can create new topics within the conference and post your own messages to existing topics.

Using Chat

Chat provides four functions:

- Chat rooms where many users can chat together.
- Instant messages where you can send messages directly to another user.
- Chat with Sysop.
- A list of the users currently on-line.

The Chat commands are grouped together in the Mail menu. The "List of Users On-line" is active only when you connect to a TeleFinder BBS that supports multi-user chat.

Chat rooms appear in your TeleFinder User desktop window just like other areas of the BBS do. The "Channel 3" icon above shows the default icon for chat rooms. Sysops can assign any icon to a chat room.

This is the chat room window. Messages you enter appear along with the messages from users in the room. You can enter up to 255 characters to send in this window. The "In" and "Out" status lines show you when other users enter and leave the chat room.

Select the "List of Users On-line" command when you are on-line to produce a list like the one shown above. This list does not update itself, so click in "Refresh" button to create a current listing.

- Use the "Mail" button to open an addressed mail form to the selected user.
- Use the "Drop-Box" button to put the "Drop-Box" icon of the selected user in the BBS Desktop window.
- Click in the "Send IM" button to open a dialog you can use to enter and send an instant message.

Instant Messages are a quick and easy way to send a short note to another user while they are on-line. They are also useful to send a private note to another user while you are chatting in a chat room. You can enter up to 255 characters to send in this window.

