

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT

Copyright © 1995-1997 by Gregory Braun. All rights reserved.

Overview

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT is a small utility that provides a quick means of launching your favorite programs from the Windows 95/NT desktop.

Launch & Edit

Click the left mouse button to launch an application, or the right mouse button to configure a new button.

Drag & Drop

You can also drag a program file icon or shortcut directly onto the ToolBar to quickly define a button. An option is included to open documents dropped on a button using the program defined for that button as well.

Button Groups

Ten ToolBar button groups are available for organizing your applications and utilities into customized tool groups. Press the left and right arrows on the last ToolBar button to cycle through your button groups. The arrow keys on the keyboard can also be used to quickly change button groups.

Popup Menu

Click the mouse on the last ToolBar button's group name to display a popup menu of the various ToolBar options or to select another button group directly from ToolBar's menu.

Taskbar Tray

ToolBar places a small icon in the Windows 95 Icon Tray while it runs. Clicking on this icon will activate the ToolBar popup menu. If the ToolBar is minimized pressing the icon in the Taskbar tray will also re-display the ToolBar. This is useful if you have selected the Minimize on Use menu item.

Startup

To have ToolBar launched automatically whenever Windows is started, place a link to it in the Windows 95/NT Start Menu's StartUp Folder.

Desktop Location

The desktop location you have selected for ToolBar will be saved, and used the next time you run it.

Installing ToolBar

Installation

To install ToolBar for Windows 95/NT on your computer system simply create a new, empty folder and place the files; TOOLBAR.EXE, TOOLBAR.ICL, TOOLBAR.HLP and TOOLBAR.CNT there.

TOOLBAR.EXE - The ToolBar Application
TOOLBAR.HLP - The Windows 95 Help File
TOOLBAR.CNT - The Windows 95 Help Contents File
TOOLBAR.ICL - The ToolBar Icon Library

If you are installing ToolBar for Windows 95/NT on your system for the first time when you run ToolBar it will automatically create a default set of buttons. You can edit these buttons or create your own.

To integrate ToolBar for Windows 95/NT with the MS Windows Explorer select the ToolBar Setup dialog box while ToolBar is running.

Warning If you rename the TOOLBAR.EXE file you must also rename the HLP and ICL files using the same basename. For example if you change the ToolBar application file name to NewName.exe, rename the help and icon library files to NewName.hlp and NewName.icl respectively. Do not rename the ToolBar.cnt file however. The HLP, CNT and ICL files *must* reside in the same folder as the application file itself.

Configuring ToolBar

Configuring ToolBar

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT can be configured by selecting the **Options** item from the popup menu. A dialog box will be displayed allowing various ToolBar options to be specified.

Minimize ToolBar on Button Use

Check this box to minimize ToolBar to an icon after a button is pressed and the associated application is launched. To redisplay the ToolBar click the icon in the TaskBar Icon Notification Tray.

Note This is an application-wide setting. To minimize ToolBar on a button-by-button basis select the Hide ToolBar setting when editing individual buttons.

Smaller ToolBar

Check this box to reduce the size of ToolBar by one button. This option is useful on systems where the Taskbar and the top or bottom of the ToolBar window overlap. This option will not take effect until ToolBar is restarted.

Confirm ToolBar Exit

Check this box to display a dialog box confirming a ToolBar exit before returning to the desktop.

Keep System Information Topmost

Check this item to keep the System Resource Monitor window floating above all other windows on the desktop.

Log Program Launches

Check this item to log all program launches in the TOOLBAR.LOG file. This option provides a simple means of recording your computing activities. The TOOLBAR.LOG file can be viewed with any ASCII text editor. The log file will be found in the same folder containing the TOOLBAR.EXE file.

Right Edge of the Desktop

Select this item to place ToolBar on the right edge of the MS Explorer Desktop.

Left Edge of the Desktop

Select this item to place ToolBar on the left edge of the MS Explorer Desktop.

Import

ToolBar button definitions can be loaded from an ASCII text file. The button definition file you specify for import must have been created using the Export function described below. This command is useful if you use ToolBar on multiple computers, or you have several different MS Windows 95/NT login accounts. See the Importing and Exporting ToolBar Buttons section of this help file for a complete discussion of importing button definitions.

Export

ToolBar button definitions can be saved in an ASCII text file. Use this option to save a copy of your current button definitions. This command is useful if you use ToolBar on more than one computer, or you have multiple MS Windows 95/NT login accounts. The button definitions you save can be Imported later on a different machine, or after you have logged in using another login account accounts. See the Importing and Exporting ToolBar Buttons section of this help file for a complete discussion of exporting button definitions.

Play Button Launch Sounds

Check this item to play a short "click" sound when a ToolBar button is pressed to launch an application.

OK

Press this button when you have completed your selection of ToolBar program options. When you press this button the ToolBar Options dialog box will be closed and your settings will be saved.

Cancel

Press this button to close the ToolBar Options dialog box without making any changes. If you have made any changes to the option settings, and then press this button your changes will not be used, and your previous settings will remain in use.

Help

Press this button to open the ToolBar Help Window and go directly to the Configuring ToolBar topic.

Note The options you have selected will be saved when you press the **OK** button. The desktop location of the ToolBar Options window itself will also be stored. Your settings will be saved in the MS Windows 95/NT System Registry.

Configuring ToolBar Groups

Configuring ToolBar Groups

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT Button Groups can be configured by selecting the **Options** item from the popup menu and then pressing the **Groups** tab. A dialog box will be displayed allowing various ToolBar Button Groups settings to be specified.

Group

The ToolBar Group list displays the ten button groups that are available. Use the **[Up]** and **[Down]** buttons located to the right of the Group list to change the order of the button groups. Use the **[Edit]** button, or double-click on a tool group name to change the button group name displayed at the bottom of the ToolBar, and on the popup menu. Unchecking the **Active** box below the group name will disable the entire button group. Disabled groups will not be displayed as you scroll through the available buttons, and the group name will be grayed on the popup menu. Button group zero (0) can not be disabled.

HTML Browser

Enter the name and full path of your HTML Web Browser, or press the browse button **[...]** to the right of this entry field to select your browser automatically using the standard file explorer dialog box. The application you specify for this item will be used with HTML buttons you define.

OK

Press this button when you have completed your selection of ToolBar program options. When you press this button the ToolBar Options dialog box will be closed and your settings will be saved.

Cancel

Press this button to close the ToolBar Options dialog box without making any changes. If you have made any changes to the option settings, and then press this button your changes will not be used, and your previous settings will remain in use.

Help

Press this button to open the ToolBar Help Window and go directly to the Configuring ToolBar Groups topic.

Note The options you have selected will be saved when you press the **OK** button. The desktop location of the ToolBar Options window itself will also be stored. Your settings will be saved in the MS Windows 95/NT [System Registry](#).

Configuring ToolBar Buttons

Configuring ToolBar Buttons

Entire ToolBar for Windows 95/NT button groups can be easily customized by selecting the **Options** item from the popup menu and then picking the **Buttons** Tab. A dialog box will be displayed allowing entire ToolBar button groups to be changed.

Group

The Group drop box contains a list of the 10 ToolBar button groups available. Select the button group you would like to work with by picking the group name from the list displayed.

Application

The Application list box displays the names of the buttons currently defined for the active button group. Use the mouse to select the ToolBar button item you wish to modify. Double-clicking your mouse on a button description will open the ToolBar Editing dialog box.

Edit

Press the **Edit** button to modify the currently selected button definition.

Up

Press the **Up** button to move the currently selected button definition up one position on the ToolBar. This button will be disabled (grayed) if the current selection is at the top of the list.

Down

Press the **Down** button to move the currently selected button definition down one position on the ToolBar. This button will be disabled (grayed) if the current selection is at the bottom of the list.

Cut

Press the **Cut** button to remove the currently selected button definition. The button definition you remove is stored in ToolBar's private scrap and can be used later with the Paste command. The buttons you cut can later be pasted into a different button group by selecting the destination button group using the **Group** pick list.

Copy

Press the **Copy** button to make a copy of the currently selected button definition. The button definition you copy is stored in ToolBar's private scrap and can be used later with the Paste command. The buttons you copy can later be pasted into a different button group by selecting the destination button group using the **Group** pick list.

Paste

Press the **Paste** button to insert a previously cut or copied button definition at the current button selection. You will be prompted to confirm the Paste command if you attempt to paste a button definition on top of a previously defined button. This button will be disabled (grayed) if no button definition has been cut or copied.

Remove

Press the Remove button to delete the currently selected button definition. This command unlike the Cut command, does not store the removed button definition in ToolBar's private scrap.

OK

Press this button when you have completed your customization of ToolBar button groups. Your changes will be stored in the MS Windows 95/NT System Registry when the dialog box is closed.

Cancel

Press this button to close the ToolBar Customization dialog box without making any changes.

Help

Press this button to open the ToolBar Help window and go directly to the Configuring ToolBar Buttons topic.

ToolBar Explorer Setup

ToolBar Setup

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT can be integrated with the MS Explorer by selecting the **Options** item from the popup menu and then pressing the **Explorer** tab. This window will allow you to integrate ToolBar for Windows 95/NT with the Microsoft Windows 95/NT Explorer. Use this command to create and remove MS Explorer shortcuts.

Create a Start Menu Item

Check this item to create a ToolBar Start Menu entry. The ToolBar for Windows 95/NT program will be located in the Software by Design folder on the Programs menu. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar item already exists in the Software by Design folder.

Remove this Start Menu Item

Check this item to remove the ToolBar entry located in the Software by Design folder on the Programs menu. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar item does not already exist in the Software by Design folder.

Create a Desktop Icon

Check this item to create a ToolBar for Windows 95/NT program icon on the Explorer desktop. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar desktop icon already exists.

Remove Icon from the Desktop

Check this item to remove the ToolBar for Windows 95/NT program icon from the Explorer desktop. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar desktop icon does not already exist.

Create a Startup Folder Item

Check this item to automatically run ToolBar for Windows 95/NT whenever Microsoft Windows is started. This option creates a ToolBar program icon in the MS Windows Explorer Startup folder. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar startup item already exists in the Startup folder.

Remove the Startup Folder Item

Check this item to remove ToolBar from the MS Windows Explorer Startup folder. This item will be disabled (grayed) if a ToolBar startup item does not already exist in the Startup folder.

OK

Press this button when you have completed your selection of MS Explorer shortcuts. When you press this button the ToolBar Setup dialog box will be closed and the MS Explorer shortcuts you have selected will be created or removed.

Cancel

Press this button to close the ToolBar Explorer Setup dialog box without creating or removing any MS Explorer shortcuts.

Help

Press this button to open the ToolBar Help window and go directly to the ToolBar Explorer Setup topic.

ToolBar Popup Menu

Popup Menu

Clicking the mouse on the button group name or number displayed in the last button at the bottom of ToolBar will display a popup menu containing various items that can be used to control ToolBar.

The popup menu displays the ten button groups names at the top. Select a group from this list to go directly to that button group. You can use the shortcut keys **Ctrl+0** through **Ctrl+9** to select button groups. Other items are included to perform various ToolBar functions as follows:

Always on Top

Check this item to keep the ToolBar window topmost on the desktop. With this item checked ToolBar will float above all other windows on the desktop.

Minimize on Use

Check this item to hide ToolBar after you press a button to launch an application. To redisplay the ToolBar window click on the icon in the TaskBar Icon Notification Tray.

Show Icons Only

Check this item to display a narrow ToolBar window containing only icons, instead of both icons and button descriptions. Uncheck this item to restore full ToolBar buttons with descriptions. When this item is selected a small popup tool tip window containing the button name will be displayed when the mouse pointer is passed over the various ToolBar buttons you have defined.

Left Edge

Check this item to place ToolBar on the left edge of the MS Explorer desktop, or uncheck this item to place ToolBar on the right edge of the desktop.

Minimize

Select this item to minimize the ToolBar window to an icon in the TaskBar tray. You can also use the **Ctrl+Y** shortcut key to activate this menu command.

Run

Select this item to run programs not defined as buttons. This command displays a dialog box similar to the normal MS Windows Run window. Enter the name of the program you wish to run and any additional command line options required. The drop lists will display the previous commands you have entered. You can also select one of these to quickly re-run an application you have previously invoked. The **Ctrl+R** shortcut key can also be used for this item.

Screen Saver

Select this item to automatically activate your screen saver. If you have specified a password for your screen saver this item provides a simple way of activating your screen saver and protecting your system. The **Ctrl+S** shortcut key can also be used for this item.

Information

Select this item to display a small System Resource Monitor window. This window will dynamically display the current system resource usage and information concerning your computer. If you are experiencing trouble running other applications leave this window open as you launch applications and you will see how each program impacts upon system resources. You can also use the **Alt+Enter** shortcut key to open the System Resource Monitor.

Options

Select this item to display a dialog box allowing you to configure the various [ToolBar options and settings](#).

Help

Select this item to display this Help file. You can also use the **F1** shortcut key to open the Help window.

About ToolBar

Select this item to display the ToolBar splash box. This window displays the current version of ToolBar and a copyright notice. Click your mouse anywhere in this window to close it.

Exit

Select this item to exit ToolBar for Windows and return to the desktop. If you have checked the **Confirm ToolBar Exit** item in the [ToolBar Options](#) dialog you will be asked to confirm this command. You can also use the **Ctrl+Q** shortcut key for this command.

Editing a ToolBar Button

Editing ToolBar Buttons

The quickest way to define a ToolBar button is to locate the program or document using the MS Windows Explorer, and then drag the file directly onto the button you would like to define. You can also drag and drop file shortcuts onto ToolBar buttons.

ToolBar Settings

ToolBar buttons are defined using settings similar to those properties used by the Windows Explorer. You can specify a name to describe a ToolBar button, the program to be run and an optional command line. You can also specify the starting directory to be selected when an application is launched.

If you are having trouble running an application from a ToolBar button check the Windows Explorer item properties for the program link and duplicate these in your ToolBar button definition. Programs often require that the Working Directory be the same folder that the application itself is located in.

To define or edit a ToolBar button definition right-click the mouse on the button you wish to edit. A dialog box will be displayed that allows you to define the various application settings as follows:

Name

Enter a short name to describe the application. This name will appear to the right of the program icon when the button is displayed.

Active

Check this box to make the button active. If this button is not checked the button title will be grayed, and the button will not be usable. This option exists to optionally turn off a button without deleting it.

Program

Enter the complete path and file name for the program to be used with this button, or press the browse button [...] to the right of the entry field to select an application automatically using the standard MS Windows file explorer dialog box.

Run

Selects the initial window size of the application being defined. You can select Normal, Minimized or Maximized. The application's window will be sized according to this setting when the program is launched.

Hide ToolBar

Check this box to hide the ToolBar window when launching the application defined for this button. This option is similar to the Minimize on Use item on the ToolBar popup menu, but allows you to selectively minimize the ToolBar on a button-by-button basis.

Open Documents Dropped on this Button

Check this box to open documents using the application defined for this button. If this option is checked and you drag and drop a document on a ToolBar button the defined program will be launched and the selected document will be opened.

Multiple Copies

Check this box to launch multiple instances of the selected program. ToolBar normally activates a running application's main window when a button is pressed for an already running application

Ask for Arguments

Check this box to allow additional run-time arguments to be entered when a application is first started.

Directory

Use this field to specify the working directory for the specified application. When a program is first launched the directory specified will become the current working directory. Use this item to specify a directory, other than the program's directory if you normally locate an application's document files in a folder other than where the application itself exists. To automatically select a working directory press the browse button [...] to the right of this entry field.

Icon File

Use this field to specify a file containing custom icons, or press the browse button [...] to the right of this field to automatically select a file using the standard MS Windows file explorer dialog. Icon files normally have ICO, ICL, NIL and DLL file extensions. The TOOLBAR.ICL file included with ToolBar for Windows 95/NT contains 200 icons suitable for use as custom button icons. The SHELL32.DLL found in the Windows\System folder is an example of another file that contains icon resources.

Use a Custom Icon

Check this box to use a custom icon defined in the Icon File entry field as entered above.

Selecting Icons

Small arrow buttons are located directly beneath the program and custom file icons. Use these buttons to scroll through the icons available for this ToolBar button.

OK

Press this button when you have completed your selection of settings for the button. When you press this button the ToolBar Button Editing window will be closed and your button settings will be saved.

Cancel

Press this button to close the ToolBar Button Editing window without making any changes. If you have made any changes to the button settings, and then press this button your changes will not be used, and your previous button settings will remain in use.

Delete

Press this button to delete the current button. You will be asked to confirm this selection before the button is actually deleted from the ToolBar group.

Help

Press this button to open the ToolBar Help window and go directly to the Editing a ToolBar Button topic.

Game Tips

Some programs, especially games, often require that the Working Directory be the same folder that the application itself is located in.

Working Directory Tips

You can also use the Working Directory entry to specify where you would like your documents to be placed. When the ToolBar button is pressed the program will be launched and the document directory you specified will be selected. This is helpful if you normally locate your document files in a folder other than where the application itself is located.

Custom Icons in a Button

Custom Icons

Custom icons can be assigned to ToolBar buttons. Icons can be located in ICO or DLL files, as well as most of the popular icon library formats available for Windows. This feature is especially useful if you create ToolBar buttons for MS DOS applications or batch files.

Icon Libraries

The SHELL32.DLL file located in your Windows System directory is an example of a DLL file that contains numerous icons suitable for use as custom icons in ToolBar buttons. The file TOOLBAR.ICL also contains icons compatible with ToolBar.

Default Icon Library

When you create a new button the TOOLBAR.ICL file will be the default icon library for custom icons. To use a different icon library press the browse button [...] to the right of the Icon File field and select the file you would prefer to use for custom icons.

Moving ToolBar Buttons

Moving ToolBar Buttons Within a Group

You can change the location of ToolBar buttons within a group by holding down either the Ctrl or Shift key and dragging the button to the new location using the mouse.

Moving a ToolBar Button to Another Group

To move a ToolBar button to a different group select the Options item on the ToolBar popup menu and then activate the **Buttons** tab. Select the button you would like to move and press the Copy button to the right of the button list. Then select the desired group using the combo box at the top of the window, select the position to place the currently selected button item and press the Paste button.

Control Panel Applets

Control Panel Applets

Control Panel Applets can be defined as buttons by specifying the applet as the command argument and specifying the CONTROL.EXE application as the program. Specify the applet as the custom icon file as well. The icon for the applet is stored there.

For example, to create a button for the Mouse Control Panel use:

Program: C:\WIN95\CONTROL.EXE
Command: C:\WIN95\SYSTEMMAIN.CPL

Icon File: C:\WIN95\SYSTEMMAIN.CPL
[X] Use Custom Icon File

Dragging Control Panel Applets

You can also drag & drop a Control Panel Applet directly onto the ToolBar to make a button. Control Panel Applets have a file extension of .CPL and can be found in your Windows System Folder.

Documents as Buttons

Dragging Documents to ToolBar

Dragging documents with several standard extension types will automatically create ToolBar buttons with the program field filled in for you. If the program name inserted is not your preferred viewer you can change it as you would any other button.

The following list describes the file extensions that ToolBar will automatically create buttons for.

CPL	- Windows 95 Control Panel
CRD	- Microsoft Card File
DOC	- Microsoft Word Pad
HLP	- Microsoft Windows 95 Help
HT	- Microsoft HyperTerminal
HTM	- Internet Web Browser
HTML	- Internet Web Browser
RTF	- Microsoft Word Pad
SHTML	- Internet Web Browser
WRI	- Microsoft Word Pad

Note If you've checked **Open Documents Dropped on this Button** in the ToolBar Button [definition](#) this command will be overridden and the document will be loaded into the program defined for the button.

Note If you use a web browser other than Microsoft's Internet Explorer you can specify your browser in the ToolBar Options dialog box. You will also need to specify where the Internet Explorer is located if you installed it to a folder other than the default.

Explorer Desktop Icons

Explorer Desktop Icons

ToolBar buttons can be created for the standard Explorer desktop icons such as “My Computer” and the “Network Neighborhood”. You will need to create these buttons using the right-click editing method.

Explorer’s desktop icons are not icons in the normal sense, so you need to specify the ToolBar button program as Explorer, and use the icons signature as the command entry.

For example to put the “My Computer” icon in the Toolbar use:

Name: My Computer
Program: C:\Win95\Explorer.exe
Command: ::{ 20D04FE0-3AEA-1069-A2D8-08002B30309D}

Explorer Signatures

The following list describes the signatures you will need to use for the various Explorer icons displayed on the desktop by default.

Printers: ::{2227A280-3AEA-1069-A2DE-08002B30309D}
Network: ::{208D2C60-3AEA-1069-A2D7-08002B30309D}
InBox: ::{00020D75-0000-0000-C000-000000000046}
Dial-Up: ::{20D04FE0-3AEA-1069-A2D8-08002B30309D};::{992CFFA0-F557-101A-88EC-00DD010CCC48}

Note Your system may be using different signatures than those mentioned above. Check your computer’s registry for the values your system has defined for these items.

Drive and Folder Buttons

Drive and Folder Buttons

ToolBar buttons can also be created for disk drives and specific folders. When you press a drive or folder button the MS Explorer program will be launched the specified folder will be opened on the desktop.

For example to create a button for your C: drive on the ToolBar use:

Name: Drive C:
Program: C:\Win95\Explorer.exe
Command: "C:\\"

To create a button for a folder on the ToolBar use:

Name: Programs
Program: C:\Win95\Explorer.exe
Command: "C:\Program Files"

Tip Remember to enclose folder path names in quotes if they contain spaces in their names.

Note You will need to specify an icon from the MS Explorer application, or a custom icon from the TOOLBAR.ICL library if you define drive or folder buttons on ToolBar.

Tip The file "C:\Win95\System\Shell32.dll" also contains icons suitable for drive and folder buttons.

Dial-Up Networking Buttons

Dial-Up Networking Buttons

ToolBar buttons can also be created for specific Dial-Up Networking connections. When you press a Dial-Up Networking button you will automatically launch that service's login window.

Use the program and command entries illustrated below to create a Dial-Up ToolBar button:

Name: Connection Name
Program: C:\Win95\RunDLL.exe
Command: C:\Win95\System\Rnaui.dll,RnaDial <Connection Name>

You will need to also assign a custom icon to the button.

Note The <Connection Name> you specify must be named exactly as it appears in the Dial-Up Networking folder, but without the "<" and ">" characters.

ToolBar Shortcut Keys

Shortcuts

Use the page and arrow keys to quickly view your button groups. These commands work the same way as pressing the arrows on the last button on the ToolBar.

Ctrl+0 - Ctrl+9	Display a Button Group
Left	Display previous button group
Right	Display next button group
Home	Display the first button group
End	Display the last button group
Up	Display previous button group
Backspace	Display previous button group
Down	Display next button group
Tab	Display next button group
Alt+F10	Show the popup menu
Ctrl+S	Start the Screen Saver
Ctrl+R	Run an ad hoc command
Ctrl+Y	Minimize the ToolBar to an icon
Ctrl+Q	Exit ToolBar
Alt+Enter	System Resource Monitor
Alt+Space	Show the popup menu
F1	Display this Help file

General Information

General Information

I have tried to keep ToolBar as small as possible so that users with 386 SX machines and limited memory resources can still run ToolBar whenever Windows is launched.

VGA/Super VGA Users

Users with VGA and Super VGA video displays may find that running ToolBar as "Icons Only" preserves as much desktop space for applications as possible.

ToolBar Size

ToolBar automatically adjusts its size to your video display screen height. Depending upon your display size and video resolution, you will have between 10 and 36 ToolBar buttons per group.

Display Settings

If you change your video driver's display resolution often you will want to put your most frequently used applications towards the top of the ToolBar.

Do not be alarmed if you lower your screen resolution and ToolBar buttons are not displayed, they are still defined and will re-appear when you change back to the previous higher resolution.

Running ToolBar on a Network

ToolBar on a Network

ToolBar can be used on a network and optionally configured to prevent users from changing ToolBar button definitions.

Network Installation

To use ToolBar on a network install the TOOLBAR.EXE, TOOLBAR.ICL and TOOLBAR.HLP files on a network drive, configure the ToolBar button groups as you would normally.

Read-Only Buttons

Users can be prevented from modifying button definitions as well. You must exit ToolBar and edit the MS Windows 95/NT System Registry file using RegEdit.

Locate the **ReadOnly=0** key in the **[ToolBar]** section and change it to **ReadOnly=1** to prevent user edits. Now users can run ToolBar, but will not be allowed to edit ToolBar button definitions.

Preventing Ad Hoc Program Launches

To prevent users from accessing the Run command on the popup menu locate the **Run=1** key in the **[ToolBar]** section and set it to **Run=0** to restrict users from running ad hoc MS DOS and Windows commands.

Note In previous versions of ToolBar the **ReadOnly=1** switch restricted both of these options, but now if you do not want your users to access the Run dialog edit the System Registry as described above. This was changed because some network administrators requested it.

Note Workstations should establish a network connection and login before ToolBar is run if button definitions refer to applications located on the network server. ToolBar loads icons for program buttons from the application file itself, so if the workstation is not connected to the network the program icons will not be loaded and the default ToolBar icon will be displayed instead.

System Information

System Information

ToolBar has a small system information and resource monitor window. This window is useful for monitoring system resource usage and reporting computer configuration settings.

Activation

To activate the System Information window select the Information item from the ToolBar popup menu or press the **Alt+Enter** shortcut key. A small window will be displayed on the desktop showing the current system configuration and resource usage.

This window is dynamically updated as system resources change. The following items are reported:

Microsoft Windows

This region displays the version of MS Windows installed on your computer and the type of CPU found. If you are using a system that has more than one processor installed this will also be reported here.

Memory

This region displays the total amount of RAM available to Windows as well as the amount of memory that is currently free. MS Windows 95 cannot use the lower 640K of memory used by MS DOS so the total RAM available will be slightly less than the total RAM installed on your system. The free memory value will change dynamically as programs are loaded, run and unloaded.

Note MS Windows 95/NT systems use virtual memory, so as physical memory is exhausted virtual memory is created. Watch the Swap gauge in the Resources section to monitor virtual memory allocation.

Video Monitor

This region displays the current video display resolution and the number of colors available as follows:

- 1-bit:** black & white (monochrome)
- 4-bit:** 16 colors or shades of gray
- 8-bit:** 256 colors or shades of gray
- 16-bit:** Thousands of colors
- 32-bit:** Millions of colors

Resources

This region displays three gauges showing the current resource usage for the System, RAM and Swap space. These items will change as programs are loaded, used and unloaded. The color of the gauge changes based upon the current usage as follows:

- Blue:** less than 90% usage
- Yellow:** less than 95% used
- Red:** more than 95% used

Note If you are having trouble loading a program check these values as you attempt to launch the application.

Importing and Exporting Buttons

Importing and Exporting ToolBar Buttons

ToolBar button definitions can be saved and loaded using standard ASCII text files. Select the Options item on the ToolBar popup menu to Import and Export entire ToolBar button definition files.

Importing and exporting ToolBar button definitions is useful if you run ToolBar for Windows 95/NT on several different computer systems, or you have multiple MS Windows 95/NT login accounts on a single machine. ToolBar button configuration files are created with a TBX file extension. You can specify any file extension you wish, but changing the extension will prevent the proper file icon from being displayed by the MS Windows Explorer.

ToolBar stores its button definitions on a user-by-user basis in the System Registry if you have configured MS Windows 95 to save each individual computer users' preferences and desktop settings. You can verify these settings by selecting the Password Control Panel applet and viewing the **User Profiles** tab.

ToolBar will use individual button definitions if the Password Control Panel **User Profiles** tab specifies "Users can customize their preferences and desktop settings. Windows switches to your personal settings whenever you log in".

ToolBar will use the same set of button definitions for all users if the Password Control Panel **User Profiles** tab specifies "All users of this PC use the same preferences and desktop settings".

The **Import** and **Export** commands are found in the ToolBar Options dialog box. The button configuration files created using the ToolBar Export command should not be modified manually. If you insist on editing these yourself you do so at your own risk. The following information describes the format of the ToolBar export file.

ToolBar Button Configuration File Format

The ToolBar button configuration file is comprised of three types of information; General ToolBar application settings, Group definitions, and individual button definitions. ToolBar configuration files are implemented using standard MS Windows 95/NT Profile settings files. Due to the size limitation of this type of file the various Boolean settings are concatenated into single ASCII strings whenever possible.

General ToolBar Settings

The first section of a button definition export file describes the general ToolBar application settings

```
[ToolBar]
Signature=0x80888088
Browser=C:\Program Files\Microsoft Internet\IEExplore.exe
WaveFile=C:\Win95\Media\The Microsoft Sound.wav
Flags=1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0
```

The **Flags** parameter contains the settings as specified in the ToolBar Options dialog box. These settings are all Boolean values and must be set to either a "0" for FALSE, or a "1" for TRUE as follows:

- Always on Top
- Minimize ToolBar on Button Use
- Show Icons Only
- Confirm ToolBar Exit
- Smaller ToolBar
- Read Only †
- Run †
- Log Program Launches
- Show Splash Box at Startup
- Play Button Launch Sounds
- Left Edge of the Desktop

† These settings are only useful to Network Administrators and should not be modified.

Group Names

The second section of a button definition export file describes the ten button groups defined for the ToolBar.

```
[G0] through [G9]
Name=Main
Active=1
```

There will be ten Group Names in this section labeled [G0] † through [G9].

- Name The name defined for this button group.
- Active 1=Active, 0=Disabled.

† The first Button Group must always be active.

Button Settings

The third section of a button definition export file contains the actual button definitions you have created as follows:

```
[2:14]
Name=Screen Loupe
Prg=C:\Program Files\Software by Design\Loupe.exe
Cmd=-fast -2 -sound
Dir=|D:\usr\Clip-Art\Fine Art|†
Icons=C:\Program Files\Software by Design\ToolBar.icl
Wave=C:\Win95\Media\The Microsoft Sound.wav
Flags=1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0
```

Button settings use section labels comprised of the button group number (0-9), a semicolon separator and the button number (0-n). Both button group numbers and ToolBar button definitions are zero-based.

† The | character is automatically converted to a double quote character upon import because MS Windows 95/NT Profile settings files cannot store double-quoted strings.

The `Flags` parameter contains the settings as specified in the ToolBar Editing dialog box. These settings are all Boolean values unless otherwise noted and must be set to either a "0" for FALSE, or a "1" for TRUE as follows:

- Button is Defined
- Tool is Active
- Use the Custom Icon File
- Launch Multiple Instances
- Ask for Arguments at Run-Time
- Hide ToolBar on Button Launch
- Open Documents Dropped on this Button
- Play the WAV file Associated with this Tool Button
- Run (1=Normal, 2=Minimized, 3=Maximized)
- Index (icon number, zero based)

Troubleshooting FAQs

Troubleshooting FAQs

This is a compilation of frequently asked questions I've received from users. Most of the problems users encounter involve an incorrectly specified Working Directory entry. Check this setting first if you are having a problem with a specific button.

How do I get ToolBar to run whenever I start up MS Windows?

Select the **Setup** item on the ToolBar popup menu to display the ToolBar Explorer Setup dialog box. Use this window to integrate ToolBar for Windows 95/NT with the Microsoft Explorer. You can create Explorer Startup menu items and desktop icons using this window.

Using ToolBar with Norton Utilities

To use Norton Utilities with ToolBar create buttons as you normally would, but define the Working Directory as that folder that contains the Norton DLLs. This directory is normally located within the folder that contains the actual program files. If you have run the Norton installer program and used the folder defaults this sub-folder will be named System.

Tip Newer versions of Peter Norton's Utilities store DLLs in two folder locations; **C:\Program Files\Notron Utilities\System** and **C:\Program Files\Symantec**. If you edit your Path statement to include these two folder locations you won't have to specify a working directory for any of the Norton tools. Use the original MS DOS 8.3 file naming format for these directory entries; "c:\progra~1\norton~1\system" and "c:\progra~1\symantec".

I've defined a button but the program can't locate DLLs

Check the folder containing the application and check for a sub-folder containing the DLLs needed by the application. If such a folder exists use this folder as the button's Working Directory entry.

My program can't find its startup files or documents

Make sure the Working Directory entry for the button is the same as the folder that contains the application. Many games look for sounds, game files, and graphics in the directory the application starts from, so make sure the working directory is set to the program folder.

My network applications do not have the correct icon

Make sure your network software is loaded and you have logged onto the network before launching ToolBar. ToolBar loads the icons it displays in buttons from the application files you have defined. If you do not have a network connection these icons won't be found, and the default ToolBar icon will be used in their place. If logging onto the network prior to loading ToolBar isn't possible use a custom icon from an icon library located on your local hard drive.

How do I define buttons for Explorer desktop icons?

See the Explorer Desktop Icons section of this help file for a complete discussion of this subject.

How do I define buttons for Explorer drives and folders?

Specify the MS Explorer application (C:\Win95\Explorer.exe) as the program entry and the full path name to the folder you want to open, for example; "C:\My Documents" to open your document folder. Remember to enclose the folder path in quotes if the name contains spaces. To define drives as buttons use "C:\\" or "D:\\" as the command field.

Defining a button for a program on a CD ROM

Make sure the program disk is loaded in your CD ROM drive. Most CD ROM programs allow you to install a small startup application on your hard drive, if so, use this program as your button definition, then when you press the button the local program will prompt you to load the CD ROM disk needed. This method will work with most CD ROM games as well.

Defining buttons for MS DOS programs

MS Windows looks for a Program Information File (PIF) located in the same folder as the application and automatically uses this file to configure the MS DOS program being run. Use the actual MS DOS program name as the button definition. If a program is being run for the first time a PIF file will be created automatically. You can set the PIF's properties using the Properties button on the MS DOS Shell toolbar ribbon. MS DOS programs normally won't have an icon so define a custom icon for the ToolBar button using the Custom Icon setting when editing the button definition.

My Screen Saver appears but immediately deactivates itself

Most screen savers detect mouse movements or keyboard entries. If you select the Screen Saver item on the ToolBar popup menu, and then move the mouse again even a small bit the screen saver will be deactivated. To get around this problem use the **Ctrl+S** shortcut key instead, and then do not press any other keys on the keyboard.

ToolBar is hidden behind my application windows

Make sure the **Always on Top** item is checked on the ToolBar popup menu. This will prevent other programs from hiding the ToolBar. Most well designed MS Windows programs will remember their desktop location and use these again the next time they are launched. If so adjust the application window's size so that it doesn't overlap the ToolBar window.

How do I create ToolBar buttons for Dial-Up Networking

See the Dial-Up Networking Buttons section of this help file for a complete discussion of this subject.

Release History

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT Release History

- v2.0 Original in-house development and testing of MS Windows 95/NT conversion.
- v2.1 Added 95/NT splash box for release.
- v2.2 Added drag and drop support for button definitions. All dialog box desktop locations are now saved. The Run command dialog box saves recently run programs and commands in droplists. Added Smaller ToolBar item to the Options dialog to reduce ToolBar height by one button. Removed the TOOLBAR.INI file from the ZIP archive.
- v2.3 Added a separate Run= item to the INI file for network administrators. Added default icon library when creating new buttons. Changed internal module name to resolve naming conflicts with other executables and DLLs using the name ToolBar. Added keyboard commands to cycle through the button groups. Fixed a bug that prevented the ToolBar from being repositioned along the right edge of the desktop when switching between Show Icons Only and normal full sized buttons.
- v2.4 Added Copy and Paste buttons to the Customize dialog to facilitate moving buttons between ToolBar groups. Added new icons to the TOOLBAR.ICL icon library.
- v2.5 Added Cut button to the Customize dialog. Added a Run Maximized item to the ToolBar Edit Button dialog box.
- v2.6 Fixed Run History bug and increased the History list to 16 items.
- v2.7 Added option to selectively disable button groups. Added support for MS Windows screen color settings using the Display Properties dialog. Added the default user and company name to the splash box. Added new icons to the TOOLBAR.ICL icon library.
- v2.8 Added an option to selectively hide the ToolBar when launching an application. Fixed bug that removed the double quote character in command line parameters. The double quote character is stored as the bar "|" and then restored when ToolBar loads definitions.
- v2.9 Fixed quoted strings bug in tool command options.
- v3.0 Added MS Windows 95/NT Help file.
- v3.1 Added option to open documents dropped on a button.
- v3.2 Added support for dragging shortcuts to define new buttons. Replaced the custom Folder Browser with the standard MS Windows 95/NT dialog box. Added support for the MS Windows 95/NT System Registry. Added new icons to the icon library. Fixed several minor bugs.
- v3.3 Increased toolbar button groups to 10 from the original 8. Fixed dialog box desktop locations when the Explorer Taskbar is placed at the top or left edge of the display. Add facilities to the ToolBar Options dialog box to re-order toolbar button groups.
- v3.4 Added ToolBar Explorer Setup dialog box. Fixed a bug in the Customize dialog box that prevented changed and moved items from being saved properly for the last (tenth) tool button group. Added icons to the TOOLBAR.ICL custom icon library. Added automatic setup program to the Zip archive.
- v3.5 Added a program activity logging option. Fixed a bug that prevented MS Windows NT Control Panels from being properly defined when dropped on ToolBar buttons. Added MS Windows NT detection to properly locate programs and utilities. Removed splash box display during initial ToolBar launch.
- v3.6 Converted the main ToolBar window to a standard AppBar similar to the MS Explorer Taskbar. Added popup tool tips for button names when the **Show Icons Only** option is selected. Added facilities to import and export ToolBar button definitions. Added an option to play a short clicking sound when ToolBar buttons are selected. Added facilities to the ToolBar Explorer Setup window to remove ToolBar shortcuts. Converted the ToolBar Options dialog box to a five-tab property sheet. Fixed a bug that allowed shortcut keys to select disabled button groups and run ad hoc commands when the Run=0 setting was specified.
- v3.7 Fixed a bug that prevented maximized applications from using the full desktop when ToolBar was minimized.

Last Update November 21st, 1997

System Registry

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT System Registry Key

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT stores configuration settings in the MS Windows 95/NT System Registry. These settings are updated automatically while ToolBar is running. There is no need to edit these settings manually.

If you insist upon editing these settings, you do so at your own risk. ToolBar automatically updates registry entries when it exits. If you edit these settings make sure ToolBar is not running. If ToolBar is currently running your changes will be overwritten when ToolBar exits.

ToolBar for Windows 95/NT stores configuration settings in the following system registry key:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER
Software
  Software by Design
    ToolBar for Windows 95/NT
      Section...
        Label = Value
```

ToolBar button definitions are stored in the following system registry keys:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER
Software
  Software by Design
    ToolBar for Windows 95/NT
      Group...
        Tool...
          Name          Button label name
          Program       Application name and path
          Command       Command line arguments
          Directory     Starting working directory
          IconFile      Icon library name and path
          WaveFile     WAV file name and path
          Active        1=Active, 0=Grayed
          Run           1=Normal, 2=Min, 3=Max
          Ask           1=Ask for arguments
          Copies        1=Launch multiple instances
          Drop          1=Open dropped documents
          Hide          1=Hide after launching
          Play          1=Play assigned WAV file at launch
          Custom        1=Use a custom icon
          Index         Icon index (zero based)
```

Warning There is no need to edit these settings manually. ToolBar will automatically maintain these settings for you. If you do edit these, you do so at your own risk.

Comments and Upgrades

Comments and Suggestions

If you have comments, questions or find any bugs in ToolBar for Windows 95/NT please feel free to contact me on CompuServe or America Online.

Upgrade Notification

If you would like to be notified when this application is upgraded send me an email message with your online address. Please include the version number of ToolBar that you are using and the location that you downloaded my software from. I will email you when a new version of ToolBar for Windows 95/NT is uploaded to my web site on the Internet, CompuServe, America Online, ExecPC, ZD Net, and MSN.

Gregory Braun
CompuServe: 71613,2175
AOL: GreggBraun
Email: 71613.2175@compuserve.com
Web Site: <http://www.execpc.com/~sbd>
Phone: 1.414.444.8497

Contributions

While ToolBar is offered as Freeware, if you would like to pay for it you are welcome to send any amount you wish to:

Gregory Braun
5609 West Hadley Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210-1554 USA

Your contributions are always welcome, and encourage me to continue developing new applications.

Web Site

Visit my web site on the Internet to download the latest versions of all of my [freeware offerings](#).



Software by Design Web Site

(<http://www.execpc.com/~sbd>)

Software by Design Web Site

Software by Design

You can download the latest versions of all of my freeware from my web site on the Internet. I post the latest releases of my software there first. Click your mouse on the link listed below to visit the Software by Design web site.



Software by Design Web Site

(<http://www.execpc.com/~sbd>)

Freeware Titles

The following software titles are available at my web site on the Internet and can also be found on CompuServe, America Online, ExecPC, MSN and ZD Net.

NoteBook for Windows	(NBOOK.ZIP)
NoteBook for Windows 95/NT	(NBOOK32.ZIP)
Reminders for Windows	(REMIND.ZIP)
Reminders for Windows 95/NT	(REMIND32.ZIP)
ToolBar for Windows	(TBAR.ZIP)
ToolBar for Windows 95/NT	(TBAR32.ZIP)
Screen Loupe for Windows	(LOUPE.ZIP)
Screen Loupe for Windows 95/NT	(LOUPE32.ZIP)
Screen Loupe for Macintosh	(LOUPE.SEA)
Audition for Windows 95/NT	(AUDITION.ZIP)
Password Keeper for Windows 95/NT	(PASSKEEP.ZIP)
CardBase for Windows 95/NT	(CARDBASE.ZIP)
File Editor for Windows	(FXEDIT.ZIP)
File Editor for Windows 95/NT	(FXEDIT32.ZIP)
Crypto for Windows 95/NT	(CRYPTO.ZIP)
Icon Extractor for Windows	(ICONX.ZIP)
Icon Extractor for Windows 95/NT	(ICONX32.ZIP)
FontShow for Windows 95/NT	(FONTSHOW.ZIP)
TxEdit for Windows 95/NT	(TXEDIT.ZIP)
DLL Show for Windows 95	(DLLSHOW.ZIP)
RGB Editor for Windows	(RGB.ZIP)
RGB Editor for Windows 95/NT	(RGB32.ZIP)
Quiz Wizard for Windows 95/NT	(QUIZWIZ.ZIP)
Programmer's IDE	(PMAN.ZIP)
Programmer's IDE 95/NT	(PMAN32.ZIP)
Touch for Windows	(WTOUCH.ZIP)
Disk CleanUp for Windows 95/NT	(CLEANUP.ZIP)
BattleStar for Windows	(BSTAR.ZIP)
BattleStar for Windows 95/NT	(BSTAR32.ZIP)
World Radio for Macintosh	(WRADIO.SEA)

Note The latest versions of my software programs are always posted on my web site first. Versions found on the other online services may be earlier releases.

BBS and Internet Operators

Webmasters

Please upload the original ZIP file intact and title the submission:

"ToolBar for Windows 95/NT v3.7"
--Author Gregory Braun

Web Site

Visit my web site on the Internet to download the latest versions of all of my [freeware offerings](#).



Software by Design Web Site

(<http://www.execpc.com/~sbd>)

Note This site also supports anonymous FTP transfers.

