WinImages Shareware "Read Me"

General Information

Thank you for giving WinImages a test-drive! We hope you like what you find here.
WinImages is the single most powerful image processing and batch image operation tool available for
the Windows operating environment. It is being used in many professional venues right now, and has
been used in the production of many television shows, commercials, major motion pictures and
multimedia productions. We want everyone to experience the power of WinImages, and rather than try
and struggle with the many problems in the chains of dealers and distributors, we have elected to make
the software directly available to the end user. Shareware has come of age as evidenced by the many
truly fine products available today. With the release of the shareware version of WinImages, we're
putting one of the very few truly major applications available into the ring.

The idea behind the shareware concept we are using is simple. You register only those portions of the
product that you want to purchase. You pay a small fee ($5.00 or $10.00) for each group of tools you
elect to purchase, and we e-mail you the "keys" to activate those groups. You can buy none, one, or as
many as you like at any time. In this way, you get the functions you need, as you need them, and we
receive compensation for what we have created that is useful to you. Both the customer and our
company save the costs and delays associated with packing, shipping, storage and advertising.

Should you wish to go even further, there is a commercial version of WinImages available on
CDROM. It includes versions that operate under Windows 3.1, and all four of the Windows NT
platforms: Alpha, Intel, MIPS and PowerPC. Also included is our award-winning, state of the art
morphing and warping tool, as well as hundreds of megabytes of images, animations, demos and more.
To upgrade, you pay the difference between the normal price of the software and the amount you have
spent to date on the shareware version. In other words, you lose nothing financially by working with
the shareware product as long as you prefer - everything you invest in the shareware product counts
towards the commercial product.

Installing the Shareware Product

Installation of the shareware version of WinImages is a manual process at this time. While it does take
a small amount of extra effort on the part of the end-user, it ensures that the entire process is very safe
and completely controlled. We thank you for your patience with this manually installed release.

The shareware version is distributed in a .ZIP file. This is intended to be un-zipped in a new directory
(sometimes called a "folder") located at the root of your hard drive. We suggest that a directory called
"WINIMAGE" be created. This is most compatible with the commercial installation.

Once the files have been extracted from the .ZIP archive, you'll need to use the Windows tool
"Explorer" to move some of the files to their required locations. The task is simple and quick. Use the
following list to help you; it assumes that your windows installation is on drive **c:**, and that windows is
installed, as is normal, in a directory called **windows**. If your system is different, simply substitute the
appropriate drive and directory names.

File:	Move To:
colorset.ini	c:\windows
winfx.ini	c:\windows

msvcrt40.dll	c:\windows\system	(unless it is already there)
ntdll.dll	c:\windows\system	(unless it is already there)

The following files should reside in the same directory as the **fx.exe** file, which is the main program executable. This means that you leave them in the directory where they
were unzipped - the following list is provided only as a checklist for you.

File:	Remains In:
fx.exe	installation directory
fx.hlp	installation directory
fxldjpeg.dll	installation directory
fxldtiff.dll	installation directory
fxpal.dll	installation directory
fxsvjpeg.dll	installation directory
astex.avi	installation directory
aura.avi	installation directory
confill.avi	installation directory
fire2.avi	installation directory
lightn.avi	installation directory
linefill.avi	installation directory
outfill.avi	installation directory
radfill.avi	installation directory
rtile.avi	installation directory
simple.avi	installation directory
wi.avi	installation directory

In addition, there are a large number of data files, which you can leave in the same directory if you prefer; however, we would like to suggest that they would be easier to manage if you put them in directories of their own. The commercial version puts them in a directory called **c:\data** which is a very reasonable place to keep them; the tutorials assume that they are there, also. Here are the file types and what they are; you decide where you would like to keep them. WinImages will remember where they are once you load one. You can make more of all of these file types from within WinImages, these are either used in the tutorials or are just provided for your enjoyment.

File Type:	Function:	
*.pal	Palette.	*Use*: Range fills, color reduction, etc.
*.tml	Timeline.	*Use*: Controls actions over multiple frames.
*.ish	I-Shape.	*Use*: Pre-fab custom area selection shapes.

The final step is to add icons for the **fx.exe** program and the **fx.hlp** documentation system
to the start menu.

From the **Start Button**, select **Settings**, then **Taskbar** and follow the wizard's prompts to
add the icons wherever you like. Remember that you can locate the **fx.exe** and **fx.hlp** files
in the directory **c:\winimage** if you followed our suggestions. If you didn't follow our suggestions, then
we have to assume you know where you put the program and help files!

At this point, WinImages should be ready to run. Double-click on the program icon, and have fun! WinImages is one of the most powerful graphics programs available for the Windows operating environment.

Support Note:

Please spend some time in the tutorials provided with the documentation; the information you need to run the program is there. Read the documents. If you e-mail technical support with a question that is addressed in the documentation, you will not get a reply. Replies to valid questions may take some time. We can only answer legitimate technical questions, as we have a limited amount of manpower available. The program is generally very easy to run, once you get the hang of things. It is worth noting that it is a unique tool, and because of this in some areas it does not work like anything you have likely encountered previously. You *will* need to read the documents if you are to access even a fraction of the program's power! If you just want to use it as an incredibly powerful image processing system, that should come easily, even without the documents. However, in order to use the timeline and some of the more sophisticated tools, intuition won't carry the day - the docs, however, will.

Registration:

If and when you decide to register one or more of the tool groups, you'll need to contact us. We will do our level best to get the registration back to you as soon as possible - on a working day, that can be within minutes of our receiving your e-mail. Here is the contact information you should have:

You can e-mail us at...
sales@blackbelt.com
...or call us between 9am and 5pm MST at...
(406) 228-8945
...or FAX us 24-hours a day at...
(406) 228-8943
...and you can find out everything you need on this web page:
http://www.blackbelt.com/blackbelt/wi_sw.html

We'll need a major credit card (VISA, M/C, Discover or American Express) and your e-mail reply address. You must provide us with the name that the credit card is issued to (in other words, the name of the owner of the card, as it appears on the card). This is the person who the software will be registered to. That name must be entered into the software exactly as it appears on the credit card. If there are any differences, even the change of case of a letter (uppercase where it is lowercase on the card, for instance), the registration key will not unlock the tool group. To recap, we need:

1- Major Credit card (card type, number, expiration, cardholder name)
2- Exact representation, including case, of the name on the card
3- Your e-mail reply address
4- The names of the group or groups you wish to purchase. Be specific!

Once you've provided us with a registered user name, you can register other groups under the same name - we will keep that name on file, along with a record of the groups you've already purchased. In this way, we can track the credit available to you towards the commercial version.

Again, thank you for looking into WinImages. have fun!