Overview

PBar 1.4 is a simple Application Launcher that can hide away unobtrusively at any edge of your screen, providing quick access to your favorite applications. These can be *.exe, *.com or *.bat files, folders, or information extracted from shortcuts.

FEATURES IN THIS VERSION:

* Launch Internet Explorer favorites
* Launch Control Panel
* Optional System tray icon
* Multiple Datafiles
* Task Bar type behavior
* Can be docked on any edge
* Autohide and Always on top options
* Scrollable to allow more items
* Settings are saved between sessions
* Flat, raised or noborder buttons
* Drag & Drop to the bar
* Icons can be changed
* File types supported are *.exe, *.com, *.bat
* Import information from Shortcuts
* Folder items can be placed on the bar
* Command lines are supported

System Requirements

To use PBar, you will need one of the following operating systems:

Windows 95
Windows 98
Windows NT 4.0
Windows 2000

In addition you should have a recent version of the comctrl32.dll file.
If you are using IE4 or IE5 you will already have this.
There is also a download available from my Website

PBar Homepage

About

PBar version 1.4 For Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000
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Disclaimer

Users of PBar 1.4 must accept this disclaimer of warranty:

PBar 1.4 is supplied as is. The author disclaims all warranties,
expressed or implied, including, without limitation, the warranties of merchantability and of fitness for any purpose. The author assumes no liability for damages, direct or consequential, which may result from the use of PBar 1.4.

Adding   Items

By far the easiest way to place items on the bar, is to Drag & Drop them from Windows Explorer or Shortcuts on your desktop. You can do this even when the bar is autohidden. Two things should be noted about shortcuts. Firstly, PBar does not execute a shortcut, it retrieves information from it and stores it in the current data file. This means that the shortcut can be moved or removed at a later time without any problem. Secondly, not all shortcuts will work with PBar. If it cannot get valid information it will ignore them. Examples of this would be Shortcuts to things like the Control Panel or Text documents. Other than Shortcuts you can drop *.exe, *.com, and *.bat files or Folders to the bar. When an item is dropped, the Editor Window will appear automatically. This is because usually you will want to change what appears in the tooltip, and the position of the item on the bar. By default this will be the first item in the list.

The other way to place items on the bar, is from the Editor Window which is accessed by right clicking on the PBar icon at the left of the bar and selecting Editor from the menu. Select the appropriate button and a standard open dialog will appear for files or a directory outline window for a folder. When you use the Editor buttons to browse for items, they will normally be placed above the highlighted item.

Adding Separators

Separators are added from the Editor Window. Click the separator button. Separators will be placed above the highlighted item in the list.

Positioning   Items

Items are positioned from the Editor. To move an item to another position in the list, just click on the small grey button at the left of the Item and drag it up or down to where you want it.

Removing Items

Items are removed from the bar, from the Editor. To remove an item just highlight it and click on the remove button.

Changing Icons

In the Editor, the number of icons in the selected icon resource is shown, and also the number of the selected icon. If there is more than one icon available in the icon resource, you can use the scrollbar underneath the icon picture to select which one to use.

If you would like to use another icon resource, click on the text "Change Icon Resource", select the resource you would like to use from the dialog (*.exe,*.dll,*.ico,*.icl), and finally select the particular icon you like with the scrollbar.

Enable Changes

When you have made any changes to in the editor, click the OK or Cancel buttons. If you click on OK, the new settings will be stored to file and PBar will automatically restart to reflect these changes. If you click on Cancel the changes will be discarded.

Creating New Datafiles

To create a new datafile, right click on the PBar Logo to fetch up the menu. You will see an item called Data File with a submenu. From the submenu select "New". A standard save dialog will appear where you should enter a name for the new file. This can be anything you like, as long as it conforms to longfilename standards. Do not include a file extension, as this will be created by PBar. Click the Save button to continue or Cancel to abort the operation. If the "Autoload New Files menu item is checked, PBar will restart without any prompting, loading the new datafile, which will be empty at this point. Now you can put items on the bar in the usual way.

If you do not have the "Autoload New Files" menu item checked, you will have to manually load the new file. See Loading Existing Datafiles

Loading Existing Datafiles

To load an existing datafile, right click on the PBar Logo to fetch up the menu. Go to the Sub-Menu of "Data Files". Select the "Load" item. You will be presented with a standard Open Dialog, where you can select the datafile you want to use. This does not have to be in your PBar folder, so you can keep your datafiles anywhere on your system.

When you have made your selection, PBar will load it for use.

Docking PBar

To dock the bar on another edge, right click on the PBar icon at the left of the bar and point to Dock At. A submenu will appear from which you can make your selection. It should be noted that if the bar is in AutoHide mode and you attempt to dock it on an edge that already has an AutoHidden bar, an error message will be displayed. Just click on OK and the bar will remain on that edge, but will not be AutoHidden.

Button Style

From the PBar menu, point at "Button Style", from the submenu select the style that suits you.

Show Banner

Check or uncheck this menu item to show a Banner at the side of the menu or not.

Autohide

Autohide can be turned on or off by checking or unchecking the AutoHide menu item from the menu displayed by right clicking on the PBar Icon at the left of the bar.

Always On Top

Always On Top can be turned on or off by checking or unchecking the Always On Top menu item from the menu displayed by right clicking on the PBar Icon at the left of the bar.

Show Favorites

Checking this menu item will display the Favorites button on PBar. When this button is clicked, a dropdown menu will appear showing your Internet Explorer Favorites. Clicking on a favorite will launch that URL in your default browser. Although only IE Favorites are shown, your default browser does not have to be Internet Explorer for this function to work.

Note:
If you do not have any IE Favorites, no drop down menu will appear.

Show Tray Icon

Checking this menu item will cause an icon to appear in the system tray. Right clicking on this icon will display the PBar menu.

Show Control Panel

Checking this menu item will show a button at the left of PBar. Clicking this button will start the Control Panel.

Run With Windows

Checking this menu item will cause PBar to be loaded each time Windows is started. Unchecking it will disable this function.