

PowerBBS for Windows 3.5

Late Breaking News and Information

PowerBBS 3.5 Manual

The manual for PowerBBS 3.5 comes in two parts: \POWRBBS\PBBSDOC1.WRI and \POWRBBS\PBBSDOC2.WRI. We had to do this because Windows Write could not handle the manual in a single file. **Do not attempt to combine these files together.** Trust me on this one, folks. Write will run out of internal memory and turn the manual into a bunch of trash. I know, because it happened to me when I was converting the original over to Write format!

PBBSDOC1.WRI contains the title pages and table of contents as well as the first 8 chapters. PBBSDOC2.WRI contains chapters 9-17 and the four appendices.

I have already paginated both documents with a left margin of 1" and a right margin of .75". I did this so you can print it up and put all 180 pages in a binder. Type is set at 10 pts, which is two points smaller than this text.

Do not print it without the title pages or the table of contents! If you do, your page numbers will all be incorrect. PBBSDOC2.WRI has already been set up to begin numbering at pages with the proper page number (104).

This manual, over 100,000 words long, contains the entire text of the printed and bound manual that registered users receive. However, the bound manual uses a better typography scheme for easier reading, graphics for quick reference, and an index with *over* 400 entries. If you are planning to register PowerBBS 3.5, do so as soon as possible. The index alone can save you a lot of time. *No*, an index is not planned for the shareware manual.

Default Menu Screens

The default menu screens that come with PowerBBS are interactive, which means your callers can use their arrow keys to highlight each menu item. The first letter of each command is a different color than the rest of the command. When PowerBBS highlights that command, it uses a different foreground and background color in that area as set in Config. When the caller moves off of that command, PowerBBS returns the command to interactive color settings as set in Config for that menu. **PowerBBS will not change the first letter back to its original color!** To accomplish this seemingly simple task would require a very complicated configuration program for the menus to have you tell PowerBBS how to color the first letter. Fortunately, if your callers *are* using the arrow keys, they won't need the first letter. If your callers are *not* using the arrow keys, then they will see the highlighted letter properly.

Sample Screens

For your convenience we have provided some additional sample screens for PowerBBS. These were placed in your \POWRBBS\SAMPLE\ directory. Feel free to unzip these files into this same directory and look them over. You are welcome to use them in place of the default screens.

Please note that there are no actual *.MNU files supplied for the menu screens. If you want to use these screens, you will have to modify your menus in Config. See the chapter on configuring your system under Menus for more information.

Back your existing PowerBBS screens before copying any of the sample screens into your \POWRBBS\SCREEN\ directory.

FAX Send and Receive

PowerBBS requires that you have a Class 2 FAX/Modem to be able to receive faxes. Because Class 2 is only a guideline for manufacturers, not all modems that claim to be Class 2 are 100% compatible. At the very least your modem must be capable of Adaptive Answering, which means it will accept the modem command AT+FAA=1. If your modem can't handle this command, you will not be able to receive faxes with PowerBBS.

However, you will be able to fax out from your BBS if you have either a Class 2 or a Class 1 fax/modem. See the chapter in the manual on customizing your system under Fax Support for more information.

You will not be able to simultaneously load standard Windows or DOS fax software for the same fax/modem as PowerBBS is using.

Software Developers Kit

Included with PowerBBS 3.5 are two files called POWRDLL.C and POWRDLL.PAS. These files can be used to create C or Pascal DLLs which can be used directly from within PowerBBS. You may distribute these files freely. If you develop a DLL for PowerBBS, please contact the Support BBS and let us know. We'll get the word out to other sysops.

A DLL can be a door, utility, or simply a new feature in PowerBBS. If you have a favorite door, contact the maker of that door and tell him about the Software Developers Kit for PowerBBS. If he can port it over to a DLL, you will be able to run that door as a Windows program instead of a DOS door!

PowerBBS for Windows 4.0

Development on PowerBBS for Windows 4.0 has been underway since the spring of 1994. It is tentatively due for release in the third/fourth quarter of this year. PowerBBS 4.0 will be a completely different product. Your callers, using the Windows software we will provide, will be able to call your BBS and see a true Windows interface on *their end!* They will see icons, dialog boxes, scroll bars, bitmaps and even hear sounds. Callers will be able to transfer files in one window while writing messages or chatting in teleconference in other windows.

PowerBBS 4.0 will still support ANSI callers. However, ANSI callers will not be able to take full advantage of PowerBBS 4.0's Windows interface. Furthermore, PowerBBS 4.0 will still support DOS doors and all of your existing PowerLang programs.

More information will be posted on the Support BBS as it becomes available.