Options

Set the options you want to change.
Click the "Change" Button in each section being changed.
Click the "Close This Window" button when done.

Warn Level
   Set level you want VBSys to display dialog box asking if you want to Restart Windows.
Drives to Monitor
   Set which Hard Disk Drives to Monitor Free Space on.
Update-Seconds
   Set how often the Main Display Updates. (Can also be set by Button on Main Window)
Warn Exit-Restart
   Tell Vbsys to Warn you when you tell it to Exit or Restart Windows or Just Do It Quickly.
Re-Activate When Hidden
   This option is to add compatibility with Programs like PC Tools "Tag Along" feature.
Stay On Top
   This can Only be set by the T Button on the Main VBSys Window. When the T is grey it will NOT
   Stay on Top, When the T is Black, it Will Stay on Top.
Change Colors
   Click on a display item
Change Fonts
   Hold down CTRL while Click on a Item

Remember Registering gives you the ability to Save All These settings and More!!
Using The Program

Contents

Note: This help file is now for BOTH versions, VBSys and VBSysBar as they function virtually identically. In this help file "VBSys" refers to Either Program.

[Installation](#)

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[Using The Program](#)

[Examples](#)

[Registration](#)

Quick Summary of Buttons and Mouse Clicks

You can Press F1 when VBSys or any of it's Windows are the "active" window for Help.

Requirements

This program needs the file vbrun300.dll.

> NOTE: This program needs the file vbrun300.dll. (Usually it should be in your windows-system directory.) It does not come with this program because most people will already have it and it takes too long to download. If you don't have it, you will need to download it to use this program and the many other Visual Basic Programs that are written from Visual Basic 3. (VBSys also now requires commdll.dll. You should have it because it comes with all versions of Windows 3.1 or higher.)

The program also needs the file vbsys.dll and cmdialog.vbx

> vbsys.dll and cmdialog.vbx   DO come with this program and you should copy them to your windows-system directory.

VBSys should be run under Windows 3.1 or higher.

Installation

To Install:

Put vbsys.dll, cmdialog.vbx, and threed.vbx in your windows-system directory, (Use the newest versions), and put vbsys.exe or vbsysbar.exe anywhere you want. Put the vbsys.hlp file in the same directory as vbsys.exe or vbsysbar.exe. (If you don't want the help file, you can delete it to save disk space.) When you run the program, you should not select minimized or maximized, it should be run "NORMAL".

To Uninstall:

To Un-Install, just delete vbsys.exe, vbsys.dll, and vbsys.hlp. (I suggest you do NOT delete vbrun300.dll cmdialog.vbx, or threed.vbx. Many other programs use these and may need them.)

Using The Program

Run the program from File Manager, Add it to Program Manager, and/or add it to your Startup Group (as it was made for) to always have it running as I do.

The program should start up monitoring all local Hard Drives. (It will not monitor floppies, remote, or removable drives.) VBSys can display upto 10 drives, VBSysBar upto 6 drives. The display initially updates every 5 seconds, (The more info window updates every 15 seconds).

To hide the title bar and save room, just click the FSR bar graph. The bar gragh changes from Green, to Yellow (below 60%), and then to Red as Free System Resources get low. (If they get low, (Red), you should restart Windows.)

The Disk Drive Letters Change <u>color</u> from normal, Blue, above 10MB, to Green below 10MB (OK, but watch), and to Red below 2 MB (Time to clean up your disk).

On most systems the free RAM memory displayed in the MEM box will be greater than your installed RAM, this is because it includes the size of your Swap File, if you have one, because Windows treats that as memory when using enhanced mode.

You can click the M for more memory, DOS, and Windows info to show up in a separate large window. You can click on some of the labels on the main small window to change the <u>font</u> and <u>color</u> of their display. You will have 8 buttons for the options. These buttons' <u>colors</u> can NOT be changed. Move the mouse over the button and it will tell you what the button does on the Title Bar if you have the Title Bar visible.   Some buttons or labels will respond differently if right clicked. Read "Buttons" below carefully for Many Details that are easily overlooked.

[Buttons](#)
[Options Window](#)
[More Info window](#)
[Examples](#)

Introduction

I wrote this program for ME! Like most other Windows users, I have used and tried many different utilities for different things. I wrote this to combine the utilities that I was using into one SMALL display program. It is written to use minimal screen space and minimal resources. It will always yield to all other programs. I use mainly the standard version but a lot of people prefer the Bar version. Now it's easy to switch between versions with a mouse click.

This program is designed to help a user monitor many system resources at all times and to combine some utilities that you may already use.

It will monitor:

Hard Drive Disk Space, Free System Resources, Free Memory (Which includes Swap file if you have one), Largest Block of Contiguous Memory, Number of Tasks running, Date,and Time, all in one small display.

Some options include:
The ability to <u>Compact Memory</u>
The ability to change <u>font</u> name, style, and size in display.
The ability to Set the Time and Date easily.
The ability to list the running tasks.
The ability to show how long Windows has been running.
The option to adjust the update interval.
The option to warn on Exit/Restart or Quick Exit.
The ability to Stay on Top of all other windows.
The option to Restart Windows.
The option to Completely Exit Windows.
The ability to Change level to warn of low Resources.
The option to Select which drives to monitor.
The ability to customize <u>color</u> of display.
Button Bar for Options.
View More Detailed Windows Info in a Separate Window:
      All Loaded Modules.
      All Registered Classes.
      All Tasks running.
      DOS and Windows general info.
      Windows Memory Manager Statistics.
Many other little features
.
The Registered Version Will save most options including <u>colors</u>, position, which drives to monitor, warn level, type of Mem to monitor, stay on top, etc..

<u>Details</u>

Main Buttons

T   Use to set VBSysBar to Stay On Top of other Windows or Not
X   Use to Exit Windows
R   Use to Restart Windows
Q   Use to Quit running VBSysBar
5 (or other number) Use to change how often the Display Updates
O   Use to go to the Options Window to Set VBSysBar Options
M   Use to go to the More Info Window to get More System Info
A   Use to get Registration Info and How to Contact Me

Other Buttons

Hold CTRL down and Click some items to Change <u>Fonts</u>
Click some items to change <u>colors</u>
Hold CTRL down and Right Click Time to Set Time
Right Click on Time Display to get Time Since Windows Started
Hold CTRL down and Right Click Date to Set Date
Right Click on Date Display   to Minimize VBSys
Right Click on Memory Display   to toggle Memory Display between All Memory and Largest Block of Memory. (The M button will be grayed when showing Largest Block)
Hold down the CTRL key and Right Click the Memory Display to <u>Compact Memory</u>.
Right Click on Number of Tasks to Bring up List of Tasks

Examples

You might want to run this program and then watch the numbers change as you load or unload other programs, monitor your disk space, use it as your clock, etc... If you find some programs that you seldom use are using a lot of resources, then you might want to unload those programs from memory when you are not expecting to use them soon. Windows will generally run faster and be more stable with the least amount of programs running which frees up memory and resources.

Resources
Memory
Disks
Other
Using The Program

When I first load Windows, my System Resources are about 80% with nothing loaded and drop to about 65% with my normal startup programs loaded. As I run programs, I watch to see how low the resources get and when they start getting below 50%, (Trouble doesn't really begin until about 15% but I like to leave room to run memory and resource guzzling programs such as Word or Excel to avoid problems after they start up), I start thinking about what I can close temporarily until I really need it like a calendar program, etc...

The hard drives are really more obvious, but the thing to watch for there is that you have enough room for Windows to operate with. The drive that Windows is installed on, I like to have at least 5M free. In addition the drive that has your temp directory   files, (You can find where your temp directory is by clicking the M on VBSys and looking in the More Info Window or by looking in autoexec.bat file for a line like: Set temp= C:temp; If you don't have a line pointing to a directory then the temp files usually go to your windows directory.) , I like to have at least 5M more free on the temp file drive. For example, if my temp directory is on my c: drive as well as my Windows directory, I would like to keep at least 10M free on the c: drive. Keep enough free space on your drives or it can slow you down and cause stability problems.

Memory is a little harder to watch, but the main thing to look for is that the amount remaining is larger than your swap file size; (If it's not, then everytime you run a program it will swap some things stored in memory to your hard drive which will slow things down.) (If you don't know the size of your swap file, then check in control panel- 386Enhanced-Virtual Memory. (I'm using a 6105 swap file on a system with 8 meg RAM.)   So basically, I watch the memory number to see that is stays above about 7000 (7000-6105=895 Free Memory in addition to the swap file) which allows me to have enough free memory to run programs without swapping to disk first. If you can't keep the memory at a figure above your swap file size, then you probably need to either stop running certain things or buy more memory, (8 Meg of RAM is best, 4 is minimum.)

The Largest block of Memory is what Windows will generally use; It is a better indication than the total. If a program needs more Memory than the Largest Block, Windows will have to move things around and use your Swap File slowing things down. Just make sure the Largest Block is not real small. If it is, then <u>Compact Memory</u>.

The other items are mainly just general info. Date and Time are self explanatory. Tasks reminds you of how many things are running; Sometimes you forget about hidden programs that you don't need such as cursor changers, sound programs, etc..

The main thing to use is the restart Windows. A lot of people leave things on all day or for a few days. After a while some programs use some resources and don't return them to Windows even after they close; After running a few programs, the available memory becomes non-contiguous causing disk swapping and slowing things down. When you're not busy, restart Windows to reset things the way they started. (I restart every few hours or after running a few different large programs.)

PC Tools

The Re-Activate When Hidden button is to provide added compatibility with programs like PC Tools "Tag Along" feature that Hides programs against your will and has no provisions to deal with programs like VBSys that do not have a control box.

To have VBSys "Tag Along" properly:

On the Main PC Tools 2 Menu:

1   Select Options
2   Then Select Advanced Settings
3   Near the Bottom of that Menu:
            The option to "Bring Window to Current Desktop" must be selected.
4   On VBSys' Option Menu, select "Yes" to Re-Activate When Hidden.

If you don't want the "Bring Window to Current Desktop" option checked then:

Select on VBSys' Option Menu "NO" for Re-activate When Hidden to prevent it from switching desktops continuously.

Without the   "Bring Window to Current Desktop"   option checked on PC Tools Menu, VBSys can NOT "Tag Along" properly. However if you still want VBSys to be visible in all desktops you can, (at the expense of aprox. 70K and 1% resource usage per desktop), run another instance of VBSys in each desktop you want it in. (It should run another copy with no problems, If not, right click on the VBSys icon and check under properties that the "Allow Multiple Opens" Box IS Checked.)

Get the Registered Version of VBSys so you can Save the Settings!!!!

Registration

Registration gives you the ability to Save All Option Settings including:

The position of Display, Label <u>Colors</u> and <u>Fonts</u>, Stay on Top setting, Warning Level, Whether to Warn on Windows Exit or Restart, Whether the Title Bar is Shown, Which Hard Drives to Monitor, How often the Display Updates, How the Re-Appear when Hidden option is set for <u>PC Tools</u> compatability, etc...

If you are going to continue to use VBSys or VBSysBar, then PLEASE send the nominal fee of just $10.00 to help cover costs. It will make you feel better, and help keep the shareware concept going, (It takes a lot of time to write these programs and do the research, revisions, etc... I know most people don't like to pay for shareware, that's why it's only $10.00 for Both version! If you use it every day it IS certainly worth $10.00.)

If you are certain that you only want one version, have an older registered version, or really just don't want to spend the $10, then see "Other Registration Options" below.

<u>Other Registration Options</u>

Send Registration Fee To:

Michael Krane
4 Azurean Ct.
Mt. Sinai, NY
11766

Include your Compuserve or AOL E-Mail address. Files will be sent by E-Mail. Also state which programs you are registering!

To contact me, E-Mail at:

America On Line	MIKLK
or	
Compuserve	70242,2317 or 75110,1553

More Info Window

Most of the information is self explanatory. The Program checks the DOS version, CPU type, Some settings in your setup files, The location of your Temp directory if you named one, Which video driver settings, Date, Time, and Tasks Running. If something doesn't look right then you can try to figure out what's wrong. The Free System Resources (FSR) are broken down between the GDI and USER modules. The total is generally just the lowest of the 2. The Free Memory remaining is broken down between Total Free and Largest Contiguos Block. Largest block is actually a better indication of Free Memory because it is closer to the way Windows actually uses memory. If Largest Block is small you can Compact Memory.

The items on the left that are in RED can be clicked for more details. If items come up in a list box, you can click on any item to highlight the items that go together in all the lists.

DeskTop
KeyBoard
FSR
Memory
Running Tasks
Time
Using The Program

Compacting Memory

To Compact Memory: Hold down the CTRL key on your keyboard while right clicking on the Memory Display portion of VBSys.

Compacting Memory will increase the Largest Block of Memory available to programs. It makes more Memory available in linear blocks and will benefit your system in a couple of ways. It will allow programs to load quicker by reducing the usage of your Swap File and increasing your systems speed. It will sometimes allow programs to load when they otherwise wouldn't be able to due to needing a larger block of memory to load.

If you get a message "Not Enough Memory" when trying to run a program, but you don't want to restart Windows, (You really should though), You can try to Compact the Memory. That will probably make extra contiguos memory available to run the program.

Compacting Memory is NOT a substitute for restarting Windows. Generally if you have time, it is preferrable to restart Windows. Compacting Memory is a good temporary solution to Windows Memory Problems when you see the Largest Block is Small.

This shows the classes that are registered to Windows. This is NOT a direct indication of resource usage but will give you an idea of the amount and kind of objects that Windows must keep track of.

On the left is the class name. In the middle is the Window Extra Bytes for the class. On the right is the path and filename of the loaded module that registered the class.

Resources is what gets used by Windows in   keeping   track of many items such as Menus, Icons, Window Names, etc..., Just about everything has to be tracked by Windows which uses Resources.

This simply reads your .ini files for some settings. If it finds them then it lists them; If it can't find them then it will be unknown.

One thing to check is that 32 Bit Disk Access is ON. This can significantly increase the speed of some things. If its off, then you should search your Windows Manual   for info on it. If your system supports it then you should turn it on. If you don't understand what you,ve read about it in the WindowsManual or Magazines then you may want to wait and get someone more experienced to help you with this one as it can cause problems if it does Not work.

I use a simple method to obtain this info to save memory. If it doesn't find certain items, don't worry about it; A lot of items are NOT required.

On the left shows the name of ALL loaded Windows Modules in Memory.

On the right shows the path and filename of the Modules.

If you see things that you don't think you need. Try to figure out what they are and how they got loaded so you can stop them from loading in the future to save Memory.

On the bottom is the Windows INTERNAL Memory Manager Info. This is the way Windows sees your memory and how it is used.

Most of the memory manager info is fairly complicated. It's uses are limited from a user standpoint. The main think I like to check is the "Total Pages Not In Use". When that is Zero, then it's probably a good time to <u>Compact Memory</u>.

Shows the name of the running tasks on the left and the path and file name of the task on the right. You may see something that is loaded automatically that you don't need or want loaded.

Shows How Long Windows Has Been running Since Last Restart.

Simply shows the state of your keyboard as Windows sees it so you can verify that Windows recognizes things properly.

Standard Registration $10

You get both versions 2.xx of VBSys and VBSysBar that saves all settings.

One Program ONLY $7.50

You get ONE version 2.xx of EITHER VBSys or VBSysBar that saves all settings.

Old Version $5.00 (for one) or $7.50 (for Both)

For people that don't want to spend the $10 or just don't care about the new features I will still make the old versions VBSys 1.41 or VBSysBar 1.11 available.

If you have previously registered an old version 1.xx. Just Pay The Difference

As this is a major upgrade, it requires an updated registration if you want to upgrade..

If you have Both registered VBSys and VBSysBar   (New $10-Old $7.50) Pay just $2.50

If you have Only One Registered, then Pay $2.50 for One or $5.00 for Both Versions.

Minor Updates Will Be Available as Listed for Cost. (Ver. 2.00-2.10 etc...)

On America Online E-Mail $1.00

On Compuserve E-Mail or by US Mail $2.50

(If a significant bug fix is needed, I will send it free of course.)

Colors

To Change Colors:

You can change <u>fonts</u> and colors of: Time, Date, Mem, Tasks, or Drive Space Readouts.

Click on the display item you want to change.

Click on the color you want.

Click OK

Depending on your Video card and drivers, some colors may not display as expected.

Changing Fonts

To Change Fonts:

Hold Down CTRL Key While Clicking

    You can change fonts and <u>colors</u> of: Time, Date, Mem, Tasks, or Drive Space Readouts.

Select The Font: Name, Style, and Size and Click OK.

    Notes: You can type in any size you like (including smaller sizes)

    To Get The Default Font (MS Sans Serif) and size for that Display, Click Cancel

To Restore All Default Fonts, Sizes, and <u>Colors</u>:

    Quit VBSys and Restart VBSys

You need the registered version to save settings!