

FRONTLINE FOR WINDOWS V4.0 (This is Shareware NOT Free)

(I am fine tuning this software for Chicago release .. When that comes..)

Always read over this document when you receive any new releases. I will update this document if I make any changes or additions to FrontLine here.

See the very bottom for Help on some current problems I pasted here from my BBS

I try my best to supply the best software I can. If you have any problem or questions then the best I can offer you are places to contact me at, saving you from long distance charges:
Running 1 copy of Procomm For Windows with Aspect Host Script is equal to running 5 FrontLine's From the Desktop?!

Internet: **mcsonic@netcom.com**

AOL: **Sonic Mike** or Via Internet: **sonicmike@aol.com**

BBS: **916-349-8517/8540** (ANSI or Excalibur Users)

If that isn't enough I don't know what is...

Registration Form is at the Bottom - Keep Reading For The Good Stuff...

Basics:

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Potocols: Xmodem Checksum, XmodemCRC,
XMODEM -1K(YMODEM), Ymodem-G, Ymodem Batch,
Zmodem, Compuserve B +, Kermit, ASCII

Multiple Comm Port Configurations

ANSI, TTY, VT100, VT52 Terminal Modes

Font Settings on the Fly

Change Terminal Colors

Support Serial Ports 1 - 8

Scroll Back Features

Capture Data

Baud Rates - 1200 - 57600

HOST MENUS-

Basic Message System for the SysOp

Configurable Basic Menus (Host Mode)

Use Ansi Screens

Uploading / Downloading

Much More..

Basically, this version is a replacement for **Terminal For Windows**. I have alot of tools it's just a

question of what will make it to the front line. But more importantly it can be used as a **Front End for Excalibur (PDQComm Replacement)** or as a **Simple Host for the Desktop**. Frontline is very simple to use and the only part that is different from other terminal programs is the Host Options. I didn't include lots of documentation on the basic terminal aspects, because I assume 99% of the people using this program have at least have a basic knowledge of how to use something as simple a terminal.

After installing, run FrontLine and and configure your modem, Ports and Host Options from the drop down Menus. When all the information is correct, save the configuration from the "File" menu. A profile is consists of basically an INI file with the name FLINE_X.INI where X should be the Comm Port you are configuring the setup for. If you are running multiple nodes, be sure to specify a unique number to each profile!!! The profile will be used by Frontline when it is called and pass information on the ocmmand line. For example, FrontLine can be passed different types of parameters like C:\FLINE C:\FLINE\FLINE_(X).INI to configure FrontLine on the fly when you call it from other programs, so you don't have to babysit it. For instance C:\FLINE\FLINE_2.INI has all the CommPort 2 settings, C:\FLINE\FLINE_3.INI has all the CommPort 3 Settings etc.. I'm not saying this is exactly how to do this but i'm trying to set some examples for you to go by.

MAIN_X.TXT (a basic understanding for Host Mode)

This is the only menu which has options that need a little explanation. The first part of the Main_X.TXT menu is loaded by Frontline so it knows what to do when the user presses an option from the main menu. This lets you change the menu around for your own needs. There aren't many options at this point. I'm still deciding if additional options are required. Any suggestions you might have would be appreciated. The User does not see the First part of the Main Menu only the text after the [END] statement. You must also end the options with [END] and I even added a little description of each item above. **At this time there are only 9 options you can add (1-9) not counting Goodbye (GoodBye is a Reserved Word), Chat is static and can be removed.**

LOGON_(X.)TXT

LOGOFF_(X).TXT

MAIN_(X).TXT (and here is what is inside MAIN, its a little different from the other menus)

=====START OF MAIN_2.TXT=====

```
V|C:\1TXT\XBBSAD.TXT      '[V]iew File
S|D:\ZIPS\BBSLIST.ZIP    '[S]end File
S|D:\ZIPS\EXCALTRM.ZIP   '[S]end File
S|D:\ZIPS\FLINE37.ZIP    '[S]end File
U|C:\TEMP\                '[U]pload To C:\TEMP\
L|Leave Mail               '[L]eave Mail
R|Read Mail               '[R]ead Mail
C|CHAT                   '[C]HAT
[END]
```

**FrontLinE For Windows
by SoniC! SoftWarE**

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- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1) What is Excalibur For Windows? | 6) Send Message To SysOp |
| 2) DownLoad Sacto BBS Listing (Zipped) | 7) Check Your Mail |
| (Excalibur For Windows Full SetUp) | 8) Page Sysop For Chat |
| 3) Download D:\ZIPS\EXCALTRM.ZIP (V.64) | |
| 4) Download D:\ZIPS\FLINE37.ZIP (Beta) | |

5) Upload A File To C:\TEMP

G) GOODBYE

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How do I Edit the Menu?

You can describe each Menu option Description anyway you like. Make some kind of fancy menu for yourself. if you want and expect mostly ANSI callers then you can Make some neat Ansi Options that should be placed on the second half if the MAIN_X.TXT following the [END] statement

Additional Menu Insight

Menu editing is simplicity itself. Simply open the **Main_(x).txt** file from then DropDown Menu option called HOSTTOOLS , using Notepad to change the existing entries to the correct paths on your system. If you would like to add or change options, simply follow the naming convention that exists for the current entries. If you would like to eliminate an existing option, delete the entry from the list at the top of the .txt file and renumber your Menu Options that the user sees. Frontline "reads" the txt file from top to bottom to find the proper action for a user's request... For example-- When user types "1" from the main menu, Fronline looks to line 1 of the txt file for the action. **KEY: If you delete an option from the Main_X.TXT at the top of the document, make sure you remove the option from the section that the user will see.. After the [END} statement and you need to renumber you menu choices that the users see.**

EXAMPLE---

If Excaltrm.exe is located in the directory C:\Excal\Support on your system, you would edit the menu 1st Item as follows (In the Top Section First)---

(Original) S|D:\ZIPS\EXCALTRM.EXE ' [S]end File
should be changed to
S|C:\Excal\Support\EXCALTRM.EXE ' [S]end File

Then you would change the second section like this:
1] Download Excalibur Terminal D:\ZIPS\EXCALTRM.EXE
should be changed to
1] Download Excalibur Terminal D:\Excal\Support\EXCALTRM.EXE

This is assuming you were showing them the FileName, If not, then no change is needed.

If either file was missing when the user attempts the Download they will get a "Sorry, That File Is UnAvailable!"

FrontLine supplies the Prompt For Any Menu!

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Available Menus Options Are Listed Below
(This section below will be updated so make sure you check here when new versions come out!)

V|FullPath\FileName ie:C:\1TXT\XBBSAD.TXT '[V]iew File
Send the File out to the user, you can use type of file that contains CR's, ANSI, or anything else that would for the to View.

S|FullPath\FileName ie:D:\ZIPS\EXCALIBR.ZIP '[S]ends A File To User

Send a File to the user. The user is prompted for which protocol they want to have send the file (Xmodem/Ymodem/Zmodem). If the File Does Not Exist, a message will be sent saying **"Sorry, This File Unavailable!"**

U|PathName ie..C:\TEMP\ ' [U]pload To C:\TEMP

The File that is uploaded is sent to this path, must end with a Slash. This allows the Sysop a way to define where all files that are uploaded will go.

L|Leave Mail

This allows the User to leave mail to the sysop. The Sysop can post mail or delete it from the Mail Dialog Box. The Sysop can CUT/PASTE User Names from the User List or Mail that has been sent to you for use with messages you Add in the TO field.

R|Read Mail

This allows the User to Check for any mail that has been left to them. The Sysop posts mail to users or replies to messages they have sent the sysop. Don't forget that you can Cut/Paste User Names when you want to Add an New message to a User.

T|Toggle ANSI Mode

This toggles ANSI Mode On / Off while logged into FrontLine.

C|CHAT ' [C]HAT With User (REGISTERED ONLY)

This alone is worth its wait in gold. I love the chat part of this so I can talk with people I used to chat with. You can get into Chat by pressing ESC from the Main Menu. Then you can press ESC to exit Chat, and FrontLinE send them back to the Main Menu. When a user requests Chat and the Icon is minimized on the desktop it will ring like a phone minimized. The sysop then needs to Double Click the Icon and then Press ESC to drop into Chat and ESC again to send the user back to the main menu. You are not timed in Chat so you can be there forever. The Sysop Controls the Entering / Exiting Chat mode.

[G]oodbye is not an option that you can change. You can place it anywhere on the menu.

Additional options will be listed here so check this when a new release is sent out.

Menu options can be changed will the user is online, as long as they refresh the screen (Pressing return when they are at the Main Menu prompt) they will see any changes you just made and saved back. But you must save your changes back before they become activated.

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CAMELOT and FrontLine

Frontline can be configured to act as an auto-downloader for Excalibur as a powerful and reliable replacement for PDQ Down. Replace the "C:\Excal\PDQPRO %p %b %e %i " In Arthur/Ports, substitute your current entry in the "Alternate Connect..." field with the command line **"C:\FLINE\FLINE C:\FLINE\FLINE_(x).INI"** don't include the quotes, **x** specifies which Modem port that you defined earlier. When a user calls your BBS with non-Excal software, Camelot launches Frontline using the specified INI file. Frontline will then prompt the user for a name and password, it will also use the menus that you have supplied in the FLINE_X.INI file that you passed as a parameter. After he/she goes through your menus, then logs off. Frontline will then re-start Camelot and unload itself from memory. Examples of my configuration are listed below. They include the command line that is listed in the Arthur/Ports setting, and the related files that are used by Frontline.

C:\FLINE\FLINE C:\FLINE\FLINE_2.INI (For my Supra 14.4 on Comm # 2)

The command line I place in Aurtur For My modem on Comm #2 listed above

It uses menus :
LOGON_2.TXT
LOGOFF_2.TXT
MAIN_2.TXT
Calls CAMELOT -p1

and

C:\FLINE\FLINE C:\FLINE\FLINE_3.INI (For my 9600 on Comm # 3)
The command line I place in Aurtur For My modem on Comm #3 listed above

It Uses Menus:
LOGON_3.TXT
LOGOFF_3.TXT
MAIN_3.TXT
Calls CAMELOT -p2

SET FRONTLINE's BAUD AT THE SAME BAUD RATE THAT YOU SET CAMELOT FOR!

That may change depending which CommPort that you are using, Always Match the Baud Rates between your **C:\FLINE\FLINE_X.INI** and the **Camelot** it calls when FrontLine starts and ends. There are usually mismatches and the way this works is **FLINE_2.INI** would Call **CAMELOT -p1** even though they are the same port. My -p0 is LOCAL , - p1 is the 14400 **FLINE_2.INI** , -p2 is the 9600 as **FLINE_3.INI**. If you don't understand this then you should read the other basic parts of this document, don't get to lost..

You want FrontLinE To Launch the proper CAMELOT and passit the right Port number using the HOSTTOOLS DropDown Menu Option #1. Make sure you save these changes to the right FLINE_X.INI File. I would save in my FLINE_2.INI (Comm #2) the option: C:\EXCAL\CAMELOT -p1 defined under HostTools.

USER.DAT

This file is used to keep track of all the people that log on , they are prompted as to if they want to be added to the user list. If they are added they will have a name that the SysOp can send back messages to. The SysOp Can add new names and define new passwords at will. Its not recommended to delete, add users when users are on line.

MAIL.DAT

All mail goes through this file. The SysOp replies or post messages to users that have been defined after they have logged on unless you know them by name or the SysOp can add there name to the User list as long as the User knows what the password was that the SysOp Set. The mail is very simple and is intended to get information to the SysOp and back to the users anything other than that then they need to get on Excalibur for extended functions.

USER.DAT, MAIL.DAT & PHONE.DAT are shared across all FronTLinE.... So this means if they post on modem 3 while your calling out on 2 then when you reload the Mail or User entries the new stuff will be there. Don't forget you can chat with users while they are online by pressing ESC when they are at the Main Menu. Make sure you have SHARE lodaed if you are not using WFW 3.11 which has SHARE basically built it.

HOSTTOOLS DROPDOWN OPTIONS (SysOp Dialog Boxes, Options):

You can't type in the Host Window that answered the phone if someone is currently on line. You can Hit ESC and Enter chat when they are at the Main Menu but you can't select options for them.

If you select a Modem Type and it comes up Blank your MODEMS.DAT is empty , just restore it from the original File.

WAIT FOR CALL

Used when running FrontLine from the desktop and you are waiting for someone to call in and log onFront is automatically set to this mode when passed parameters on the command line as mentioned in various parts of this document.

LOGON Now!

You run this option to Log On a User (A CARRIER DETECT MUST BE PRESENT!!!)

USER LISTING (Dialog Box)

User List Editor - This is where users are added if they choose to be added to the user list, you must delete any unwanted users from this list manually. You can also Add, Delete users on this menu. The Mail button simply calls the Mail Box Editor.

MAIL BOXES (Dialog Box)

Mail sent to the Sysop is placed here (MAIL.DAT) and the SysOp can Post Or Delete Mail from this interface. When posting Mail back to a user simply Copy there name from the message they sent you into the Message you are posting (TO: Field) back to them. Again, this is a simple Mail editor, the Main BBS Excalibur is made to handle all the fancy stuff.

HOST TOOLS (Dialog Box)

This is where you set which menus to call when they log on. If you are running excalibur you would place something like: C:\EXCAL\CAMELOT -p1. IF YOU ARE NOT RUNNING EXCALIBUR KEEP THIS ENTRY BLANK.

WHOS ONLINE

This only shows who is online if someone is logged in.

VIEW LOGFILE

This allows the Sysop to view the FLINE_2.LOG (assuming its Port 2 your using when you run this) . This is the file that FrontLine uses to log transactions while the user is on the BBS.

VIEW ADDRESS FILE

There is now another new option in the User Listing Dialog Box that applies to this file, the checkbox has NO GUESTS ALLOWED / NAMES ONLY. When this Checkbox is checked you are blocking users from hitting return and defaulting to GUEST as a logon, which requires them to put something else like a Handle or Name. If You Check the CheckBox called USER MUST LEAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION in the User Listing Dialog Box from FrontLine it will then require all new users to give up thier Real Name , Address, City, State , ZIP, Phone Number, Where they heard about your BBS. It also includes the Port that they logged onto .. If they press return on any of these questions it will display WRONG!. I thought about logging them off if I found multiple WRONG!'s but Im still undecided on that. In any case the Data is written to a file called ADDRESS.DAT in the FLINE Directory. Its text delimited with "|" for importation to DataBases or other programs so that you can build Mailing Lists or whatever else you would like to do with this data. Again to turn these options off you simply Uncheck the Check Boxes in the User Editor in FrontLine.

PROBLEMS

I am currently tracking down that Out Of Stack Space problem. I was just comparing my system to another that was exactly the same except he used QEMM and I use EMM386. What are you using QEMM or EMM?? This is the only problem that seems to be very hard

to track down. Any info would help. System runs fine under EMM386.

SUBSCRIPT OUT OF RANGE - During Logon

This was caused when someone tried to log on and get add to the user list. At this time there may not have been a userlist.dat active so it basically said " There is no room for a user". The simple fix, add a user from the DropDown in Frontline, The second way is within the coding I trapped for that and rebuild a new USERLST.DAT from scratch and add the user that is calling. So it should be fixed in 3.7 and it is.

INVALID PROPERTY TYPE - When Booting

Has been fixed but the user has to make sure of something. The basic reason this messgae showed up was because it couldn't find a font called TERMINAL in your Font Listing (Make sure you dont have True Type Only Checked in the Control Panel / Fonts Program). To Add fonts Goto Control Panel, Select ADD, Double Click the SYSTEM Directory so that all fonts will be registered with windows. Make sure "Copy Font To Windows Directory" is checked. Then Find TERMINAL Fonts and (FIXEDSYS , SYSTEM If you want), Then highlight the Font you want installed (Terminal) . Then select OK and it will add those fonts to your listing. TERMINAL is mainly for use with ANSI graphics so it can be useful elsewhere including america Online. There may be 3 types of Terminal Fonts , load them all.

Why are there no menus for the User?

Because the menus under the DropDown Menu call HOSTTOOLS are pointing to the wrong directory causing it to trip on missing menus. I placed a default setup so if it doesnt find LOGON_(X).TXT etc.. it will create its on for the directory that Fline is running in.

Why does my Modem (an Older One) trip and lock carrier?

Maybe you have an older modem like mine and lets say you issue an &F2 and it locks carrier and throws Frontline in a loop , try &F1&C1&D3... &D3 watches for DTR to Drop low and cause a reset while &C1 only indicates a carrier is remotely present. &C0 locks carrier detect on and isnt very helpful to MANY software packages..

I Checked out FLINE_3.INI and it had entries for Modem 2 like [MODEM_2] etc...

Load the file into notepad and delete them out , you should only see entries for modem #3 in the FLINE_3.INI and they will never be used but somehow got in there when you where testing or something.

Why Does Frontline come up and say no Port is Available?

Well maybe you have a copy of Fline running on that port or Camelot for Excalibur is taking up that Port. If you can't reset your port at all you may need to reboot in the worse possible case. When a port doesnt respond I double check response with Procomm For Windows and if it don't work then I would assume the port is really lock up and calls for a reboot..

Why does Camelot Drop Carrier when FrontLine is called?

I would assume that either FrontLine has been passed like: C:\FRONTLIN\FLINE_2.INI while there is no such file and you need: C:\FLINE\FLINE_2.INI or you have &D2 defined on one side while &D3 is defined in FrontLine. Make DAMN sure your modem is set at the same rate in

Camelot and FrontLine and that you are calling the right port. For Instance you don't wanna call C:\CAMELOT\CAMELOT -p1 (modem port #2) if its really needs C:\CAMELOT\CAMELOT -p2 #3 because you will start seeing mulitple instances of Camelot (it has stars by it) and that doesnt help much.

FRONTLINE Against FRONTLINE

I have tested quite a few times using 2 FrontLines (Comm2 and Comm3) and it download fine using Zmodem many times .. BUT... I wouldn't suggest putting FrontLine itself against FrontLine on the Windows Desktop. This can cause heavy loads in Windows especially with Ports locked at 19200 and send on one side receiveing from the other. This can cause serious File Xfer speed loss. Sometimes test have shown when I call FronTLine when I am remote and do a Zmodem Dload it works fine with Procomm For Windows @1400+ CPS .. But If I do the same thing on the deskop with both applications running I've gotten very poor response at times. Hell Windows hardly handled the 19200 bauds with out me pushing it like this and without me converting FronTLine to an DDE Server World. And I have Dual Port 16550 serial port replacement with TurboComm. Just a note.

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**SONIC SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 41073
SACRAMENTO,CA
95841**

===== REGISTRATION FORM =====

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NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
STATE:
ZIPCODE:
MODEM TYPE:
WINDOWS VERSION:
FRONT LINE VERSION:
WHERE DID YOU GET FRONT LINE:
IMPROVEMENTS: