

AceLaunch v1.05 - User Information (19th March 1994)

Introduction

Welcome to the AceLaunch program manager, a convenient and time-saving utility from the Acelong labs which gives the Windows power-user the ability to work with multiple applications more easily. AceLaunch runs side by side with the standard Windows Program Manager, but within a few minutes of using AceLaunch for the first time you'll wonder how you ever got by without it, and the Program Manager can be left to gather cobwebs.

What AceLaunch Can Do For You

AceLaunch is an application launch manager - it provides the capability of switching between any of the currently loaded applications or launching a new application with a single selection from a pop-up menu. Windows already provides these facilities via the Program Manager and Task List of course, but using these requires you to open at least one window and either locate and double-click an icon or make a selection from a list. AceLaunch short-cuts this inconvenience by popping up its menu in response to certain actions which Windows normally ignores, such as clicking the left or right mouse buttons in the desktop area, or clicking the right mouse button in the caption bar of the current foreground window. ***AceLaunch needs no space on the desktop, but it is always instantly available!***

Although AceLaunch itself is an application which can be loaded and unloaded at any time, it can really be regarded as an extension to Windows, and although it has its own window used for configuring it to suit your tastes, it will normally be left running continuously and either minimised to an icon or made invisible.

Installation & Files

AceLaunch consists of two executable files, ACLNCH.EXE and LNCH_DLL.DLL. There is a Windows Help file ACLNCH.HLP and this read-me file ACLNCH.WRI. There is no installation program at the moment so you will need to copy these onto your hard disk yourself. You should put all the files in the same directory; if you don't, make sure that the directory containing LNCH_DLL.DLL is included in your environment's PATH variable. When you run AceLaunch it saves its own configuration file ACLNCH.CFG in your Windows directory.

You might want to put AceLaunch in the Program Manager's Startup group or in the "load =" section of WIN.INI so it gets loaded along with Windows.

Using AceLaunch

When you first run AceLaunch you won't have an ACLNCH.CFG file, and AceLaunch will create its own with a default configuration. This means that the first time you run AceLaunch its window is displayed. To activate AceLaunch's menu, try minimising all your windows to icons to get them out of the way then click in the Windows desktop area. For more information on using and configuring AceLaunch, see the on-line help.

Shareware Registration

This copy of AceLaunch is Shareware. This means that you can try it out free of charge, but if you continue to use it you should register it, although you can distribute it freely. To register, send your name, address and details of how you obtained AceLaunch together with the registration fee of \$15 (or £10 Sterling) to the author at the address below. The benefits of registering are free updates and support via CompuServe and paper mail.

Updates Since Last Release

The name has changed! Users of earlier versions (called LaunchPad) should notice no problems changing to the new version, as AceLaunch reads configuration files from the previous version and saves them under the new name ACLNCH.CFG.

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