



WinLoad 3.1

(NO WARRANTY: see [disclaimer](#))

WinLoad automatically loads DOS™- and Windows™-Applications after Windows has been booted. It does this "in the background", that means that work can begin immediately after Windows has been booted.

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Description

WinLoad automatically loads DOS™- and Windows™-Applications after Windows has been booted. It does this "in the background", that means that work can begin immediately after Windows has been booted.

WinLoad must be loaded at start time of Windows (minimized!). It then starts applications from a program list in the given order.

When WinLoad has loaded an application, it waits a short (user definable) time before it loads the next application.

For each application in the list it is possible to select it's name and parameters, it's initial window size (minimized, normal or maximized) and the delay time (the time WinLoad waits before loading the application). The programs from the list can be loaded after(!) the Windows boot process has finished.

The command line of the next application along with the initial window size and the delay time are displayed in WinLoad's main window.

WinLoad terminates automatically after all applications have been loaded.

See also:

Installation

Prepare WinLoad to load your applications

Running WinLoad

Installation

To install WinLoad only the following is required:

- copy the files WINLOAD.EXE, WINLOAD.TXT and WINLOAD.HLP to the directory where you want to have them (WINLOAD.EXE and WINLOAD.HLP must be in the same directory in order to access online help),
- make a backup copy of your current WIN.INI (after successful installation of WinLoad you can delete the copy!),
- add WINLOAD.EXE as usual to one of your program groups (only needed for initialization or changes of setup).

See also:

Description

Prepare WinLoad to load your applications

Running WinLoad

Prepare WinLoad to load your applications

Start WinLoad as a usual Windows application, e.g. by double clicking on the WinLoad icon in the program managers group window. The WinLoad main window and then the Setup dialog box should appear on the screen.

With the Setup dialog box you can set up a list of programs and select for each program its initial window size (minimized, normal or maximized) and the delay time before the program is to be loaded. The programs from the list can be loaded after(!) the Windows boot process has finished.

In addition, the "Load=" and "Run=" lines in the [Windows] section of your WIN.INI file can be changed via the Setup dialog box.

When you are **running WinLoad for the first time**, the following is recommended:

- Start the Windows Help Application by pressing the **Help** button of the Setup dialog box (or select "Help" from WinLoad main window's system menu).
- Remove those entries of the old "Load=" and "Run=" lines, which you want to be started asynchronously after Windows startup, and add them to the WinLoad program list via the insert and change operations; it's a good idea to do this one after another for each entry.
- Remove those members of the Program Manager's "AutoStart" group, which you want to be started asynchronously after Windows startup, and add them to the WinLoad program list via the insert and change operations.
- The "Load=" line must contain "WinLoad", otherwise WinLoad will not start to load automatically. You don't have to add "WinLoad" to the "Load=" list; it will be appended automatically after closing the Setup dialog box by pressing the "OK" button. Instead you can insert a new entry "WinLoad" yourself in the "Load=" list (if WinLoad.EXE cannot be found, insert "PATH\WinLoad.exe", where PATH is the full path name).

See also:

[Description](#)

[Installation](#)

[Running WinLoad](#)

Running WinLoad

WinLoad can be started in one of two modes:

- **load mode:**
WinLoad automatically starts to load applications from its program list.
- **setup mode:**
WinLoad automatically opens the Setup dialog box.

Which of the modes is used depends on how WinLoad is started:

- If WinLoad is started as an icon (minimized), **load mode** will become activ.
- If WinLoad is started with normal size or maximized, **setup mode** will become activ.

The size of the WinLoad main window does not depend on this; it can be selected explicitly using the Setup dialog box

See also:

Description

Installation

Prepare WinLoad to load your applications

How to change the WinLoad program list

The WinLoad program list contains programs which are to be loaded after Windows has been booted. The programs from the list are loaded in the given order.

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

The first entry in the WinLoad program list is always "WinLoad". For this entry you can select the size of the WinLoad main window, and as delay time the time WinLoad uses as default for new list entries.

More information:

[Change](#) existing entries of the program list

[Move](#) program list entries

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Change existing entries of the program list

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Select the list entry you want to change.
- If you want to change its **Initial size**, check the appropriate radio button.
- If you want to change its **Delay time** value, enter the new time as a pair of value and unit.
- If you want to change its name or **Command line**, path and/or parameters, simply make the desired changes by editing the text in the **Command Line** or by using the appropriate browser.

1. Note:

The first entry of the program list is always "WinLoad". This entry has a special meaning:

- its **Initial size** is used as size of the WinLoad main window;
- if its **Delay time** is being changed, all entries which previously had the same delay value as "WinLoad" will receive the new delay value.

2. Note:

The size of the WinLoad main window can be changed during loading programs by including "WinLoad" in the program list more than once (without path and extension) and selecting the appropriate **Initial size** for these additional entries.

More information:

Move program list entries

Insert new entries into the program list

Delete entries from the program list

Browse for files

Comments

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Move program list entries

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Select the list entry you want to move.
- Use **Move Up** or **Move Down** to move the selected list entry up or down.

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Insert new entries into the program list

Delete entries from the program list

Browse for files

Comments

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Insert new entries into the program list

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Select the list entry you want to precede the new entry.
- Press the **Insert** button; a new entry will appear below the one previously selected. Initially, it's **Initial size** is "Normal", it's **Delay time** value is the delay value of the first entry of the list ("WinLoad").
- Enter the name of the program you want to load in the **Command line** edit control (the browser can be used to search for files).
If WinLoad cannot find the program during loading (in the Windows directory, it's System subdirectory or via the `PATH` environment variable), the full path name and extension should be given.
Parameters can be appended as well. Parameters and, if no path is supplied, program extension (default: `EXE`) are optional.
If there is a link for the given extension in the [Extensions] section of your WIN.INI file, WinLoad will try to load the appropriate program during automatic loading.
- If required, select the **Initial size** and/or change the **Delay time** of the new entry (see: "Change existing entries of the program list").

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Move program list entries

Delete entries from the program list

Browse for files

Comments

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Delete entries from the program list

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Select the list entry you want to delete.
- Press the **Delete** button. The entry will be removed from the list.
- The **Command line** of the entry will be copied to the clipboard.

Note:

There is no way to recover a previously deleted entry. One way to minimize damage is to close the Setup dialog box without saving. A second way is to insert a new entry and paste it's **Command line** from the clipboard; the **Initial size** and the **Delay time** must be reset to their old values.

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Move program list entries

Insert new entries into the program list

Browse for files

Comments

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Browse for files

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Instead of editing the text in one of the edit controls **Load=**, **Run=** or **Command line** the file Browser can be used. To do this, press the appropriate **Browse ...** button (to the right of the edit control).
- A new Browser dialog box appears, which let's you walk through your directory trees as usual.
- If the desired file was found, press **OK**, and after the dialog box disappeared the name of the file is append to the text in the edit control of the Setup dialog box. It can then still be changed if needed.
- If the Browser dialog box is closed by **Cancel** or by selecting "Close" from it's system menu, nothing is changed in the edit control.

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Move program list entries

Insert new entries into the program list

Delete entries from the program list

Comments

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Comments

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used.

- Comments can be added to the WinLoad program list as well as programs; any string that starts with a comment character ';' is treated as a comment.
- Comments offer a simple method to disable list entries by adding a ';' as first character instead of removing the complete entry from the list, since comments will be ignored during automatic loading.
- Two ways to make a list entry a comment or to uncomment a comment are available:
 - the **Comment** check box can be used to toggle "comment state", or
 - insert/delete the comment character at the beginning of the **Command line**.

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Move program list entries

Insert new entries into the program list

Delete entries from the program list

Browse for files

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

Exiting from the Setup dialog box

To change the program list, the Setup dialog box must be used. There are three ways to close the dialog box:

- Press the "OK" button to save the changes to WINLOAD.INI,
- press "Cancel" to quit without saving (all changes will be lost), or
- select "Close" from the system menu; a message box will prevent you from losing your changed data without confirmation.

More information:

Change existing entries of the program list

Move program list entries

Insert new entries into the program list

Delete entries from the program list

Browse for files

Comments

Dialog box: Setup

The WinLoad program list contains programs which are to be loaded after Windows has been booted. The **Setup** dialog box allows to create and maintain this list. In addition, it allows to modify the "Load=" and "Run=" lines in the [Windows] section of your WIN.INI file.

Load= (with **Browse...**)

This is the "Load=" line of the [Windows] section of your WIN.INI file. Applications listed here are started at Windows's startup as Icons (minimized).

Run= (with **Browse...**)

This is the "Run=" line of the [Windows] section of your WIN.INI file. Applications listed here are started at Windows's startup with normal or maximized size.

Programs to load after Windows' startup

Listbox, that displays the current program list and allows selecting an entry to be changed.

Command line (with **Browse...**)

Allows changing the currently selected program or its command line.

Initial size

Allows changing the initial size of the currently selected program.

Delay time

Allows changing the delay time of the currently selected program.

Comment

Shows whether the currently selected program is a comment or not and allows to change this.

Move Up

Moves the currently selected program up one position in the program list.

Move Down

Moves the currently selected program down one position in the program list.

Insert

Inserts a new entry below the currently selected program into the program list.

Remove

Removes the currently selected program from the program list.

Browse...

Opens the appropriate Browser dialog box.

OK

Exits from the dialog box and saves the program list.

Cancel

Exits from the dialog box without saving the program list.

Options...

Opens the Options dialog box.

Help

Activates the Windows Help Application and shows help on the current dialog box.

See also:

Dialog box: Options

Dialog box: Browser

Dialog box: Info about WinLoad

Dialog box: **Browser**

The **Browser** dialog box can be opened from the [Setup](#) dialog box. It can be used to search for files for the **Load=**, **Run=** or **Command line** fields of the [Setup](#) dialog box.

File Name

Allows to enter a file specification (may include a path and/or wildcards).

Directory

Shows the name of the current directory.

Files

Displays a list of files from the current directory matching the file specification and allows selecting one of these files.

Directories

Displays a list of subdirectories of the current directory and allows selecting one of them.

Drives

Displays the list of available drives and allows changing the current drive.

OK

If the file specification (**File Name**) contains a path or wildcards, the current directory is changed and the **Files** and **Directories** lists are updated.

Otherwise, the dialog box is closed and the current **File Name** will be appended to the text in the appropriate edit control of the [Setup](#) dialog box.

Cancel

Closes the dialog box.

Help

Activates the Windows Help Application and shows help on the current dialog box.

See also:

Dialog box: [Setup](#)

Dialog box: [Options](#)

Dialog box: [Info about WinLoad](#)

Dialog box: Options

The **Options** dialog box allows to select some features of [WinLoad](#).

Default Unit

Allows to select the default unit for displaying the [delay time](#).

Use saved window size and position

If checked, [WinLoad](#) creates it's main window using the previously saved window size and position. Otherwise, default settings will be used.

Save window size and position on exit

If checked, [WinLoad](#) saves it's main window's size and position on exit.

Use a timer to initiate loading

If checked, loading is initiated by a Windows timer. This may be useful for testing, since without using a timer [WinLoad](#) stopps loading when a message box with an error message is shown, until the message box is closed. For normal operation of [WinLoad](#) using a timer is not required.

Use small system font

If checked, the small system font is used to show loading information in [WinLoad](#)'s main window. Otherwise, the normal system font is used.

Flash window when loading

If checked, [WinLoad](#) flashes (inverts) it's main window while loading an application.

Keep window in front (next time)

If checked, the [WinLoad](#) main window will be kept in front of other windows.

(**Note:** this option has no effect for the current [WinLoad](#) instance; it only takes effect the next time [WinLoad](#) is [run](#).)

OK

Closes the dialog box and saves the current settings.

Cancel

Closes the dialog box without saving any changes.

Help

Activates the Windows Help Application and shows help on the current dialog box.

See also:

Dialog box: [Setup](#)

Dialog box: [Browser](#)

Dialog box: [Info about WinLoad](#)

Dialog box: Info about WinLoad

The **Info** dialog box shows information about the current version and the author of [WinLoad](#).

OK

Closes the dialog box.

Help

Activates the Windows Help Application and shows help on the current dialog box.

See also:

Dialog box: [Setup](#)

Dialog box: [Browser](#)

Dialog box: [Options](#)

The WinLoad menu

WinLoad has no menu; it uses the **system menu** instead. The following commands are added to the standard Windows system menu:

Setup...

(Re-)Opens the Setup dialog box.

Start Loading

Starts loading, if WinLoad was not started as an icon.

Quick Loading

Directs WinLoad not to wait before loading applications (delay times will be ignored). If loading is not already in progress, it will be started. Otherwise, only the rest of the program list that was not loaded yet will be loaded immediately.

Options...

Opens the Options dialog box.

Help

Starts the Windows Help Application and displays the contents of WinLoad's help file.

Info about WinLoad...

Opens the Info dialog box.

See also:

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Additional information

Special settings in WIN.INI

In most cases, WIN.INI will already be o.k. for use with [WinLoad](#), and you won't have to change it. Here are some hints for advanced users.

[WinLoad](#) stores its settings by default in a profile named **WINLOAD.INI**; if you want another profile to be used instead, add - if not already present - a new section [Private Profiles] to your WIN.INI file, which should contain a line named "WinLoad=...", where "..." stands for the name of the file you want to use. By default, this section should read:

```
[Private Profiles]
WinLoad=WINLOAD.INI
```

[WinLoad](#) uses the extensions found in the "Programs=" line in the [Windows] section to decide which file names denote programs. For Windows™ 3.1, this line should read "Programs=com exe bat pif"; it should not contain other extensions! For program names without path and extension, EXE is assumed and no checks are performed.

If a program name has an extension not contained in the "Programs=" line as described above, [WinLoad](#) searches in the [Extensions] section of WIN.INI for an appropriate line and builds the correct command, if possible.

See also:

[Description](#)

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[The WinLoad menu](#)

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Additional information

Some additional information not mentioned yet:

- Once WinLoad has started to load applications, the "Setup ..." and "Start Loading" items in the system menu will be disabled. Loading can only be stopped by terminating WinLoad (e.g. by double clicking on the system menu bar). WinLoad will terminate at latest when all applications from the WinLoad program list have been loaded.
- WinLoad cannot be run more than once at a time. Any attempt to run more than one instance of WinLoad will terminate silently.
- If you still want applications other than WinLoad to be started at Windows boot time, you can of course add them to the "Load=" or "Run=" line in the [Windows] section of your WIN.INI file by using the Setup dialog box or editing WIN.INI as usual, or add them to the Program Manager's "AutoStart" group.

See also:

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WinLoad 3.1 runs under Microsoft Windows™ 3.1.

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Program name and parameters

The file name of the **program** to be executed by WinLoad. If this file cannot be found in the Windows directory, its System subdirectory or via the `PATH` variable, the full path name is required.

Parameters and, if no path is supplied, extension (default: `EXE`) are optional.

If the name given here is not the name of a program but the name of a **document** linked to an application via the `[Extensions]` section of your WIN.INI file, WinLoad will try to load the appropriate program.

If the program name is preceded by the comment character ';', the line will be ignored during automatic loading.

See also:

Examples for program names and parameters

Initial window size

Delay time

Examples for program names and parameters

c:\win3\util\topclock.exe

starts a program without parameters (for example, "TopClock").

winfile.exe

starts the Windows File Manager (`winfile.exe` must be located in the Windows directory or its System subdirectory or must be found via the `PATH` environment variable).

calendar.exe c:\docs\mycalend.cal

starts "calendar.exe c:\docs\mycalend.cal".

c:\docs\mycalend.cal

starts "calendar.exe c:\docs\mycalend.cal", if extension `CAL` is linked to `calendar.exe` via the `[Extensions]` section of the [WIN.INI](#) file.

See also:

[Program name and parameters](#)

[Initial window size](#)

[Delay time](#)

Initial window size

The size of the applications main window after it was started by WinLoad.

The size can be:

Minimized = Application is started as icon; the application which was previously active remains active.

Normal size = Application is started in a normal sized window.

Maximized = Application is started in a window with maximized size.

Note:

Windows can't force a program to show itself in a particular way. Not all programs will obey the initial window size parameter, but will instead determine their initial window size themselves.

See also:

Program name and parameters

Examples for program names and parameters

Delay time

Delay time

This is the time WinLoad waits before an application is being loaded.

The time can be given in milliseconds [ms], seconds [s], minutes [min] or hours [h] and can range from 100ms to 1000h.

See also:

Program name and parameters

Examples for program names and parameters

Initial window size

