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OverView

Forty Thieves is a solitaire card game. It is a two deck game. Forty cards are dealt face-up to the tableau. The remaining cards form the stock, from which cards can be dealt to a waste pile. The top card of the waste pile is then available for use. The goal of the game is to build all the cards up into eight goal piles, starting at the Ace and building up in sequence for each suit. Cards on the tableau may be built down in sequence with cards of the same suit.

Forty Thieves is also known as Big Forty, Napoleon at St Helena, and Le Cadran (The Dial).

Playing the Game

To start a new game select New Game from the Game menu or use Ctrl-N.

To restart the game in progress, select Restart Game from the Game menu or use Ctrl-R.

To undo your last move (only one move can be undone), use Ctrl-Z or select Undo from the Options menu.

A card may be picked up by pressing the left mouse button when over it, holding the button down allows you to move the card. Releasing the left button releases the card. Only one card can be moved at a time.

You can look at a partially obscured card by holding the right mouse button down while over the card. This will bring the card to the top, when the button is released, the card will resume its previous position.

If you double-click on a card, it will go to a goal pile if possible. If the card cannot be moved to a goal pile, it will go to the first available spot for it (except an empty column) in the tableau.

A mouse click on the deck will deal the next card to the top of the waste pile. The number above the deck indicates the number of cards remaining in it.

Rules of the Game

You may only move one card at a time.

Cards may only be moved onto cards of the same suit, or an empty column.

Cards must be placed in sequence, up starting from Aces for the goal piles, down for the tableau.

Only the top card of the waste pile may be used.

Scoring

Aces are worth 5 points when placed on a goal pile, all other cards are worth 10 points. This gives a total of 1000 points for a win. The current score is shown below the goal piles. You can see your statistics, (average score, percent won) by choosing Statistics from the Options menu.

Hints

You need to clear out a column on the tableau as soon as possible. This is often rather difficult in itself, its best to pick a column that looks easy to clear (low cards, or only a few cards remaining in it) and keep it in mind while playing. It is often worthwhile to skip a card in the wastepile that could have been played to save a spot for a card from your chosen row.

Once you have a free column, dont give it up. You can use the free row as a temporary spot to allow you to move multiple cards around and to help free up buried cards. Dont take any action that wont leave you with a free row when youre done.

When you get more columns emptied out, you can move large stacks of cards in an action similar to the Tower of Hanoi movements. Again, you should think ahead to verify you will be able to move all the cards you want, since there is only one move of undo allowed.

Menu Commands

Game Menu

- New Game
- Restart Game
- Exit

Options

- Undo (only 1 move can be undone)
- Statistics

Keyboard Commands

Ctrl-N - Start a new game.

Ctrl-R - Restart the current game.

Ctrl-Z - Undo the last move.

BackGround

This game uses the CARDS.DLL dynamic load library that comes with some games from Microsoft. It is written in C using Borland C++ 4.0, a very nice package. Thanks go to Heath Hunnicutt (heathh@cco.caltech.edu) for taking the time to reverse-engineer CARDS.DLL and making the information available to the InterNet.

This is our first Windows game, your donation / registration fee will entice us to produce more software, and of higher quality. Of course, everything you see here is for sale, contact Venom Software for source code prices.

Registration Information

This game is shareware. We would appreciate \$10 US if you decide to keep this game. This is only a suggestion, if you don't feel it's worth that, (or if you feel it's worth more), send what you think it's worth to you. Foreign funds are okay as well as checks drawn on foreign banks.

There is a registration form you can print out in the file REGISTER.TXT included with this package. This game is not crippled, all you get by registering is that warm fuzzy feeling from knowing you did The Right Thing. If you supply contact information, you may also be notified of new releases of Venom Software products.

Make checks out to Venom Software, please include an e-mail address if you have one, and send to:

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Venom Software is a small company committed to providing fully operational shareware.

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