

Icon Studio

by

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INTRODUCTION TO ICON STUDIO

Icon Studio is both a standalone icon editor as well as a seamless add-on that will enhance the operation of our Icon Manager application. Icon Manager currently establishes an OLE session with PaintBrush to provide image editing capabilities. Starting with version 3.6, Icon Manager will use the enhanced editing capabilities of Icon Studio if it finds this application located in the Icon Manager directory.

As a standalone application, Icon Studio will create, open, and save icon resource files (*.ICO format). Although Icon Studio currently edits only 32 x 32 pixel 16 color images, it will not disturb any additional image formats located in an ICO file.

INSTALLATION

A SETUP utility is provided with this release which must be used to install Icon Studio to your computer. The filename for installing to 16-bit Windows platforms such as Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11 is **SETUP.EXE**. Users installing to 32-bit platforms such as Windows NT 3.5 should use the filename **SETUP32.EXE**.

All of the files contained in the ZIP release file should be uncompressed to a floppy diskette or to a temporary directory on your hard drive. Then, select the 'Run...' command from Program Manager's File menu and run the appropriate program (SETUP.EXE or SETUP32.EXE) from the floppy diskette or temporary directory on your hard drive.

DOCUMENTATION

A detailed description of Icon Studio's operation appears below. This text has been provided for those who would like to read a complete overview of the capabilities and features offered by Icon Studio. In addition to this information, clear and concise "how to" online help can be accessed directly from Icon Studio.

OPERATION

Icon Studio will initialize to a standard minimum window size. The main window size may be increased, but it cannot be reduced below this minimum workspace size.

As a graphic application, the only dialogs found in Icon Studio are for the purpose of opening and savings files. Standard menus are provided for accessing Edit operations and online Help.

The most commonly used menu commands can also be accessed using tool buttons on Icon Studio's tool bar. From left to right the tool bar has buttons for File New, Open, and Save operations, Undo and Redo functions, followed by Cut, Copy, and Paste operations.

WORKSPACE

The center of the main window is occupied by the zoomed view of the icon image. This area is where all drawing takes place.

To the left of the zoomed view is a status panel that displays, from top to bottom, an actual size image of the icon being edited, the currently selected 'A' and 'B' colors, and the current position of the cursor when it is placed in the zoomed editing area.

To the right of the editing area are the color ink wells and tool box. Press the left or right mouse button over the desired color to select a new 'A' or 'B' color. In addition to the 16 primary colors used by Windows, 'screen' and 'inverse screen' ink can be selected.

The tool box contains buttons for the following tools:

- 1) Selection tool - used to select areas of the editing image for cut, copy, or drag operations.
- 2) Pencil - used to draw individual pixels.
- 3) Line tool - used to draw straight lines.
- 4) Brush - used to draw multiple pixels at a time. Different brush shapes can be selected from the area below the tool box.
- 5) Flood tool - fills an area of color with another color.
- 6) Color eraser - replaces one color with another color. Does not affect any other colors. Different eraser sizes may be selected from the area below the tool box.
- 7) Rectangle
- 8) Filled Rectangle
- 9) Solid Rectangle - used to draw rectangles.
- 10) Ellipse
- 11) Filled Ellipse
- 12) Solid Ellipse - used to draw ellipses.

Drawing with freehand tools (Pencil, Brush, and Color Eraser) is performed by pressing the left or right mouse button down in the edit area. Drawing continues as the mouse is moved until the mouse button is released.

Drawing with precision tools (Line, Rectangle, and Ellipse tools) is performed by pressing the left or right mouse button and dragging the mouse with the button depressed. A line image of the potential figure is displayed for your inspection as the cursor is dragged.

Releasing the mouse button completes the paint operation and updates the icon image.

The selection tool works very much like the rectangle function. Press the left mouse button and drag to select areas of the edit image.

To paint using the Flood tool, press the left or right mouse buttons over a color pixel in the edit area. The pixels, and all adjacent pixels of the same color will be filled. This operation continues until the flood is completely bounded by different colored pixels.

COLOR USAGE

The tools in Icon Studio's tool box use the currently selected 'A' and 'B' colors for all drawing operations. The 'A' and 'B' selections serve two purposes for the drawing tools.

First, the left mouse button is used with most tools to draw using the primary 'A' color, and the right mouse button is used to draw using the secondary 'B' color (unless you have swapped your left and right mouse buttons using Windows Control Panel). The Pencil, Line, Brush, Flood, Rectangle, and Ellipse functions follow this rule.

Second, the 'A' and 'B' colors are used in the concept of foreground and background colors when using the Eraser to erase the 'A' (or foreground) color to the 'B' (or background) color. Using the right mouse button instead of the left will reverse this, changing any 'B' color under the Eraser to the 'A' color.

The background 'B' color is also used when the Select tool is used to Cut or to drag a selection to a new location. The desired 'B' color must be chosen before using the Select tool. When a Cut operation is performed, or the selection is dragged to a new location, the area that the image used to occupy is filled with the 'B' color. Also, if a selection is dragged, any area in the selection that matches the 'B' color will be treated as a transparent area during the drag.

UNDO/REDO

In addition to the standard Edit commands, Cut, Copy, and Paste, Icon Studio offers the extended Undo and Redo commands. These function can be accessed from the main menu or from the tool bar buttons.

The scope of an undo 'step' for all tools except the Pencil is the drawing performed between the pressing of a mouse button and the release of the mouse button. The scope of the Pencil undo is the drawing performed since the Pencil tool has been selected. Click the left mouse button on the Pencil tool box button to create additional undo checkpoints.

Icon Studio will currently track up to 3000 pixel color changes in its undo buffer. The number of operations that can be undone is related to how many pixels have been changed. If an operation cannot be entirely undone, you will be informed, and the operation will be undone as much as possible. All operations that are undone can be redone using the Redo operation. Operations that have been undone can no longer be redone once new drawing has resumed. Undo operations are always accessible up to the capacity of the undo buffer.

SHIFT KEY

A SHIFT key can be used to restrict the drawing area during an operation.

PENCIL - Pressing either SHIFT key will restrict the Pencil tool to the current row or column. You can press and release the SHIFT key more than once during a single draw to restrict and free the drawing motion.

LINE - Press either SHIFT key to restrict the line to increments of 45 degrees.

RECTANGLES and ELLIPSES - Press either SHIFT key to restrict the drawing to perfect squares and circles.

REGISTRATION

Icon Studio is not free software. It is distributed as a fully functional program with an agreement that you can accept to evaluate the program for up to thirty days at no cost. If you decide that you would like to purchase a license to use the program, complete information on how to register is included in the REGISTER.TXT file that comes with Icon Studio.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Full technical support privileges are provided for customers who register Icon Studio. Every attempt will be made to insure that Icon Studio will operate as it is designed to on your Windows or Windows NT compatible computer system.

Technical Support can be reached between the hours of **9AM and 5PM**, U.S. Pacific Time, **Monday through Friday** at **909-590-8522**.

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