

# **Power Balance v1.0**

*Because you can't be in two places at once!*

Copyright © 1994 Neil Gorin - Based on an idea by Steve Mendham

## **Evaluation User Documentation**

***WARNING: You are strongly recommended to back up your data files before attempting to use Power Balance. Although this product has been tested, and has proved stable in test conditions, no guarantees can be made regarding its suitability for use or ability to prevent data corruption. In particular, your attention is drawn to the section of this document entitled "How does it work?".***

This documentation is supplied to enable you to get to know Gorin's Power Balance for Windows (Power Balance). Licenced copies of the software come complete with a printed user guide which discusses Power Balance in greater depth. However, all you need to *know* in order to use the software is included in this document.

Power Balance is *not* free software. It is offered for evaluation use for a period of two weeks from the date of receipt. If after this time you continue to use the software, it is necessary to purchase a licenced copy of the software. Full details of how to do this can be seen when exiting the program and also within the REGISTER.WRI file.

Power Balance is supplied by:

**Neil Gorin (Software),  
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Registered/Licenced copies cost **£14.95** (Fourteen pounds and 95 pence, Sterling) and are available on receipt of appropriate payment (payable to N Gorin) at the above address. A small surcharge is made on overseas orders - please see the REGISTER.WRI file. I am not personally able to process credit card transactions, although there may be agents of NGS who can - please telephone to find out.

You may contact the author, **Neil Gorin**, for technical support via:

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As a gesture of goodwill, technical support *is* available during the evaluation period. However, please note that I reserve the right to refuse to provide technical support to those who I believe to be exceeding the evaluation period without registration.

## *Introduction*

Power Balance allows you to pair off up to 1000 pairs of files which should be kept identical between two computers. For example, the files for your diary may be kept on both a desktop machine and a laptop - if you update data on one, you are likely to want to update the other. Ideally, these files would be on separate hard disks connected by a InterLink\* cable, for example, a slightly more complex process being required if no connection is present, as two balances have to be made (see later).

For users using a floppy disk transfer method, or who wish to separate their balancing sets between certain activities (e.g. Spreadsheet and Word Processing), Power Balance provides a Selector feature from which an unlimited number of balancing sets may be created, renamed and deleted - all without reference to filenames!

\* Interlink is a program supplied with MS DOS 6.x and IBM DOS 5.02. With Interlink, it is possible to access the hard and floppy disk drives on one computer from another, by linking the computers using either a Null Modem cable or Parallel Port linker. Details on how to set up Interlink, and how to make (or buy) a suitable cable can be found in your MS DOS manual. Alternatively, if you have DOS 6.x, try typing HELP INTERLNK at the DOS prompt. As an alternative to an interlink cable, you can use Power Balance to balance files over a Windows for Workgroups network.

All the examples in this document refer to the two computers as "Desktop" and "Laptop", as this is the most likely configuration that you will use. However, there is no reason why you cannot connect two laptop or two desktop computers using Power Balance.

## *Installation*

Using the supplied SETUP.EXE program, install Power Balance to a convenient directory on at least one computer. If you intend to work Balance using the floppy disk method, described later, you must install it on both machines. Your user licence permits this, by the way.

## *The Selector*

The Selector allows you to access an virtually unlimited number of Balancing sets, via an easy to use system where each set is given a full description. To select a set to process, either double click on it, or select it and press Ok.

**Creating a new set:** Click on New. You will be asked to type a description, and are given the option to use a different file than the one specified. Unless you have a genuine reason for typing an alternative file name, it is recommended that you accept Power Balance's choice.

**Renaming a set:** Highlight the set to rename and click Rename. You may then modify the description. You may not change the name of the balancing file, and no change is made to any links you have set up.

**Deleting a set:** Highlight a set and click Delete. You will be asked to confirm this action as a delete cannot be undone.

## ***Setting up Balance over an Interlink or other Networked connection***

Initially ensure manually that the files to be balanced exist on both machines, and that the internal date and time are correctly set on both.

If you are using Interlink, on your Laptop, run INTERSVR and reboot your desktop computer so that the laptop's drives are visible to it. Alternatively connect to your networking system.

Run Power Balance on your Desktop computer.

Select or create a suitable balancing set in the Selector, select *New Link*, select a file on one computer then the same file on the second computer. Repeat this process until all required file pairs are made. To remove a pair, highlight it and press *Remove Link*.

To balance your files, press *Balance Files*. Your files are now balanced.

**Now disconnect your laptop computer from your desktop computer. Work on either computer (but not both) updating one set of files. When you wish to re-balance the files once more, reconnect the INTERLINK (or Network) setup EXACTLY as before, run Power Balance, selecting the appropriate set and press *Balance Files*.**

## ***The Floppy disk method***

PREPARATION: Ensure that you have a blank large capacity disk ready, and format it (you only need do this the first time you use the disk, but the disk must have sufficient capacity to hold all the files you are likely to transfer). Ensure that both computers have the latest copy of the necessary files by manually copying them into place. Also place the latest copy of all these files onto the floppy disk. On each computer in turn, install Power Balance and run it, linking the files on said computer's hard disk with the files on the transitional floppy disk. Ensure you give the balancing file description a clear name (preferably use the same name on both PCs) and write this name on the floppy disk.

Preparation is now complete.

You may now work with either computer, updating one set of files. When you wish to balance the files between the machines, follow this process PRECISELY:

1: Insert the floppy disk into the drive of the machine upon which you have been updating files, and run Power Balance on that machine, selecting the appropriate balancing set. Press *Balance Files*. When complete, remove the disk.

2: Repeat the above on the computer which has not been used.

Both computers should now hold the same file versions.

### **Important Note**

You should use a separate, clearly labelled diskette for each balancing set! If you use the same

disk, you'll quickly run out of room.

## ***How does it work?***

Power Balance works on file date stamps. Quite simply, the program compares file dates on two files, and replaces the older file with the newer one. For this reason, it is essential that you ensure the clock within both computers is set accurately.

An example of what can go wrong might help:

Say the Desktop computer's clock is running 15 minutes slow. You have been working for some time on your laptop computer, so save your work and decide to balance the files with your desktop. This works Ok. You then quickly realise a mistake you have made, and modify a file on your desktop computer, which only takes a minute or so, so you then re-balance. Unfortunately, because the Desktop's clock is slow, the more recent file actually has an earlier time stamped on it than the old, mistake included, file on your laptop. Power Balance will replace the file on your Desktop with the file on your laptop. Your new work will be undone.

Provided you remain aware of this potential problem, and ensure you regularly adjust your computer's clocks, should they have a tendency to drift, you are unlikely to experience any major problems.

***Please ensure you  
register this product!***

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***JUST £14.95***

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