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Paradox Desktop Version 1.0

by

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I. Introduction

Paradox Desktop is a utility to help the Paradox for Windows developer. This small form (small in visual size only), offers browsing features to browse files and launch your aliases. It helps you use multiple sessions by managing your private directories for you. In addition, it provides an "Inspector" that allows you to view table structures, link information, and source code. Finally, it provides easy access to the most often used utilities and information. Keep an eye on the status bar for tips, and information to guide you while using Paradox Desktop.

II. Installation

Installation is easy, because it is already installed! However, to use all features you need to "fully" install it. To fully install it simply deliver it and put the delivered version along with this Write file in your Paradox for Windows application directory.

Installation steps:
1. Copy DESKTOP.EXE, DESKTOP.FDL, and DESKTOP.WRI to your Paradox for Windows application directory (probably C:\PDOXWIN\).
2. Make sure SHARE.EXE is installed (from DOS--usually AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS).
3. From within ODAPI Configuration Utility, make sure Local Share is turned on. This is required to run multiple sessions of Paradox for Windows.

Optional steps:
4. [Optional] Install the DESKTOP.EXE icon in your Paradox for Windows group in Program Manager.
5. [Optional] Print this file for a printed manual.
6. [Optional] Send in registration fee and you will soon receive the much improved next version.

III. The application buttons: H, N, and M.

These three buttons allow you to manipulate the Paradox for Windows Desktop (application). The "H" button hides it. The "N" button shows it. Finally, the "M" button maximizes it.

IV. The enum buttons: A, U, and E.

The three buttons labeled "A", "U", and "E" on the main page offer a pop-up menu with often used options. The "A" button offers Assistance. When you select an option from this menu, the Paradox Desktop automatically brings up either Windows help or Notepad with the appropriate text file. In order for the text files options to work, the main Paradox Desktop file DESKTOP.FSL (or DESKTOP.FDL) needs to be in the same directory as PDOXWIN.EXE. The elegant thing about this utility, is the DESKTOP.FDL is the only file required. This is nice for it is hard to keep track of all the various files for all the various utilities out there.

V. The Run button: R.

The "R" button is equivalent to **File | Run** in Program Manager or File Manager. This option allows you to launch anything Windows can launch: DOS and Windows application, PIF files, and batch files.

VI. Desktop Configuration (The "C" button).

The Desktop Configuration page is where you configure the Paradox Desktop. You can configure where the private directories will be created and whether or not the PRIVx files and directories are cleaned up. When you select Save, your configuration is saved to the DESKTOP.INI file in your Windows directory. The INI file is automatically created if one does not exist.

The PRIVx directories are created when you run multiple sessions. Select Work to create the PRIVx directories in the new working directory. Select Temp to create them in the DOS Temp directory. You must have set temp command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file for this option to work (for example, Set Temp = C:\DOS\TEMP). Finally, select Other and type in a path to specify a

specific path.

VII. About Desktop (The "?" button)

Through About Desktop, you can access this help file or browse the source code.

VIII. Browsing for files (The "Launch" and "Manual" buttons)

Use these two buttons to launch a new session of Paradox for Windows complete with the working directory you specify and an automatically (or manually typed in) private directory. Use the Launch button to launch a working directory using an alias and use the Manual button to type in a directory.

IX. Browsing for files (The "Browse" button)

Use the Browse button to browse for a form, table, report, query, script, or library. Once you select a file, Paradox Desktop will start another session with the correct working directory, a new private directory and feed it the file you selected. All the files come up in view data mode (run mode) except for libraries which come up in design mode.

X. The Inspector

Allows you to inspect non-delivered forms for source code, link information, object names, and object properties. You can also view the source code in libraries and scripts. The inspector also allows you to inspect reports for link information, object names, and object properties. Finally, you can inspect the structure of a single table, or all of the tables in a directory.

XI. Registration and the future

The Paradox Desktop is NOT in the public domain. You may NOT distribute it in any way. Version 1.0 complete with source code comes free of charge with "What Every Paradox for Windows Programmer Should Know". The source code is provided for study only. Paradox Desktop, itself, is not crippled in any way. For the most current version and to register this copy send your name and address along with $15 to:

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All suggestions and comments are welcome. You can send them to the address above or via Compuserve to 75300,2151. If you register your version of Paradox Desktop, your suggestion will be more heavily considered. After all, paying customers deserve to get the features they need.

Future expansions:
1. Better more feature rich inspector.
2. Ability to load multiple files in the inspector.
3. More configurations.
4. Browser to load tables, forms, reports, etc. in run or design mode.
5. Your suggestion here.

If you wish to purchase my book, then here is the needed information.

Title: What Every Paradox for Windows Programmer Should Know

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