

Directory Sorter for Windows 95 Version 1.1

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WARNING: Directory Sorter SHOULD NOT BE USED ON SCSI Disk Drives.

This limitation is placed on the program by Windows 95, not me.

1. Introduction

Directory Sorter is a file and directory sorting program designed specifically for Windows 95. It CAN NOT be used with Windows 3.1 or Windows for Workgroups or any previous version of Windows.

If you are a DOS hound like me you probably find it annoying whenever you are using the DOS Prompt in Windows 95 that none of the files or directories on the system seem to be in nice neat alphabetic order like they are when viewed with Explorer.

This is where Directory Sorter comes in.

You might say "Just set the DIRCMD= command to show your files in the right order" and you would be right for directory lists. Sometimes its nice when copying, deleting, changing attributes or many other filing tasks to have your files and directories sorted in order.

Directory Sorter will actually rearrange the directory and file names so that they are physically stored in Alphabetic order on the system. This means that all commands that

process files will do so in Alphabetic order.

Don't Worry! Directory Sorter DOES NOT directly access the FAT or Directory of any of your disk drives directly. ALL operations use legitimate documented Windows 95 functions.

Directory Sorter requires no additional space on your hard disk (except for one subdirectory entry that is removed when its finished its job). No files are physically copied or moved during the sorting process. When the sorting process is complete all the files will be in exactly the same place on the disk as when the sort was started.

I have tested Directory Sorter on as many different stand-alone system configurations as I can and have not found any problems. However, since computer configurations vary in the extreme there may be a possibility that it may not function correctly on your particular system. I have not tested it on network drives and would not recommend that you do so either. I have not tested Directory Sorter on a system with less than 16MB of memory. I would not expect it to run well on a system with only 4MB of memory, but then again neither does Windows 95.

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3. Installation

To install Directory Sorter follow these steps:

1. Copy the distribution file to a temporary directory and decompress it using an Un-Zipping program compatible with PKZIP.
2. Now copy the DIRSORT.EXE file to your Windows directory. This is the only file needed to run the program. There are no DLL files or HLP files required.
3. Add DIRSORT.EXE to the Start Menu Folder as you would any other program. Use the Windows 95 Start Menu Settings|Taskbar...|Start Menu Programs command or Drag and Drop the DIRSORT.EXE icon from the Explorer to the Taskbar. (Or about a dozen other ways of doing the same thing).
4. Run the program.

4. Shareware Limitations

The Shareware version of Directory Sorter will only allow you to sort files and directories contained within directories whose name starts with the letters A to G.

The registered version of Directory Sorter has this limitation removed.

5. What To Do If You Have a Problem

In the unlikely event that you have a problem with Directory Sorter, here are some tips.

- 1. Make sure that all other programs are closed before starting Directory Sorter.**
2. As stated above, Directory Sorter uses only legitimate documented Windows 95 functions, so its extremely unlikely that any damage can be caused to your file system except in the case of power failure (but what other software can work without power).
3. If the unthinkable happens and the System loses power, locks up or crashes while Directory Sorter is doing its thing, you may find that some of your files appear to be missing and Windows 95 may not load correctly (depending on what was being sorted when the problem occurred).
4. Never Fear! Your files are not missing, just hiding. If this should happen to you then reboot your system to the DOS prompt. Look in the directory named \\$_\$_\$_\$_.\$_\$_ on the drive you were sorting when the problem occurred. Directory Sorter keeps your files safe in this directory during the sort. This is a hidden directory, but you can still access it at the DOS prompt by simply typing CD \\$_\$_\$_\$_.\$_\$_ and doing a directory list. Once you have changed to this directory you can use the DOS MOVE, COPY or XCOPY commands to put the files back in the right place and restart Windows 95.

6. Using Directory Sorter

Its Easy! Just put the mouse cursor over any part of the Directory Sorter window and a helpful little pop-up window will explain its function. No other instructions or help files are required. What could be easier.

NOTE: Make sure that all other programs are closed before starting Directory Sorter. In particular you **CAN NOT** use Compression Agent or Disk Defragmenter at the same time as Directory Sorter. This should be pretty obvious!

7. Sorting Speed

The sorting performance of Directory Sorter is governed by the speed of the CPU in your system and most importantly the speed of your Hard Disk. On my own system which is a 133MHz Pentium with and 820MB Hard Disk running Microsoft Plus Disk Compression set to maximum compression level, Directory Sorter sorts about 50 files per second. It sorts my entire Hard Disk with about 9500 files in 4 or 5 minutes. The speed is also effected to some degree by the number of nested subdirectories.

8. Ordering the Registered Version of Directory Sorter

Registered users are entitled to any new version or updates of the Software free of charge for one year after their initial purchase. The updated version must be requested by E-Mailing the author at the address below. Updates will NOT be automatically sent. Updates will be supplied via CompuServe E-Mail. If you are the first to report a bug in the Software, a copy of the corrected Software will be automatically E-Mailed to you.

You may order the registered version of Directory Sorter via CompuServe's SWREG facility. On CompuServe use the GO SWREG command and follow the instructions.

The CompuServe SWREG Registration ID number for Directory Sorter is ID# 8180, the price of the registered version is US\$19.95. Delivery will be made by via CompuServe E-Mail.

Sourcecode for Directory sorter is not available at this time. If enough people request it then I will consider making it available as an additional Registration ID on CompuServe.

9. Revision History

Version 1.0 October 28th 1995
First release via CompuServe

Version 1.1 October 31st 1995
Fix a bug that sometimes would not allow sorting after the sorting Drive was changed in the Drive Box.

10. Contacting the Author

The Author, Steve Flynn, may be contacted via CompuServe or Internet E-Mail at:

CompuServe ID: 100351,2607

Internet: 100351.2607@compuserve.com

Please feel free to contact me with any problems and/or suggestions that you may have regarding Directory Sorter.

For those who want to know everything, Directory Sorter was written using Borland's extremely wonderfully brilliant Visual Basic thrashing Delphi. I'll just bet that Bill Gates wishes he owned Delphi.

11. Other Programs by the Author

For the Delphi programmers out there I have released a new Data Aware control. The control is a Delphi Data Aware Lookup Combobox with a Filter built in. The file to look for is DBFLTCOM.ZIP in the Borland Delphi Forum on CompuServe.

DBFilterCombo looks and works like the standard DBLookupCombo supplied with Delphi but allows the ComboBox list to be Filtered by a third and independent field in the Lookup Source. The registered version of this control also includes DBLookupText which is a Data Aware Lookup Label and DBZipMemo which is a DataAware Memo with a pop up editing window.

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