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Launch Version 2.1 Was Written By:

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What Is Launch

Launch Version 2.1 provides the <u>Windows 3.0</u> user a method to start one or more applications with a single mouse click. Launch allows you to automate how these various tasks (programs) will be started.   An example of this might be starting CALC.EXE (the calculator), NOTEPAD.EXE (text editor), and CALENDER.EXE.   With Launch, you can name this collection of tasks as a configuration using the <u>Directory Command</u>, choose which programs that are part of the configuration with the <u>Select</u>,   and specify how these programs are to be launched using the <u>Attributes</u> command.

Two new features in this version of Launch are:

    1) <u>CRC</u> Testing.

    2) An <u>Event Log</u>.

With these new features, you can now test a program prior to launching it for modifications/viruses and log the startup to an event file!

In addition, during the 'evaluation' phase I have made efforts to make using Launch as painless as possible.   There is nothing left out of the software (Launch.Exe), nor has any feature been disabled.   By doing this, what you see is what you'll get by registering.   Please note, that during this evaluation period, a <u>Registration</u> Notice dialog box will appear during initial program <u>Startup</u> and when you select the <u>Launch!</u> menu item.

Launch implements a 32 bit **C**yclic **R**edundancy **C**heck (CRC) .   The CRC is applied to those programs you specify and to Launch.Exe at startup!   This provides an additional level of protection from any virus that would attach itself to Launch.Exe.

The event log is named LAUNCH.EVT.   It is written in the directory that Launch.Exe resides in.

How To Order

If you find that Launch is a valuable addition to your Windows war chest, please send a check or money order for $25 (twenty five) U.S dollars to:

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You will then receive (via U.S. mail) your Registration Id which will allow you to register Launch.   The Registration Id will allow you to register Launch updates as they are made!

For an additional $5 (five) U.S. dollars, the latest version of Launch will also be enclosed on floppy disk.   Please specify if a 5.25 or a 3.5 floppy disk is desired (if no preference is stated, a 5.25 floppy disk will be enclosed).

Also, questions and comments can be sent to:

David B. Hughes at the above address

On CompuServe as user 70172,2526

On ComputerEdge Online (619-573-1675)   as user David Hughes

As far as I know David B. Hughes has not been Copyrighted. He is however an all around nice guy and is loved by all...

Registration

The registration dialog box is accesable from the menu bar Help item or during program initialization.   Enter your unique <u>Registration Id</u> exactly as supplied.   Please note that the registration process is **case sensitive**. That is, **ABC** is different than **abc**.   After registration, the program will not bother you with this item again.   Please remember to save your Registration Id in case you have to restore or update the program.   Remember, once you register as a user of Launch, you stay registered!   That is, you don't pay for updates!   Your Registration Id will be good for all future updates of Launch.

Directory Command

The Directory Command (from the menu bar or system menu), allows you to add or delete a Launch Configuration. A Launch Configuration is a **named** collection/group of tasks (programs) that you run together.   This group could be Microsoft Excel loaded with a specific worksheet and Microsoft Word loaded with a specific document file. Because these programs support the DDE interface, you can easily be up and running

The **name** you assosiate with this collection should be as descriptive as you find necessary.   If you forget what tasks are started, you can use the Select dialog box to examine (or add to/modify) these tasks.   The Directory Command dialog box has a button that allows you to jump directly to the Select dialog box.

From the Directory Command dialog box, you can also specify if you wish to be prompted (asked) prior to starting any tasks that are listed in the active configuration.

The Directory Command dialog box also has a Launch button so that you can select a configuration and start all tasks that are defined within it!

Note that only one configuration is active for launching at one time.   If you wish to start another simply make it the active configuration and use the Launch! menu item to start it.

Dynamic **D**ata **E**xchange (DDE) is a method where one program act as the 'Server' and the other the 'Client'.   Thus, both programs can exchange data.   An example would be Microsoft Word (the client) receiving data from a spreadsheet loaded into Microsoft Excel (the server).   As spreadsheet data is updated in Microsoft Excel, it could be loaded directly (and automatically) into the document being edited in Microsoft Word.

Select

The Select dialog box allows you to examine the contents of disk for specific file types (*.exe, *.pif, and etc) and add them to Launch Pad list.   When a file is added to the Launch Pad, you will be placed in the Attributes dialog box.   If you wish to edit an existing file in the Launch Pad list, **select the file** (place the mouse pointer on the file name and click the mouse button) from the list box and press the Edit Launch Attributes button.

The Select dialog box also has radio button options that specify what happens to Launch.Exe after the configuration is started.

Attributes

The Attribute dialog box is used to specify the startup directory and parameters passed to the task/program.   The Attribute dialog box also has <u>check boxes</u> that:

1) Allow you to be prompted (asked) before the application is started.

2) Allow you to connect (the task in focus, that is, receiving mouse/keyboard input) to the applicaton after all tasks have been started.   Note that only one task can have this attribute.   Launch will detect any conflicts to this and prompt you if any are detected.

3) Perform a CRC check prior to loading the application.   This is useful for virus detection and program security. While Launch cannot correct any modification made to applications on disk, it can detect if the application has been modified after it was added to the Launch Pad.

4) Log the startup to an event file.   This option is useful if you wish to keep track of when a program is started and any parameters passed to it.

The Attributes dialog box also contains <u>radio buttons</u> that determine how the started application is to appear on the desktop.

<u>(more details)</u>

More Details On Attributes

An example on setting up the various items to Launch a file would be the following.   You wish to start NOTEPAD.EXE and pass it the file NOTES.TXT located in C:\MYNOTES.   You would also like to perform a CRC test on NOTEPAD.EXE, connect to the task as a window.   To perform this, you do the following:

1) In the <u>Directory</u> dialog box add a new configuration.   this will automatically place you in the <u>Select</u> dialog box

2) Starting in the <u>Select</u> dialog box, locate the file in the windows directory and add it to the Launch Pad

In the Attributes dialog box do the following:

3) The startup directory is: C:\MYNOTES

4) The parameters are: C:\MYNOTES\NOTES.TXT

5) Select the <u>check box</u> 'After Startup, Connect To This Application'

6) Select the <u>check box</u> 'Before Starting Application, Perform A CRC Check'

7) Select the <u>radio button</u> 'A Window'

8) Keep selecting   the OK buttons until you are back to the menu bar

9) Select <u>Launch!</u> from the menu bar - the program NOTEPAD should now be running!

(back to Attributes)

☐ This item is NOT Selected

☒ This item is Selected

○ This Item is NOT Selected

◉ This Item is Selected

Launch!

The Launch menu item is used to manually start the active configuration (see also <u>Directory Command</u>).   This menu item is typically used after you have added a new or changed the active configuration.

Note that until you've registered the program, a <u>Registration</u> Notice dialog box will appear.   You can select the Register button to register Launch, select the Continue button, or you can wait a few moments and the program will automaticlly resume.

Starting Launch

When you start Launch for the first time, a Registration Notice dialog box will appear. This dialog box will disappear after a few moments (or you can enter a valid Registration Id by pressing the Register button). After this brief pause, Launch will then be a small window on your desktop. Use the Directory to define a configuration. Once a configuration has been defined or made active, Launch will startup the tasks/programs that are in the Launch Pad list as you have specified (see Select and Attributes for more details). Also note that Launch will keep a watchful eye out for **low memory** conditions as Windows detects them. In the event that this happens, Launch will ask if you wish to continue. An additional item to note is, as Launch starts tasks, it will report any startup failures (i.e. invalid .EXE file type).

There are three typical methods for starting Launch, these are:

1) Use File Manager

2) Add Launch to an existing group

3) Add the following command to your WIN.INI file:
run=c:\windows\launch.exe
OR (not both!)
load=c:\windows\launch.exe

Note that this example assumes that you've place the program in the C:\WINDOWS directory. The program can be placed in any directory that you desire. Just remember to modiify the above example to reflect the drive and directory that you've placed them in.