

The Dumpster v2.0

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SHAREWARE

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THE DUMPSTER

It's here! What everyone has been wanting, and several companies have been trying to write, with little success, is finally a reality. The Dumpster is a trashcan program written specifically for Windows 3.1. Utilizing drag-and-drop technology, you can now drag a file, or files, from the file manager to an icon for deletion. But that's not all! The Dumpster can be set to hold files for a certain period of time, or to hold files until a certain size limit has been reached, before actually deleting these files! And, any time until your limit is reached, you can reach into The Dumpster holding area and pull out files that you've decided you really didn't want to delete.

You'll also notice that The Dumpster icon always stays on top of whatever window you have active if you wish. This ensures you can throw something away without looking around for The Dumpster icon. However, effective with version 1.1, there is a switch in the Preferences menu item that allows you to switch the "always on top" feature off.

At the same time, also notice that The Dumpster icon is NOT transparent. It allows a small patch of the wallpaper to show through. There are two reasons for this. The first is that if The Dumpster was transparent, you wouldn't be able to use the list box in the storage area because it would also be transparent. The second is this: The clock.exe program that comes with windows will NOT work with another program that is using transparent mode unless clock is using the stay-on-top option. I'm not at all sure why this is the case, but the GPF occurs inside the clock program, not the program using transparent mode. The first reason I could work around, but not the second. That one will be up to somebody else to play with!

After trying out The Dumpster, I'll bet that you won't go back to your other trashcan program! I'm so confident that this is one of a VERY few shareware programs to offer a full money-back guarantee. See page 6 for further details.

Requirements

A computer running Windows 3.1 and a mouse.
Human optional, but suggested.

The Dumpster Menus

MAIN

Remove: This is what you use to remove a file from The Dumpster holding area if you change your mind and decide not to let The Dumpster delete that file. Simply highlight that file in the list and click on the Main menu, then click on the Remove option. The file is removed from the holding area and will not be deleted.

Delete: You can use this option to delete a file immediately. If you are using either the timed option or the sized option, The Dumpster will hold the files in the holding area until the conditions that you set are met. If you want to delete a file from the disk immediately, but don't want to change your options, you can highlight the file and then click on the Main menu, then the Delete option to delete that file. Using this function does not change your options.

Flush: This option is similar to the Delete option described above, but instead of deleting a single file, it deletes all files listed in the holding area from the disk. Again, this does not change the options you have set, but does immediately delete anything listed in the holding area.

PREFERENCES

This is where you can set up The Dumpster to meet your specific requirements. The Dumpster can be set up in three possible configurations:

Timed Deletion: If you select this option, you can set a certain period of time for The Dumpster to hold files before deleting them. You can set The Dumpster for a maximum of 364 days, 23 hours. After the allotted time is up, The Dumpster will delete the files in the Dumpster hold area that have been held for that amount of time. Note that this is only accurate to the nearest 30 seconds. Windows would actually check the time up to 20 times each second, but this take processor time. 30 seconds was chosen as good compromise.

Sized Deletion: If you have limited hard drive space, The Dumpster can be set to delete files after a certain size limitation has been reached. Set the size in Kilobytes (1024 bytes). The maximum size for this setting is 6MB. When your limit has been reached, The Dumpster will delete the oldest files until under the limit.

Delete Now: Setting this option will tell The Dumpster to delete the files as they are dropped off from the file manager. The Dumpster will not save files in the holding area if this option is selected. NOTE: This is the default option. If you require one of the other options listed above, set them before deleting files!

Always On Top: You can use this checkbox to change the "always on top" feature off and on. Switching it on will ensure The Dumpster is never hidden by another application. Off will get it out of the way if you desire.

HELP

If you forget any of this, don't worry. The Dumpster includes a help function. Just call up help from The Dumpster and refresh your memory.

ABOUT

Just your everyday, standard about function.

HOW THE DUMPSTER WORKS

The Dumpster will create a new file in your Windows subdirectory called "dumpster.ini". This file is very important to the workings of The Dumpster program and should not be deleted. If for some change it is deleted, The Dumpster will recreate the ini file and use the default deletion option of DELETE NOW.

The ini file also maintains a list of up to 100 files numbered 0 through 99 that are awaiting deletion using either the timed or sized deletion options. If the ini file is deleted, these files will NOT be deleted.

Using either the timed or sized options, The Dumpster simply adds the path and filename to both its internal list and the ini file. The actual file remains on the disk for the time being, but the file attribute is set to "hidden". The files are only deleted when the conditions that you set up on the Preferences screen are met. For example, if you have the Preferences set to delete files after one hour, the files will be held for one hour after they are dropped into The Dumpster. The files will be deleted one hour later. If you shut down the machine and restart later (after one hour), the files will be deleted within 30 seconds of the restart.

The Dumpster will hold a maximum of 100 files awaiting deletion. If you attempt to put more files than that in the holding area, you will receive an error message and the files will not be accepted by The Dumpster. You will have to delete some of the files from The Dumpster holding area so you have room to add more.

MISC NOTES

The Dumpster can be set up to run automatically when you start Windows by either copying the icon into the Startup program group or by entering the path and filename of The Dumpster in the win.ini file line entitled "RUN".

The Dumpster will only look for the dumpster.ini file in the Windows directory.

There are no sound effects. No flushing, no beeps, nothing. The reason for this is simply that The Dumpster does much of it's work in the background and it would be very distracting to listen to noises while you're working on something else. Size of the program also plays an important part here. A utility such as this has no business being too darned big. However, if enough interest is shown, I might change my mind on this. I'll leave that up to your comments.

Effective with version 2.0, the icon for The Dumpster has been changed and now looks like a trash barrel. Several customers wanted to know when there were files being held in The Dumpster, so there is a second icon that is a trash barrel with garbage in it that shows up when there are files being held. And other customers wanted to know when The Dumpster was actually deleting files, so when that happens, a third icon kicks in that has flames shooting out of the top. (Try setting the preferences to "Delete Now" and then dropping in a few files, and you'll see what I mean.)

The 100 file limit of the holding area of The Dumpster should also be explained. For safety, The Dumpster writes it's new list to the dumpster.ini file every time files are added or deleted, and that takes time. Just like the sound effects, this is a trade-off and I chose the safety option. This way if, for some reason, Windows comes tumbling down around you and you need to re-boot, the files you dropped into the holding area will be there. There's no reason to have to throw something away twice.

I was brought up to believe that a person's word was as good as gold. I don't hide behind a company name with a post office box number. To that end, if you feel that it does not perform in accordance with this documentation, write to me for a full refund. Period.

Happy Computing!!

-----[Registration Form]-----

Mail To:

Michael Wegner
489 Planters Road
Montgomery, AL 36109

Name _____
Company _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Number of Copies _____
@ \$8.00 US per copy (1 to 5) _____
@ \$6.50 US per machine (6 to 10) _____
@ \$4.00 US per machine (11 or more) _____

Total enclosed (cash, check, money order) _____

Registered program(s) should be sent on (mark one)

5 1/4 diskette _____
3 1/2 diskette _____

(v20)

-----[Questionnaire]-----

I received a copy of The Dumpster from:

_____ A friend
_____ Bulletin Board _____
(name and location)

_____ Shareware Distributor _____
(name and location)

_____ Commercial Outlet _____
(name and location)

Is the registration price too high? Y N
Does the program fit your needs? Y N
What other programs would you like to see?

I wouldn't put this section on this form if I didn't want comments. I'll take them, good or bad. If they're bad, I'll try to fix what you don't like. If they're good, I'll continue working in the same direction. PLEASE fill out this block!

