

PCX2BMP — The PCX/BMP Converter

INTRODUCTION

The most universal clip art formats for *Windows* are .PCX and .BMP. *PCX2BMP* does just one job...it converts between PCX and BMP files, in both directions. You can use it to convert just one file, or an entire directory of files at one lick.

System Requirements

PCX2BMP requires *Windows* 3.1 and a computer capable of running *Windows*. *PCX2BMP* was written in *Microsoft Visual Basic 2.0*. For that reason, it requires that a copy of VBRUN200.DLL be in your main *Windows* directory. If you did not obtain this file with the program, you may obtain it from the *OsoSoft* BBS, at the number listed below, or from CompuServe, in the MSBASIC forum. You'll also need to have *Windows* PaintBrush (PBRUSH.EXE) installed in your *Windows* directory, since *PCX2BMP* uses PaintBrush to do its conversions.

License Information

Although *PCX2BMP* is a free program, it is Copyright, 1992 by *OsoSoft* and George Campbell. You may use it as you wish, but may not alter it in any way. If you distribute this program on a BBS or in a catalog, you must include PCX2BMP.EXE and PCX2BMP.WRI without changes. You must also either include VBRUN200.DLL or make that library file freely available to your clients or users. You may not distribute this program in conjunction with any commercial program without express written permission from *OsoSoft*.

Installation

To install *PCX2BMP*, copy the files, PCX2BMP.EXE and PCX2BMP.WRI into your *Windows* directory, or into another directory of your choice. You must also copy the *Visual Basic* runtime library file, VBRUN200.DLL into your main *Windows* directory. You need only one copy of this file to run all *Visual Basic 2.0* programs, which is the reason that file may not be included in a compressed version of *PCX2BMP*.

After copying the files, start the *Windows* Program Manager. Click inside the program group where you want the *PCX2BMP* icon, then select <<File/New>> in the Program Manager. Select [OK]. In the dialog box, type PCX2BMP in the Description field, press <Tab>, then type the complete path and filename for PCX2BMP.EXE in the Command Line field. Press <Tab>, and enter the path to PCX2BMP.EXE in the Working Directory field. Select [OK] and the OK Font icon will appear. If it is not visible, scroll the program group window until you find it, then drag the icon to a new location.

Running PCX2BMP

To start *PCX2BMP*, double click its icon. You'll see the *PCX2BMP* main window after a short delay. Using the program is simplicity itself:

Start by selecting the type of source file, that is, the type of file you want to convert, by clicking the appropriate option in the Source: box. The default is .PCX.

Then, use the normal *Windows* drive and path selection boxes to locate your PCX files. Then select the file or files you want to convert in the list at the bottom left.

NOTE: To select more than one file, use standard *Windows* conventions, dragging the mouse over the files. You can also use the <Shift> and <Ctrl> with mouse clicks and drags to make multiple selections with your mouse, as described in your *Windows* manual.

Next, select the format type by clicking one of the options. You can use this technique to convert one file type to another, say, to convert a color PCX file to a monochrome file, or to convert a 256-color PCX file to a 16-color BMP file. The conversion takes place as PaintBrush saves the image. If you're converting BMP files to PCX files, your format type is pre-selected by the program.

When you're ready to do the conversions, just click the [Convert] button. *PCX2BMP* will load each selected source file into *Windows* PaintBrush and save it as the other file type with the same filename as the original file, but with the other extension. All files are saved in the same directory as the original files.

Note: if an output file exists with the same filename as the one which would be converted, *PCX2BMP* will skip that file. *PCX2BMP* will never overwrite any file on your system. If you need to re-convert files, first delete the output format files from your directory.

Help

A brief help screen offers instructions for using the program.

About

This menu offers information about *PCX2BMP* and has a command which will inform you about other *OsoSoft* products. If you enjoy this program, you'll want to try some of the other *OsoSoft* programs listed. To order, you can simply fill out the on-screen order blank and print it out.

About *OsoSoft*

OsoSoft is a small shareware publisher, dedicated to providing low-cost, but powerful software for DOS and *Windows*. *OsoSoft* also publishes a number of free programs to introduce users to its products. You'll find a list of *OsoSoft* shareware programs and an order blank by clicking the *OsoSoft* Info... menu entry under the About menu. For descriptions of each program, click the [Info] button to the left of that program's entry. To order *OsoSoft* products, fill out the order blank on the screen as you would a database record, then click the [Print] button.

All *OsoSoft* products come with a 100% satisfaction guarantee. If you order a product, then discover that it doesn't suit your needs, simply return it for a full refund. Shipping and handling are always prepaid.

To try out any *OsoSoft* product, call the *OsoSoft* BBS at (805) 528-3753. The BBS supports 300-2400 baud. Set your communications parameters to 8 bits, No parity, and 1 stop bit. The *OsoSoft* BBS uses *Wildcat!*. You can also find *OsoSoft* programs on CompuServe in the WINADV and IBMHW forums, and on GENIE in the IBM and WINDOWS areas.

If you like *PCX2BMP* and find it useful, you're sure to want to try other *OsoSoft* products. Please download or order other programs.

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