

KickStart

Version 2.7

Written by
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Purpose:

KickStart was written to provide a fast and convenient method of getting out of Windows. Anyone who reconfigures their Windows .ini's, Config.sys, or Autoexec.bat frequently can appreciate the value of being able to exit Windows, restart Windows, or reboot at the press of a button. KickStart also has the ability to open a DOS box (this requires 386enh mode). If you are running Windows in Standard mode, either of the DOS shell options will open DOS full screen (text mode). KickStart also includes a clock, which can be displayed in KickStart's window title and icon title. Also included are a floating icon option and an Accessories popup menu for launching any of 5 user defined programs.

KickStart now requires Windows 3.1 or later.

Installation:

The easiest way to install KickStart is to create an icon for KickStart in your startup group (available only in Windows 3.1 and higher). This can be done by selecting the startup group and selecting the new option under the file menu. Select new program item, enter the description and command line (e.g. c:\windows\kickstar.exe), and check the run minimized box. If you do not have or want to have a startup group under Windows 3.1, you can add the line LOAD=C:\Windows\KICKSTAR.EXE to the [Windows] section of Win.ini. **In order for the Run Minimized option to work properly, the run minimized box in KickStart's properties window in program manager should be checked regardless of whether you want KickStart to run minimized or not.** KickStar.exe does not have to be placed in the Windows directory. KickStar.exe and KickStar.hlp should be kept in the same directory as each other. KickStar.dll can be in the same directory with KickStar.exe or the Windows\System directory.

Since it was compiled using MS Visual Basic 2.0, **KickStart requires vbrun200.dll in order to run.** If you do not already have this DLL, you should be able to get it from any BBS with a Windows file section. Due to its relatively large size and popularity, it is not distributed in the archive with KickStart. vbrun200.dll should be placed either in the Windows or Windows\system directories, so that any other programs that need it can find it.

Because of the way in which KickStart communicates with its DLL, only one instance of KickStart can use the DLL a time in a windows session. This should not be a problem, however, since KickStar's DLL was custom written and is not used by any other application. KickStart will prevent additional instances of itself

from executing.

ShareWare Notice:

This version of KickStart is **shareware**. **If you continue to use KickStart after a brief testing period, you are required to register and pay the \$8.00 registration fee.** KickStart is edited and added to frequently. The latest version will be made available to users who register. The shareware version may be freely distributed by electronic or other means as long as copies are unmodified and complete, including documentation and any other included files, with the exception of BBS adds, found in the original archive.

Compatibility:

KickStart was written originally in Visual Basic 1.0. With the arrival of Visual Basic 2.0, Kickstart has been enhanced and recompiled under Visual Basic 2.0.

KickStart is not compatible with Windows versions earlier than version 3.1.

This is because it uses API functions new to version 3.1. KickStar *should* be compatible with future versions of Windows. It has been tested under Windows 3.1 and 3.1 for Work Groups. Anyone using version 3.0 or earlier of MS Windows should seriously consider upgrading to 3.1, since it is vastly improved.

Credits:

KickStart utilizes KickStar.dll, written by Samuel A. Lewis. This DLL allows KickStart to respond to user defined windows messages. This is what allows KickStart to use additional items in it's system menu. KickStar.dll can reside in the same directory as KickStart or in any directory in the path, preferably the Windows or Windows\system directory.

Disclaimer:

This software is distributed "as is" and without warranties as to the performance of merchantability or any other warranties whether expressed or implied. Due to the wide range of hardware and software environments in which KickStart may be used, **no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose is offered.** The user assumes all risk in using KickStart. Any liability of the seller will be limited to replacement of this software or refund of purchase price less expenses.

Send any comments to:

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Files that should be included in the archive with KickStart version 2.7 are as follows:

KickStar.exe	31047. bytes
KickStar.dll	960. bytes
KickStar.hlp	67735. bytes
KickStar.wri	6528. bytes

Release History:

As of Version 2.7, Release History has been moved entirely to KickStart's .hlp file. To View the Release History, use the Help menu to access KickStart's help file.