User's Guide
Copyright 1992 by Joseph A. Higgs

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INTRODUCTION

CatCIS(TM) is a Windows program to be used with TAPCIS(TM) catalog files which contain Data Library Catalogs from CompuServe's forums. It provides a convenient way to view catalog items and write download scripts for TAPCIS. It also provides for pruning catalog items from a catalog file, enabling you to reduce the size of your catalog files by removing unwanted catalog item descriptions. This version incorporates a flexible search capability, enabling you to search for a search string on any or all of the CIS ID, File, Title, Keywords, or description sections of the catalog objects.

CatCIS provides the following benefits compared to some other Catalog managers, including TAPCIS' built in functionality:

> CatCIS is a Windows program;

> CatCIS provides for deleting catalog objects from your catalog files, allowing you to reduce their size;

> CatCIS has a better search facility. It searches entire catalog objects for the search string, highlighting every match if you so desire. Additionally, search criterion can be saved from session to session with CatCIS.

> CatCIS provides better compatibility by maintaining TAPCIS file structure when you write a changed catalog to disk. This will allow you to use other products that depend on the TAPCIS file structure.

Please send me any comments or suggestions!

Files Included

Included in the CCISST.EXE file are:

> CATCIS.EXE   The application executable
> BWCC.DLL   Borland's custom control DLL.
> CATCIS.WRI   This documentation file.
> REGISTER.WRI   Registration form

There may also be a READ.ME file which you should read.

CCISST.EXE is a self extracting archive. Create a directory, put CCISST.EXE in it, and then run it. The files will be extracted into that directory. Then follow the installation instructions..

Shareware

CatCIS is not public domain or free software, but is being distributed as "shareware".

Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a

Shareware program and continue to use it, you are expected to register. Individual programs differ on details -- some request registration while others require it, some specify a maximum trial period. With registration, you get anything from the simple right to continue using the software to an updated program with printed manual.

Copyright laws apply to both Shareware and commercial software, and the copyright holder retains all rights, with a few specific exceptions as stated below. Shareware authors are accomplished programmers, just like commercial authors, and the programs are of comparable quality. (In both cases, there are good programs and bad ones!) The main difference is in the method of distribution. The author specifically grants the right to copy and distribute the software, either to all and sundry or to a specific group. For example, some authors require written permission before a commercial disk vendor may copy their Shareware.

Shareware is a distribution method, not a type of software. You should find software that suits your needs and pocketbook, whether it's commercial or Shareware. The Shareware system makes fitting your needs easier, because you can try before you buy. And because the overhead is low, prices are low also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use the product, you don't pay for it.

Registration

CatCIS is a Shareware program. You now have the program and a chance to try it for free. If you like CatCIS, you pay a $15 licensing fee for the rights to continue using it. The license fee is a one-time $15 fee which gives you the right to use all future shareware versions of CatCIS.

When the licensing fee is received, I will enter you into the CatCIS user register, and notify you via CompuServe when new versions are released.

You may give away copies of CCISxx.EXE to your friends if you like. If you de-archive CCISxx.EXE for them, be certain to include this documentation.

The file REGISTER.DOC provides an order form that can be printed from Write. If you like CatCIS please fill out a registration form, and send it and your check to:

> Joseph A. Higgs
> 1410 Misty Bend Dr.
> Katy, Texas 77494

If you have any enhancements, problems, suggestions, comments, or complaints about the program or documentation, please to write me via EasyPlex, a message in the BCPPWIN or TAPCIS forum, or a letter to the above address. My CIS ID is 72165,73.

License Agreement

Non-registered users of this software are granted a limited license to make an evaluation copy for trial use for the express purpose of determining whether CatCIS is suitable for their needs. At the end of this 21-day trial period, you should either register your copy or discontinue using CatCIS.

By registering this software, you will ensure continued support and updates of this product.

A single CatCIS license entitles you to use the program on one CPU. You may make as many copies as you wish, but only one CPU may be actively running this program at one time. If other people need to use it, then you should purchase a site license.

Installation

Until I develop an installation utility, installation is manual, but simple.

CCISST.EXE

1. Run the file in a directory of your choice. This will extract the files to the same directory.

2. Move BWCC.DLL to your x:\windows\system directory, where 'x' is the correct drive for your system. If you already have this DLL available somewhere in your PATH, this is not necessary, and you may delete BWCC.DLL.

3. Run by double clicking the CATCIS.EXE file in file manager, or add it to a program manager group of your choosing, or set up an association in File Manager for file with a .cat extension.

Data Protection

Several steps have been taken to guard your data. When you save a catalog file, a backup is automatically provided with the extension of .~at. The new file is actually written as a temporary file. Should anything prevent the write from completing, the backup is restored for you, unless the system shuts down. In that case, the backup is available for renaming.

If you have set the attribute for either the catalog file or its backup to read only, CatCIS will not allow you to overwrite the catalog file. You may, however, use 'File|Save as' to save the file under a different name. If a file exists under the new name during a 'File|Save as', a backup of the existing file will be created, under the same attribute rules above.

When catalog items are marked for download, you may select the option to write a download script. This file will always be placed in the directory you have designated as the TAPCIS Store directory. Again, each additional request to write to the .dow file results in a backup copy of the existing file, if there is one. Should a problem occur, the previous .dow file is recovered for you. The extension for .dow file backups is .~ow.

Operation

CatCIS is very simple to operate, with the following main menu items:

File
The File popup menu has the conventional Windows File items, plus a few:

Open
Presents a dialog box to open a catalog file. The initial directory setting comes from the directory setting you enter via the Options|Configure dialog box.

Save
The Save menu selection saves the current file to disk, deleting any catalog entries marked for deletion. It will save the current file without changes to a *.bak file to the same directory in which the file originated.

Save As
The Save As menu selection provides a dialog box for selection of filename and directory. The current file is then saved using the information from the dialog box, deleting any catalog entries marked for deletion.

Write D/L
The Write D/L menu selection will immediately write a TAPCIS compatible download file, and unmark any catalog file items marked for download. The file is written to the directory specified for .CAT files in the Options|Configure dialog box.

File List
Initially, this item is greyed and not functional. After you have used the program, a Most Recently Used (MRU) file list is maintained here for quick access to any of the last four catalog files you have viewed.

Exit
The Exit menu selection performs an exit, checking for any marked catalog items, writing the download file if requested, and writing the catalog file if necessary and requested.

Search
Find
The Find menu selection will display a dialog box to get the required search information from you. These items are:

Find What: Enter the text you want to find in this edit box.

Search What: Check the boxes of the items you want searched for the search text. Any or all may be selected.

Each catalog object contains the following items that may be searched:

Compuserve Information System Identification line. Checking this box causes a search of the first catalog object line, including the CIS ID and the library number.

File Line. Checking this box causes a search of the second catalog object line, including the file name, byte count, download count, and original upload date, last upload date, and last download date in it.

Title Line. Checking this box causes a search of the uploader's title description.

Keywords. Checking this box causes a search of the uploader's keywords.

Description. Checking this box causes a search of the description of the catalog object.

Direction: Select the appropriate radio button to search Up, which will search catalog objects prior to the one on display; or Down, which will search catalog objects after the one on display.

Match Case: Check this check box to limit the search to matching the text you entered exactly. Uncheck it to search for the text irrespective of case.

Highlight Hits: Check this check box to cause visual highlighting of any matches found in a catalog object.

Save Default. This button will write the current state of the Find dialog box to the CatCIS.INI file. This will maintain your selections from session to session with CatCIS. CatCIS will keep your Find dialog box selections throughout the current session when you do not use the Save Defaults button, but those selections will be lost the next time you run CatCIS, or if you run a second instance of the program.

Search. This button closes the dialog and begins searching the catalog objects for your search text.

Cancel. This button will cancel the search, and will cause any changes you made to the dialog to be lost.

Search again
The Search again menu selection will use the search criterion from the Find dialog box to

search for the next occurence of the target text.

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Mark
The Mark popup menu currently has two selections:

Download
The Download menu selection will mark the catalog item for download. Once marked, a download script file (.DOW) can be written (see Write D/L above).

Delete
The Delete menu selection will mark the catalog item for deletion. Catalog items marked for deletion will not be written to the file when the catalog file is rewritten to disk via File|Save or File|Save As.

Options
The Options popup menu currently has one selection:

Configure
The Configure menu selection displays a dialog box for input or edit of the two paths required by the program, Storage and TAPCIS.EXE. Usually, *.CAT files are maintained in the STORE subdirectory of the TAPCIS directory, so your entry for the storage directory might look like this:

                                c:\tapcis\store

Usually, *.SEC files are maintained in the TAPCIS directory, where the TAPCIS.EXE file resides, so your entry might look like this:
                                c:\tapcis

CatCIS will verify that the directories exist prior to closing.

Help
The Help popup menu currently has one selection:

Index
This selection displays a list of items from which to select for further help information.

Keyboard
This selection displays a list of keyboard shortcuts for common actions in CatCIS.

Commands
This selection displays a list of the available commands from which to select for further help information.

Procedures
This selection displays additional help for some of the procedures in CatCIS.

About
The About menu selection displays the application's About box.

Once you have opened a TAPCIS .CAT file, CatCIS will position the display to show the first catalog item in the last session. From there, several keys are available to navigate through the

catalog items and mark them. Marking can be accomplished from the main menu, or by the keyboard. See the online help for more information.

That's really all there is to it! Enjoy, and provide me with any feedback you feel appropriate. If the demand is there, I would like to continue to expand the program to provide a few more features. Let me hear from you!

Technical Specifications

Operating System
Requires Microsoft Windows 3.x.

Capacity
32,000 catalog descriptions, depending on available system resources. The average catalog item is about 315 characters, so this could represent 9 Mb of data.

File Compatibility
CatCIS is compatible with TAPCIS '.CAT' files. Extension to other file types is certainly possible, and your suggestions are welcome.

Limitations
Currently, CatCIS will only work properly with TAPCIS catalog files for long description catalogs. If you use short descriptions, let me know. If the demand is there, the functionality will be added.

Credits

CatCIS was coded in Borland's C++, Version 3.1, with Application Frameworks. A sincere word of thanks to Borland for providing some excellent tools.

Thanks to everyone who responded with suggestions for improvements and for your support!

What's New

Version 1.1a (4/18/93)
-- Added Retain Backups checkbox to Options. When unchecked, those little *.~at files go away.

-- Reduce sensitivity to garbage. If more than 10 characters per read buffer are garbage, or a single catalog entry exceeds 1000 characters, dialog shows up, but only if you select to Save, Save As, or have marked items deleted such that a save will occur.

-- Changed all navigation keys to messages for better toolbar access

-- Added buttons for page down, up, top, and bottom.

-- Added color to Download and Delete buttons for better visibility. These use the colors defined in the CatCIS.INI file.

Version 1.1 (3/13/93)
-- Change navigation to use PostMessage as this should prevent reentrancy problems

-- Adjust .DEF file to better use dynamic load

-- Adjust compile directives to put related .cpp in same segment

-- Added char by char check for invalid chars. Hurts performance by about 1 sec, but helps for transmission garbage.

-- Added test for object size, limit is 1000 chars. Also to help identify transmission garbage.

-- Added bGarbage to let folks know that if they save the memory image they are losing garbage info.

-- Action bar for Delete, Download, Write D/L file

Version 1.0 (1/16/93)
-- Corrected display of Section File Missing so it displays when the section file is missing (makes sense).

-- Dropped the help button from the file dialogs.

-- Installed command line processing. Associations from File Manager will now work correctly.

-- Added cancel option during time consuming operations.

-- Made status bar smart to not set text if same text. Improves overall performance by reducing screen paints. Also reduces flicker.

-- Reduced program rudeness. If it does not have the focus when a message occurs, it will beep, but wait until it has the focus to display the message. Before, it would jump to the

front.

-- Made wait dialogs take strings for progress reports.

-- Only 1 write per DL item.

-- Only 1 write per catobj.

-- Improved error processing, handling, and recovery.

-- Improved catalog read speed by 30-50% (your mileage may vary).

-- Changed configuration to request storage path and tapcis path, along with location of help file.

-- Improved response to system shutdown when actions are pending.

-- Reworked string resource, using message numbers on most messages, reduced size.

-- Change - Download - text on marked items to gray text if .dow file written and cat still displayed, disabled Mark Download in that case as well. This precludes multiple requests to download the same item.

-- Improved error response and recovery from no disk space problem.

-- Complete rewrite of .cat file writing procedures to improve error reporting and recovery, especially across devices.

-- Complete rewrite of .dow file creation, including better error reporting and recovery, writing each .dow episode to temp file and appending to existing .dow if there, or creating one if it's not.

-- No overwrite of read only cat file. You may Save as to another file. Also added checks for read only backup files.

-- Added colors to .ini for customization.

-- Developed Help.

12/25/92 build version
-- Added search functionality. Allows searching any or all of the CIS ID line, File line, Title line, Keywords, and description text; direction of search specification; text case matching; optional hit highlighting; and saving of dialog selections between sessions.

-- Added a check mark to Mark menu item if catalog item is marked in any way.

-- Disabled Write D/L menu selection if none marked.

-- After Options|Configuration close, write CatCIS.INI immediately, rather than waiting until application close.

-- No longer count sessions in which there are no catalog entries. You may notice fewer sessions as a result.

-- Keep track of download and delete marking for faster determination that something is marked.

-- Got rid of pesky message that .sec file was not found. This will now be displayed in the status bar, Library: box.

12/06/92 build version

-- Major programming error located by Guenter Herbig [100021,3621] corrected. Thanks Guenter! This error manifested itself by causing a system lockup due to overzealous calls for a device context, a limited resource.

-- Improved status bar performance and reduced its predeliction for jumping up and down when using the top of the window for a resize.

-- Fixed a small memory leak in status bar. You really can't delete a pen until it is selected out of the device context!

-- Removed code to delete class icon. This caused no harm, but should not have been there. Incidentally, any artistic folks who have an idea for a better icon are certainly welcome to go for it!

12/01/92 build version

Actually, everything, as this is the first release.