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Overview

DLTypes retrieves all registered file types from the Windows 9x registry and presents them along with the number of files, file sizes for each extension and file type. This information is presented in an easily accessed window for selection either by file extension or file type. After the selection has been made, modifying the default icon and associated actions as well as adding or removing file extensions can be easily done. Also included is a very fast search function to find files based on their extension or file type. After the files are found, many functions are available to make testing the associated actions easy. Print functions are available for all file types and their associations as well as automatic backup/restore of the registry entries when deleting extensions or changing values. Invalid file type actions and icon entries are reported. Over 150 Icons are also available for your selection.

Registration

This Program is Shareware. You may test this fully functional trial version for one month. After this trial period you must register or delete the program from your hard disk.

DLTypes personal license fee is \$17.00.

Please visit our web site <http://dlawlis.pair.com> for details on how you can go about registering this program.

Delete a file extension and/or file type

Select the file type to be deleted by file extension or file type display. When selecting by file extension, only the selected extension will be deleted. When selecting by file type, all file extensions for the selected file type will be deleted.

Be especially careful with which file extension or file type you delete.

Steps to perform include:

Select file extension(s) to delete.

Click the “Delete file extension or file type” button under “Actions”.

Click the “OK” button from the Warning window.

Add a file extension to an existing file type

New file extension(s) can be easily added to file types by following the instructions below.

Some file types listed do not have expansion capabilities. They are identified with a “__File” appended to the file type name. Others were installed or corrupted and cannot be expanded. If you receive a message stating that the file type cannot be expanded, then the only way to add the file extension is by the delete and add method.

Steps to perform include:

Select the file type to add the file extension to.

Click the “Add file extension to file type” button under “Actions”.

Enter the file extension(s) to add, click the “OK” button.

Add a new registered file type

Select the 'Actions' tab and click the "Add file extension or file type" button, all fields will be cleared and ready to enter the detail information for the new registered file type.

To register:

Enter the new registered file type description using a name of your choosing. The file types are listed in alphabetical order in the file types dialog box by the first letter of this description. This field is used to order files in Folder and Explorer windows when these windows are in detail view and you are ordering by type.

Enter the new file extension(s). The extension(s) may be limited to 3 letters depending on the application. Enter as many extensions as you like separated by a space. You won't be allowed to enter an extension that is already registered.

Enter or Browse for the default icon file. Refer to the help topics for more information.

Determine if "always show extension" and "Enable Quick View" options apply to this new file type. Refer to the help topics for more information.

Click the "Apply" button to setup the registered file type. This must be done before adding any new Actions.

Select the new registered file type. This verifies that the file type was added correctly.

Click the top line of the Actions box to add any desired actions to be performed for the new file type. Refer to the help topics for more information.

You now have a new file type ---a new extension that is associated with a given set of actions that most likely originate in one or more applications. Each action will appear on the right mouse button menu. Right-click a file of this type and you have a menu of actions to take.

Icon libraries

DLTypes provides 6 Icons libraries (180 icons) to help make it easier to find the desired icon. To view the icons, select the 'File' tab and Click the "View Icons" button.

Keyboard Users

To select the file extension or file type entries from the selection windows, first get the focus of the window by a click of the mouse, then move the entries in the window by the arrow keys. When the desired selection is found press the “Enter” key for the selection.

Sorting Selection Menus

Each field on the selection window can be sorted by a click of the mouse on the top row. The sequence of the sort will be altered by each click, whether sorting ascending or descending.

Locating file extension and file types names.

File extension or file type names can be easily located by selecting the starting letter of the desired extension type or file type you are looking for. The selection window will present the selection at the top of the window.

Content Type(MIME)

The Content Type(MIME) description is displayed only in the file extension view window as information only. This can be useful when determining the use of the file extension.

MIME stands for Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions; it is a protocol for defining file attachments for the Web.

Registered file type

Windows 95 uses file extensions to define a file type. You can assign more than one extension to a file type, but only one file type can be assigned to an extension. A file with the extension “txt” can be, and is by default, defined as having the file type of text. Certain actions can be taken on files that are of a certain file type. For example, music files can be played on sound cards. The file type is also used to order files in Folder and Explorer windows when these windows are in details view and ordered by type.

File extensions

File Extensions are a way of designating different kinds of files. Graphics file are saved differently than text files. It would be difficult to determine what kind of file something is if it didn't have an extension.

The format of a file name is filename.EXT. The extension is usually 3 characters from the old Dos 8.3 format used to describe the type of file. For example extension ".txt" represents a Text file, extension ".fon" represents a Font file.

When adding new file extensions enter as many as desired, separated by a space.

Extensions entered that are already registered will not be allowed.

Lists(Startup)

DLTypes provides a complete list of all Default Icon Files and Performed With Files for each File Type available at startup time and an error list of each file that doesn't exist.

Click on the "Lists" option.

These lists are available for printing.

Default icon file

Icons help sort out all the different types of files. Icons can be extracted from many different types of files. Some examples include; *.exe; *.dll; *.ico; *.cpl; *.pkg; *.icl file extensions. The file name where the icons is stored is given, with a comma followed by the number corresponding to the icon within that file. If the default icon is %1, this means that windows will look straight into the actual file for the icon. That is why *.exe type files most often have a unique icon. You can change the default icon for Paint to %1 so that it will show the actual bitmap image as the icon.

Click the “Find” button to browse for an icon file.

The following window will present a list of all icon files for all file types. Click the file name to view the available icons. Or click ‘Select’ to bring the icons to the selection window.

Click the “Browse” button to search the folders for icon files.

Actions

A list of the actions that have been defined for this file type are presented for selection.

To change an action, click on the line containing the name of the action.

To add a new action, click on the top line of the action box. Enter the name of the action to be performed on files of this file type using any name chosen to describe the action to be taken. For example “Open” and “Print” are action names.

An ampersand, (&), put in front of the letter in the action name causes that letter to appear underlined on right mouse menus. Example: &Open results in the letter “O” being underlined on the right mouse menu. The action may then be executed by pressing the underlined letter on the keyboard.

The possible actions that an application can take on files of this type and the macro language of the application program determine which action names are appropriate. The default action for most applications is “Open”. It is possible, for example, to create a file type with two commands, one called “Open with Notepad” for opening the file with Notepad, and one called “Open with Wordpad” for opening with Wordpad. In this case, an ampersand could be placed in front of the “N” in Notepad on that command and in front of “W” in Wordpad in the other command, thus creating clear and separate shortcut commands.

Application used to perform action

Specifies what should happen or which program should be used when the command specified in the Action box is chosen.

Enter the complete path name. Add to the Application name the command line parameters that will instruct the application to perform the requested action.

For example, if you want a text file to be printed you might define the action named 'Print' as 'C:\Windows\notepad.exe /p %1'. If you want a text file to be edited you might define the action named 'Open' as 'C:\Windows\notepad.exe %1'. The "%1" parameter allows an already running application to open a file instead of launching another copy of the application.

When a type of file is associated with an application, double clicking on the file causes the application to open first, and then that particular file to open. For example, double clicking on a Bit Map file (Bit Map files have the extension, "bmp") will first cause Window Paint Brush to open, and then cause the file you clicked on to open within Paint Brush.

If the program supports DDE (dynamic data exchange), specify the program file name here, and click Use DDE, and then specify the DDE commands required to perform the action you want.

DDE

DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) is an established protocol for exchanging data through active links between applications that run under Windows. DDE automates the manual cutting and pasting of information between applications, providing a faster vehicle for updating information.

DDE provides three capabilities:

You can request information from an application. For example, in a DDE conversation with Excel, a Word macro can request the contents of a cell or range of cells in an Excel worksheet.

You can send information to an application. In a DDE conversation with Excel, a Word macro can send text to a cell or range of cells.

You can send commands to an application. For example, in a DDE conversation with Excel, a Word macro can send a command to open a worksheet from which it wants to request information. Commands sent to an application must be in a form the application can recognize.

DDE message

Specifies the DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) command for the action. Use the %1 replaceable parameter to represent a filename. The %1 is replaced with the selected file when the command is carried out

For example, if the specified action is Open, the DDE command for opening a file is [open["%1"]].

This option will work only with programs that support DDE.

DDE application

Specifies the DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) application string to use to initiate a DDE conversion with the program.

Every application that supports DDE has a unique name. For example:

Application	DDE application name
Microsoft Access	MSAccess
Microsoft Excel for Windows	Excel

If you leave this area blank, the command specified in the Application used to perform action will be used.

DDE application not running

Specifies the DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) command to use if the program is not already running. Use the %1 replaceable parameter to represent a filename. The %1 is replaced with the selected file when the command is carried out

If this area is left blank, the value in the DDE Message area is used.

DDE topic

Specifies the DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) topic string to use to initiate a DDE conversation with the program. If you do not complete this field, "System" is used.

Set default

Make this the default action when double-clicked in File Manager or Explorer.

Always show extension

It is possible to have the extensions of file types that are registered fail to show up in folder windows or the explorer. If you want the file extension for this file type to show even though the option to Hide-MS-DOS file extension for file types that are registered is checked in the View, Options, View dialog box of the Explorer, select this option.

Enable Quick View

Specify whether the file type support Quick View. Quick Viewers let you see a file on the desktop without having to open or own an application that is normally used to open it. Microsoft ships more than 20 viewers for some common file types.

Reports

The registered file types can be printed either by file extension or file type. Also available is an option to print the detail for a file type.

The results of the file type search can also be printed.

Couple of tips

Tip 1

Example showing how to make BMP files act like ICO files in Explorer.

Change the "BMP" file extensions Default Icon to "%1". Bitmap files will be shown as thumbnails in Windows Explorer. The ActiveX handler for BMP files implements this %1 placeholder feature and reads the contents of the BMP file, re-scales it, and displays it as an icon symbol.

Tip 2

Example showing how to handle unregistered file types.

Select the "UNKNOWN" file extension for all unregistered file types and add the action "&Notepad" and the Application Performed With "C:Windows\notepad.exe %1" to the File type. Make "Notepad" the default by selecting the "Set Default" option when building the Notepad action: The action will display on the Windows Explorer context menu every time you right-click on a unregistered file type, Notepad (Which is the default) will be launched by a double-click: This action is just a suggestion that could save you from the "Open With" selection process:

Select by extension

This option presents the registered file types by file extension for selection.

Select by file type

This option presents the registered file types showing all file extensions for any selection.

File Options

Context Menu Options (Actions)

The Context menu options (Actions) are available for each file type search.

Delete

The Delete file option is available after the search is completed or cancelled. To delete a file, select the file by clicking on the file name. The 'Delete' option will appear. Clicking the delete button will cause a warning to appear. Click 'Cancel' to remove the warning and cancel the operation. Click 'OK' to copy the file to the Recycle Bin and delete it from the current folder.

Deleted files may be restored. See the 'Recycle Bin'.

Copy

Use the 'Copy' option to select a file to be copied after running the Search report.

'Copy' and 'Rename/Move' allows the setup of a default directory to copy or move into. A warning can also be activated to announce when a file is about to be replaced.

Rename/Move

Use the 'Rename/Move' option to select a file after running the Search report.

'Rename/Move' and 'Copy' allows the setup of a default directory to copy or move into. A warning can also be activated to announce when a file is about to be replaced.

File Properties

File Properties displays the Windows Property panel for the selected file. Some of the information on the panel includes last accessed date, last modified date, creation date, and file attributes.

Edit

Allows the editing of the contents of the selected file. This Option launches 'Notepad' so all the features of Notepad are available.

Windows Explorer

The 'File Folder' option launches Windows Explorer specifying the folder to receive the initial focus.

The 'File View' option launches Windows Explorer default 'open view', specifying the file to view.

The Following Images can be displayed by selecting the 'Image' option after the Search report is run.

Image

The following Image file extensions can be displayed by selecting the “Image” option.

BMP	Picture (Windows Bitmap)
ICO	Icon
WMF	Windows Meta File Graphic
JPG	Format Graphic
GIF	Format Graphic

Embedded Text

Provides a search for embedded text in all the file listed by the search option. If the embedded text is found in a file, that file is marked **Red**

Change Dates

Changes the files creation or last modified date.

Search Options

Search all drives

The file type will be searched starting at drive "A" and continue reading all drives until the last one is read

Select Options

Default folder

Select the desired default folder by a double-click on the folder name. The default folder replaces the file path when the 'Use Default Folder?' option is checked. This option is saved each time you use it.

New file name

The new file for the file copy/move/replace options.

Use Default Folder?

This option determines whether to replace the file path with the default folder name.

File Replace Warning?

Determines whether to display file overlay warning.

Registry Backup and Restore Overview

When file type or file extension entries are modified or deleted, a backup of the before Registry values containing all the information about the file type or file extension is automatically created in a file with the extension type of **REG**. This file can later be used to restore the Registry to the values before the update or delete.

The Registry backup files are created and restored using the Import and Export functions of the Registry Editor program (Regedit.exe) which must be located in the Windows Folder. The import function does not delete or reset new entries. You can change a already existing value in the Registry or add a new value. If a value name or key name that is not in the Registry exists in the **REG** file, that value is added to the Registry. If a value name is in the Registry and also in the REG file, the value in the **REG** file overwrites the data of matching value in the Registry. Values that are in the Registry but not in the **REG** file, are left untouched in the Registry.

Edit Restore

All file type and extension edits are saved and can be restored by returning to the exact window where the edit was performed. Under the “Action” title, select “Restore previous values” to enable the file type, Click on the file type. The before edit values will be copied to the window view and the “Apply” button will be enabled. Click on the “Apply” button to restore the values.

File extensions you cannot delete With DLTypes

DLTypes will not delete **EXE**, **COM**, *****, **UNKNOWN**, **LNK**, or **DLL** file extensions. Deleting these extensions may cause problems.

Backup Registry for file type/extension

Under the “Action” title, select “Backup Registry for file type/extension”. The Registry values that contain all the information about the file type or file extension are automatically created in a file with the extension type of **REG**. This file can later be used to restore the Registry values.

Registering a Action for all file extensions

A wildcard (*) extension is available to include a Action command for all file extensions.

Perhaps you have a hex editor that you want to use to show the internals of a selected file. It's pretty time-consuming to add a Action command to each registered file type to load the hex editor.

Fortunately, this wildcard (*) extension is available. If you add a Action command to this extension it is valid for all file extensions.

Until now, the default entry shown in boldface was at the top of the context menu. The action command for the wildcard (*) will appear at the top of the context menu. This ordering relates to how Windows 95 scans the Registry.

First, the wildcard (*) branch is checked by Windows 95, it detects that the branch has been extended with a new command. This command is shown as the top entry on the context menu. Next, Windows 95 scans the Registry for the entry matching the file extension. All verbs in the shell branch are appended to the context menu. These entries are sorted. Then the Quick View property for this file type is analyzed, and if the command is available, it is appended on the context menu.

Registering a Action for unregistered file extensions

A wildcard (UNKNOWN) extension is available to include a Action command for all unregistered file extensions.

If you double-click an unregistered file, the Open With dialog box opens. Right-clicking the file shows the Open With entry on the context menu. That is all you can do with an unregistered file type. Many unregistered files contain only ASCII text, so it would be helpful to use Notepad to open these files or use Quick View to display the contents. One place to add Actions to unregistered file extensions is with the wildcard extension (*) but any Action you add will be shown for all file extensions. If you want to display a Action for only the unregistered file extensions you should use the wildcard extension (UNKNOWN).

Under the wildcard extension (UNKNOWN) there is a Action named “openas” This verb will be shown as “Open With” on the context menu. To include Notepad, simply add the Action and make it the default.

Using Registry Backup/Restore

Registry backup files can be created two ways.

- 1) By requesting a backup file.
- 2) When file type or file extension entries are modified or deleted.

The Registry backup files have a filename/extension of Reg1000.reg, Reg1001.reg, Reg1002.reg etc. They are numbered as they are created and the numbers are reused as they are deleted. These files are managed by DLTypes and should only be used or deleted through the DLTypes dialog windows. The options available are **Print**, **Edit**, **Merge** and **Delete**.

All of the Registry backup files will appear for view in the DLTypes backup dialog windows. They can be sorted in ascending or descending sequence by a click on the top row of the desired title to sort.

The **Edit** function launches Notepad which can be used to print the Registry backup values or to change the Registry backup values and then restore, but this should be done with care.

The **Delete** function can be used to delete the Registry backup files that are no longer needed.

The **Print** function prints all the information shown in the windows.

The **Merge** function passes the Registry backup file to the Import function of the Registry Editor program (Regedit.exe) which merges the Registry backup values with the Registry values.

Shareware

Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a Shareware program and continue using it, you are required to register it. Copyright laws apply to both Shareware and retail software, and the copyright holder retains all rights, with a few specific exceptions as stated below.

Shareware authors are accomplished programmers, just like retail 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 retail or Shareware. The Shareware system makes fitting your needs easier, because you can try before you buy. And because the overhead is lower, prices are lower also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use the product, you don't pay for it.

