Perfect Screens 1.6 for Windows 95/NT

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Overview

Perfect Screens is a shareware program for the Microsoft Windows95/NT operating system. The program allows you to have MULTIPLE VIRTUAL SCREENS and switch among them.   Running applications (windows) can be moved or copied among screens very easily.   In addition, each screen has its own SCREEN MENU and TOOLBAR to launch applications, open files and view directories (folders).   This menu and toolbar are local on the given screen and the menu is accessible anywhere on the screen (by right mouse button click together with Alt key pressed).

Perfect Screens provides many advantages to the Windows 95 user.   Among them are:

1) The program allows you to run a lot of applications without losing track of them as well as the ability to switch among them quickly.
2) You can create screens for any common activity (document processing, file management, networking, etc.) and avoid the overlapping of windows that have no relation to each other.
3) Each screen can have its own background (color, wallpaper).
4) A local toolbar gives you a better view of installed applications and makes launching easier and faster. The toolbar window can be moved anywhere on the screen and resized.
5) The Screen menu is very similar to the Start menu but much easier to configure (right mouse button click on a menu item gets item properties).
6) You can use password to protect your settings from unauthorized changes.
7) You can protect your screens and applications from unauthorized access.
8) The new type of the screen menu item - directory - gives you very fast access to his most commonly used files. FILTERS can be applied to view only desired files of the given directory (folder).
9) The program does not occupy too much space on the desktop (it may look like Microsoft Office).
10) Everything is easily and fully customizable.
11) The program widely supports the drag & drop feature and right clicking.
11) The installation program automatically creates several screens and makes many of standard Windows 95 programs accessible.
13) and more...

The Perfect Screens widely supports right mouse click.   If you feel the right mouse button should have a sense on some control just try it.

NT Users

NT 4.0

Because there are differences between Windows95 and Windows NT 4.0 Beta x user interface and components installed some features of the program may be disabled or not work properly.   There are some of them:

1)   Screen menu and toolbars created by the Perfect Screens setup may contain items that pointed to nonexisting files and applications.
2)   There maybe problems with icon extracting from some executable files (Write, for example) in earlier NT 4.0 beta versions (because they are 16bit).
3)   Screen switching performance maybe low.   Do not use *local wallpaper* (in *screen settings*) and *save eyes..* option in *application settings* in *advanced* section.
4)   *Local wallpaper* feature does not work properly in earlier NT 4.0 beta versions.
5)   Icons are not shown in dialogues in earlier NT 4.0 beta versions.

The number of problems depends on how old is a given beta version of Windows NT 4.0.

NT 3.51

Absence of the Windows95 users interface causes that some features are not available.   Also there may be problems mentioned in the NT 4.0 section above.

X-Windows Users

The Perfect Screens offers almost the same functionality like X-Windows virtual desktop managers.   But there are some major differences you should be aware:

1)   There are several separated desktops (screens) instead of one big.

2)   Screens in the Perfect Screens are organized in a line.

3)   Screen is represented by a screen button.   You can see application running on the screen if you right click on the button.

4)   The phylosophi of the using of the Perfect Screens is a little bit different.   Each screen has its name and icon and is intended for some activity (networking, file management, graphics, etc.).   You launch application from the ToolBar or Screen menu of the given screen.

5)   Copying/moving windows among screens is possible (even better as for functionality) but a little bit different.

Application Settings

To access application settings, click the Menu button (![icon]) of the Perfect Screens window and choose "Application settings..." item of the menu shown.

![icon] Position:

Window position - allows you to define position of the Perfect Screens window on the screen.
Relative to screen - the Perfect Screens window has fixed position on the screen.   You can change this position by moving the window.
Relative to... - the position of the Perfect Screens window is relative to the active window.   You still can move window to change the relative position.
In TaskBar - all Screen buttons are put to the TaskBar (as icons) thus the Perfect Screens window does not occupy any space.
Keep window always on top - if checked the Perfect Screens window stays on top of all windows.

![icon] Buttons and Icons

Button icons - allows you to define size of icons in the Perfect Screens window.
Menu icons - allows you to define size of icons in menus.
Buttons shape - allows you to choose either rectangular or a tab-like shape of buttons.

![icon] Shortcut keys

Next screen - shortcut key that switches you to the next screen.
Previous screen - shortcut key that switches you   to the previous screen.
Pop up the screen menu - pops up the screen menu associated with the current screen.

![icon] Advanced

You can launch screen saver by moving mouse to the upper right corner of the screen.   *Let me choose screen saver* option brings up the dialog window with all available screen savers.
Save eyes when screens are switching is the special mode that minimizes windows repainting.   If checked the switching is a little bit slower.
Toolbars have grey color - if checked, all Perfect Screens ToolBars have grey color otherwise the color is the same as the screen background color.
Right click on the menu button pops up Screen menu - if checked, the right mouse button click on the Menu button (![icon]) pops up the Screen menu associated with the current screen.
Go to next/previous screen if cursor on right/left margin of the screen - if checked, if you keep for a while mouse cursor on the left/right margin of the screen the Perfect Screens automatically switches to previous/next screen.

![icon] Passwords

Use access password - if checked, allows you to use password protection from unauthorised access to desired screens and items (applications).   For each screen and item you want to protect access by password, you must check it in the screen/item properties.
Use modification password - if checked, allows you to protect your settings (application settings, settings of desired screens, settings of desired applications) by password. For each screen and item you want to protect settings by password, you must check it in the screen/item properties.

ToolBar Settings

To change the ToolBar settings, select the Menu button (🔲) of the ToolBar window and choose "ToolBar settings..." item of the menu shown.

Position:

Window position - allows you to define position of the ToolBar window on the screen.
Relative to screen - the ToolBar window has fixed position on the screen.   You can change this position by moving the window.
Relative to... - the position of the ToolBar window is relative to the active window.   You still can move window to change the relative position.
In TaskBar - all ToolBar buttons (icons) are put to the TaskBar (as icons) thus the ToolBar window does not occupy any space.
Keep window always on top - if checked the Toolbar window stays on top of all windows.

Buttons and Icons

Button icons - allows you to define size of icons in the ToolBar window.
Buttons shape - allows you to choose either rectangular or a tab-like shape of buttons.

Screen Settings

To open screen settings window do right click on a Screen button and than choose *Screen settings...* item from the menu shown.

Name - the name of the screen.   The name appears on the Screen button (if the Screen button is wide enough).

Shortcut key - shortcut key (combination of Ctrl, Alt, Shift and a key).   It allows you keyboard switching among screens.

Change Icon - allows you to change an icon associated with the Screen button.   If you want no icon is displayed then put *none* word to *File name:* line in the *Change icon* dialog.

Change sound - allows you to define sound that should be played when the screen is entering.

Local wallpaper and screen color - if checked, the current wallpaper and background color are associated with the screen.   Next you switch to this screen the wallpaper and the color is restored.   You can change wallpaper and background color in *Display properties* Windows dialog.

Show Screen menu as a toolbar - shows the ToolBar window consisting of chosen Screen Menu items.

This is the default screen - if checked, the program will switch to this screen after start.

Alt+right click takes effect on the desktop only - if checked, you can pop up Screen menu by right click (plus Alt key pressed) on the desktop (out of any window).   Turn this option on if some another program uses Alt + right click combination.   If unchecked, you can pop up Screen menu by right click (plus Alt key pressed) anywhere on the screen.

Apply access password - if checked, the program will require *access* password any time you want to enter the screen.   Be aware you must have checked the *Use access password* item in the *application settings, passwords*.

Apply modification password - if checked, the program will require *modification* password any time you want to enter the screen settings.   Be aware you must have checked the *Use modification password* item in the *application settings, passwords*.

Item Properties

To access an item properties, do right click on the Screen menu item (or ToolBar button) and then choose *Properties* from menu shown.

Item Name - the name that appears in the Screen menu (and on the ToolBar button if the button is big enough).

Item Type - select from application (or document file), submenu or directory. *Submenu* creates new submenu in the menu hierarchy. *Directory (Folder)* - if you click on such item, window with files (only relevant *file types* you define) of the specified directory is shown.

Change Icon - allows you to change the icon associated with the item. If you want no icon is displayed then put *none* word to *File name:* line in the *Change icon* dialog.

Target - the application (or document file) path.

Parameters - parameters to be passed to the launched application.

Start in - the application default directory.

Shortcut key - allows the you to launch the application from the keyboard.

Open - the initial window state (restored, minimized, maximized).

Separate by ... - if checked, places menu separator above the item in the Screen menu.

Visible in ... - if checked, the item is visible in the ToolBar.

Save size ... - if checked, the program saves the last size and position of the application.

Open automatically ... - if checked, the application is automatically launched when the screen is entered. This is very powerful - initial state of the screen by just one click!

Close automatically ... - if checked, the application is automatically closed when you are leaving the screen.

Visible on all screens - if checked, the application launched is visible and accessible on all screens. Useful for applications like clocks, resource meters, etc.

Apply access password - if checked, the program will require *access* password any time you want to launch the item. Be aware you must have checked the *Use access password* item in the *application settings, passwords*.

Apply modification password - if checked, the program will require *modification* password any time you want to enter the item settings. Be aware you must have checked the *Use modification password* item in the *application settings, passwords*.

Window Operations

You can perform window operations such as copy window to another screen, copy window to all screen, move window to another screen and remove window from the screen.   There are two ways to get menu of these operation:

1) If you right click on a Screen button, a menu appears.   There is a list of   the windows of running applications under the last menu separator.   If you right click on an item of the list, you get the menu of available window operations.

2) If you do left click on the title bar of a window on the screen together with Alt key pressed you get the menu of available window operations.   (If the window does not have title bar try to click somewhere inside the window.   If the menu will not appear use the first option.)

Copy to here - copies the window from the screen the menu belonging   to the current one.

Copy to another screen - allows you to copy the window to another screen.   When the cursor with the text   Copy to screen appears then click the Screen button of the screen you want the window is to be copied to.

Copy to all - copies the window to all screens.   This is useful for a Clock window or a status window that should be always visible.

Move - allows the you to move a window to another screen.   When the cursor with the text   'Move to screen' appears, click the Screen button of the screen you want the window to be moved to.

Remove - removes a window that it is no longer visible from the screen.

Restore - restores a window on the screen.

Go Back - returns you to the previous menu.

Item Operations

You can copy, paste, insert, delete, etc.   items of the Screen menu (ToolBar).   To get a menu of these operation right click on a Screen menu item (or ToolBar button) and the menu of available operations appears.

Open here - launches application on the current screen (the left button click does the same).

Open - launches application on the screen that the Screen menu belongs to.

Insert new item - inserts a new item to the screen menu.   (The easier way to do this is to use Drag & Drop features.)

Paste - pastes an item that was previously copied to the clipboard using the Copy function.

Copy - copies the item to the clipboard.

Cut - copies the item to the clipboard and removes it from the Screen menu.

Delete - removes the item from the Screen menu.

Go Back - returns you to the previous menu.

Properties - opens window showing the item's settings.

Application Operations

You can move the Perfect Screens window to another position on the screen, resize it, save settings, access Application settings, etc.   To get a menu of these operation click the Menu button () and the menu of available operations appears.

Save configuration - saves all settings onto disk.   This protects you on loosing your configuration if your computer crashes from any reason.

Add screen - adds new screen.   (To delete screen right click on the Screen button and choose *Delete screen* from menu shown.

Move - click to this item to move the Perfect Screen window to another position.

Resizing frame - if checked, the Perfect Screens has resizing frame that allows you to change size and shape of the window.

Hide - hides all the Perfect Screens and puts an icon to the TaskBar instead.   Useful when viewing full screen pictures or presentations, etc.   Click it again to restore the program to the original position.

Help - access to some help topics and *About* dialog window.

Registration - allows you to register your copy of the Perfect Screens if you have already got the registration number.

Exit - closes the Perfect Screens program.

ToolBar Operations

You can move ToolBar window to another position on the screen, resize it, access ToolBar settings etc.   To get a menu of these operation click click the Menu button () of the ToolBar window and the menu of available operations appears.

ToolBar settings - access to <u>ToolBar settings</u>.

Move - click to this item to move the Perfect Screen window to another position.

Resizing frame - if checked, the Perfect Screens has resizing frame that allows you to change size and shape of the window.

All items - if checked, all Screen menu items are visible in the ToolBar.

Drag & Drop

Drag a file from the Explorer (FileManager, Desktop or another program supporting drag & drop features):

1) and drop it on a Screen Button.   You can then choose to:
> a) Open the file on the screen.
> b) Insert the file to the Screen Menu

Note: Does not work if the Perfect Screens window is put to the TaskBar.

2) and drop it on the screen ToolBar button.   The program associated with the button is launched with the file opened.
Note: Does not work if the ToolBar window is put to the TaskBar.

3) and drop it on the Menu button of the ToolBar.   The program lets you insert the file to the Screen menu.
Note: Does not work if the ToolBar window is put to the TaskBar.

Drag a window and move it to the left or right site of the screen like you want to move it outside of the screen.   When the cursor is on the edge of the screen the Perfect Screens automatically switches the screen to the next one.   If you release mouse buttons then the window you originally caught is moved to the current screen.   This require to have switched on the option *Go to next/previous screen...* in the *Application settings* in the *Advanced* section.

Troubleshooting

1) The Norton Commander for DOS opened in the MS-DOS Prompt window may cause a decrease in system performance.   It is preferable to have the window with the Norton Commander minimized when switching screens.

2) WINHLP32.EXE aborts   (*This program has performed an illegal operation and will be shutdown.*) during screen switching.
This is a bug inside the WINHLP32.EXE program caused by changing desktop settings (background color, wallpaper, pattern).   To avoid this, do not use the local background on your screens.   (See screen settings)
The problem appears, for example, in Microsoft Visual Basic 4.0 help when the window with an example is opened.

3) If the program doesn't run properly after upgrading, make sure you have the correct *ps32dll.dll* library. The *ps32dll.dll* file must be from the same package as the Perfect Screens version you have installed. There may only be one copy of *ps32dll.dll* file on your system and this copy must be present in the directory that Perfect Screens is installed into.

4) If switching among screens is too slow try the following:
        a)   Disable *local wallpaper and screen color* in screen settings.
        b)   Disable *save eyes* mode in advanced application settings.
        c)   Enhance your video subsystem.

If you are NT user look to <u>NT users</u> section.

License Agreement

The Perfect Screens program has been released for distribution as SHAREWARE and may be distributed at no cost.   You are granted a license to try Perfect Screens for 30 days.   If after this time, you find the program useful and intend to continue using it, you must register.   The base registration fee is US $25.

ALL WARRANTIES ARE DISCLAIMED, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IN THIS SOFTWARE.   THE ENTIRE RISK OF THE USE OR THE RESULT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE REMAINS WITH THE USER.

Registration

To register software read carefully the *register.txt* file and run *Register* program.   You will get the registration number that matches your personal information.   Than copy your personal information and registration number to the *Registration* dialog window of the Perfect Screens program.

See: License agreement

How do I...

How do I put the Perfect Screens window into/out the TaskBar ?
How do I put the ToolBar window into/out the TaskBar ?
How do I show/hide ToolBar ?

How do I change screen settings ?
How do I change ToolBar settings ?
How do I change ToolBar button settings ?
How do I change Screen menu item settings ?

How do I add new ToolBar button ?
How do I add new Screen menu item ?
How do I add new Screen (Screen button) ?

How do I delete Screen (Screen button) ?

How do I copy window to another screen ?

How do I put the Perfect Screens window into/out the TaskBar ?

Click the Menu button ( ) of the Perfect Screens window and choose *Application settings...* from menu shown.   In the *Settings* dialog window, select *In TaskBar* (or other item if you want to remove it from the TaskBar) item from the *Window position* combo box and press OK.

How do I put the ToolBar window into/out the TaskBar ?

Click the Menu button () of the ToolBar window and choose *Application settings...* from menu shown. In the *Settings* dialog window, select *In TaskBar* (or other item if you want to remove it from the TaskBar) item from the *Window position* combo box and press OK.

How do I change screen settings ?

Right click on a Screen button and than choose *Screen settings...* item from the menu shown.

How do I change ToolBar settings ?

Click the Menu button () of the ToolBar window and choose *Application settings...* from menu shown.

How do I change ToolBar button settings ?

Right click on the ToolBar button you want to change and than choose *Properties...* item from the menu shown.

How do I change Screen menu item settings ?

Invoke the Screen menu by right mouse button click together with Alt key pressed.   Point the menu item you want to change settings for and click right mouse button on it.   From the menu shown,   choose *Properties...* item.

How do I add new ToolBar button ?

Right click a ToolBar button and choose *Insert New Item* from the menu shown.   In the *Item Properties* dialog window, specify all the item properties and do not forget to check *Visible in the ToolBar*.   Then press OK button.

How do I add new Screen menu item ?

Invoke the Screen menu by right mouse button click together with Alt key pressed.   Point the menu item you want to add new item to and click right mouse button on it.   Then choose *Insert New Item* from the menu shown. In the *Item Properties* dialog window, specify all the item properties and than press OK button.
To add new item to the end of the Screen menu (last item) click *Add New Item*.

How do I add new Screen (Screen button) ?

Click the Menu button () of the Perfect Screens window and choose *Add Screen* from menu shown.

How do I delete Screen (Screen button) ?

Right click on the Screen button you want to delete and than choose *Delete Screen* item from the menu shown.

How do I copy window to another screen ?

Right click on the Screen button and you will see the list of all windows (applications) presented on the screen.   Point to the item corresponding to the application you want to copy and do right click.   From the menu shown, choose *Copy to another screen*.   Right to the mouse cursor, You will see small window with the message *Copy to screen*.   Now click the Screen button you want to copy window (application) to. You can also use mouse button left click together with Alt key pressed on title bar of the window you want to copy.

How do I show/hide ToolBar ?

Right click on the Screen button you want to delete and than choose *Screen Settings...* item from the menu shown.   In the dialog window shown, check/uncheck *Show Screen menu as a ToolBar*.

How to use the Perfect Screens

The Perfect Screens program has two main functions:
1) provide multiple virtual screens
2) provide better launching abilities than Windows95 shell does

Multiple virtual screens allows you to run a lot of applications without losing track of them. Applications *running* on one screen are invisible on another ones. This makes desktop very clear, without plenty of overlapped windows and many application buttons on the TaskBar. People usually create a screen for each their activity: networking (e-mails, www, news, etc.), document processing, file management, graphics, etc. and on these screens run application related to these activities. To make launching of these applications on the given screen as much easy as possible the Perfect Screens provides
1) Screen menu (accessible by right mouse click together with Alt key pressed)
2) ToolBar
Each screen has its own Screen menu and ToolBar with applications associated with this screen. So, if you switch to, let's say, document processing screen there is ToolBar with buttons to launch word processor, etc. and if you switch to network screen there is ToolBar with buttons to run e-mail, www browser, etc. This approach extremely simplifies orientation among installed applications, files and directories you want to launch and access. In addition, because of Screen menu, you even can have pretty fast access to applications you run very seldom.

There are some tips how to start using the Perfect Screens program before you discover all features:

1) Create a screen for each your usual activity (networking, document processing, file management, etc.)
2) Because you can define shortcut keys for switching to next/previous screen it seems to be good idea to thing about the order of screens. Probably, screens for most often activities should be next to each other.
3) On each screen create Screen menu and ToolBar containing application associated with the activity performed on the screen.
4) A few mostly used applications should be accessible from the ToolBar (it maybe confusing if ToolBar contain too many buttons). Screen menu can contain much more applications, files and directories to access (organised to submenus).
5) Applications you want to have opportunity to launch from all screens you can place to desktop (create shortcut on the desktop) or to standard Start menu.

Other Products

PERFECT KEYBOARD for Windows 95/NT

Brief Description:
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The program allows you to define shortcuts which are expanded
to an associated text or keyboard strokes. There are two types
of shortcuts:
1) Text shortcut - short text like "hdr", "pth", etc.
2) Key shortcut   - combination of keys pressed.   For example
                    "Ctrl+Alt+h", "Ctrl+Shift+q", etc.

For example, for your address, you can define text shortcut "ma"
and key shortcut "Ctrl+Shift+a" associated with the text "My name,
Street, Town, ZIP, Country".   If you type "ma" and press space bar
(or press "Ctrl+Shift+a" key combination) in any program it is
expanded to "My name, Street, Town, ZIP, Country" text.   The
program is also able to run macros. It means that you can define
shortcuts that will run your mostly used programs (explorer, etc.)
or perform frequently used operations.


General Features:
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 -The program works with all Windows programs (* see below).
 -The program saves time spend typing and inserting data from
  keyboard.
 -The program expands shortcuts to text, keyboard strokes or
  time or date entries defined.
 -The program has friendly user interface allowing easy and
  fast editing of items defined.

Requirements:
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 -Windows95 or NT

How the Program can be Used:
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 -Mostly used phrases: Why to type the same phrases again
  and again.   Create a library of mostly used phrases and use
  it in any wordprocessor or text editor you want.

 -Mostly used file paths: You can predefine shortcuts
  for your mostly used file paths (documents, projects, source
  files, etc.).   These shortcuts you can use, for example, in
  "Open" or   "Save as" dialogues to switch to desired directory
  or in other (file management) programs to change directory
  quickly.

 -Windows shortcuts: You can replace Windows keyboard
  shortcuts (like "Ctrl+Alt+n" for Notepad program- not very
  intuitive) to shortcuts that are remembered much easier
  (for example "np" for Notepad program).   You can type the

shortcut in any program, even in the programs that have no
keyboard input (empty desktop, MS Paint, etc.) and the
shortcut is performed.

-Forms templates: If you often fill some forms you can define
 "templates" that will fill some default entries (date, time,
 phrases, etc.) to particular fields of the form.

-Programmers can define shortcuts for often used programming
 constructions.   Such shortcuts save time and also unify
 your source code.

-Mostly used e-mail addresses: You can create a list of
 your mostly used e-mail addresses.   Once defined e-mail
 addresses can be used not only in your e-mail client(s)
 when sending mail but also in any other kind of
 correspondence you type an e-mail address.

Availability:
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   The program is available from fall 1996.
   Check the www: http://labe.felk.cvut.cz/PerfectScreens/ps32.htm
   Or write e-mail to: pitrinec@kagi.com


*The program doesn't run with DOS programs in DOS prompt window.
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