

VPTexTool

by Craig S. Thom

VPTexTool is a utility for use with Xerox Ventura Publisher for Windows. If you don't have Ventura Publisher for Windows (hereafter referred to as VPWin), then this program will be of no use to you. If you do use VPWin, though, I think you will find it very useful.

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What is VPTexTool?

I made the jump to VPWin from the GEM version quite a while ago, and for the most part I was very satisfied. The only thing I truly missed about the GEM version was the ability to select an area of text with the I-beam cursor and simply click on the desired attribute (normal, italic, bold, etc.). With VPWin I had to select the text menu and the appropriate selection, either with the mouse or the keyboard. Admittedly, this is no great hardship, but I found it much easier just to click on the selection.

So I have written this program. VPTexTool places a small window on your screen with buttons for ten of the most common selections from the Text menu of VPWin. When you click on one of the buttons, it feeds keystrokes to VPWin to perform the desired operation through the Text menu.

VPTexTool will (optionally) keep itself on the top, so that you can maximize VPWin and still use it.

Requirements

VPTexTool is written in Visual Basic, so you will need the runtime library VBRUN100.DLL somewhere in your path (it is usually put in your Windows directory). This file is available on CompuServe in the MSBASIC forum as VBRUN.ZIP. It is also available on GENie and probably directly from Microsoft.

You will, of course, need to be running Xerox Ventura Publisher for Windows under Microsoft Windows. It has been thoroughly tested with VPWin 3.0. It should work with VPWin 4.0, but this has not been tested. Since it does nothing overtly tricky, I suspect it will work with Windows 3.1, but I have no way to verify this.

VBTextool has been tested in Standard and Enhanced mode on 386SX, 386DX, and 486 machines with from two to sixteen megabytes of RAM.

Installation

VPTexTool requires no complex installation, since the only files you need are **VPTXTOOL.EXE** and **VBRUN100.DLL**. Just put VPTXTOOL.EXE wherever you wish.

To install an icon in Program Manager for VPTexTool, follow these steps:

Select the group into which you wish to place it with a single click of the mouse.

From the Program Manager **File** menu, select **New**.

Select **Program Item** and click on **OK**.

Under **Description**, type in **VPTexTool**.

Click on **Browse**.

Locate and select the program **VPTXTOOL.EXE**.

Click on **OK**.

Running VPTexTool

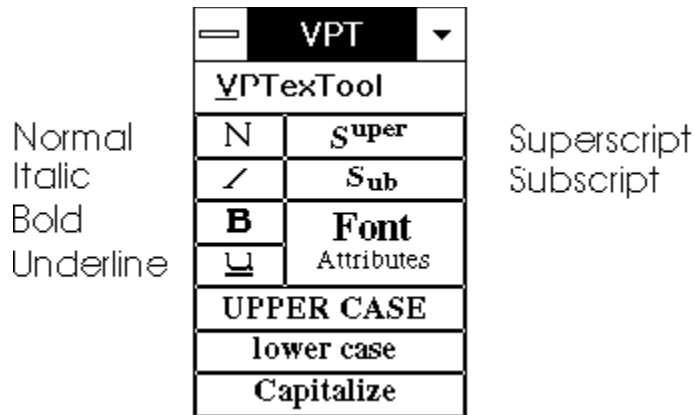
You can run VPTexTool by double-clicking on the icon in Program Manager installed in the previous section or by selecting **Run** from the Program Manager **File** menu and typing in VPTXTOOL.EXE (including the path to the file if necessary).

You may also add **VPTXTOOL.EXE** to the **LOAD=** line of your **WIN.INI** file so that it automatically runs when you enter Windows.

If VPTexTool cannot find VPWin already running, you will see a warning message for three seconds. Then VPTexTool will minimize to an icon at the bottom of your screen. You can restore it by double-clicking on it.

Using VPTexTool

The use of VPTexTool is pretty obvious. Select text with VPWin while in text edit mode, then just click on the appropriate VPTexTool button. Here is a description of the buttons that don't contain text fully describing their functions:



VPTexTool selects the Text menu of VPWin and the appropriate menu item.

If VPTexTool is on top of the VPWin window, it may momentarily disappear after you click on a button. This is normal behavior.

You may occasionally see the Text menu of VPWin open after clicking on a VPTexTool button, especially when selecting Upper Case, Lower Case, or Capitalize. This is also normal behavior.

To exit VPTexTool, just select Exit from the VPTexTool menu.

The VPTexTool Menu

The **Pop on Top** item in this menu enables or disabled the feature of VPTexTool that keeps it on top. It is checked when active.

The **Exit** item exits the program.

The **About...** item reminds you where to send money.

Saving Configuration

VPTexTool automatically saves its screen position and Pop on Top status every time you change either. This information is stored in a file called CSTAPPS.INI in your Windows directory. This file will be created if it does not already exist.

If you change screen resolution and the store position would place VPTexTool off the screen, it will be moved back to the closest edge.

Caveats

Microsoft warns that the method Visual Basic uses for feeding keystrokes to other applications may cause erratic mouse behavior in some IBM PS/2 computers. They say this is a problem with Windows 3.0, not Visual Basic.

If you have the text (I-beam) tool selected but have *just* a text cursor in your document, *not* a block of text selected, *and* you click on **UPPERCASE**, **lower case**, or **Capitalize**, VPTexTool will insert a **U**, **L**, or **C** into the document at the cursor. VPTexTool can't tell if you have a block of text selected, or even if you have the text

tool select.

I haven't tested this program with VPWin 4.0, but from information I have gathered it should have no problems.

The file VPTXTOOL.EXE is fairly large, but a good chunk of this is the About dialog, which is only loaded when selected, so it really doesn't take up that much memory.

Comments, Suggestions, and Complaints

Please give me any thoughts you have on this program, good or bad (except complaints about the artwork, which I slaved over and am very sensitive about). If there is a way the program can be more useful, let me know. And if you have ideas for other projects, I'd like to hear them.

Please send all comments to the address listed below. I may also be reached as CRAIG.S.THOM on GENie.

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Please make all checks payable to **Craig S. Thom**, and send them to me at the following address:

3821 East State Street #120
Rockford, IL 61108

Thanks again for trying out the program, even if you don't find it suitable for your needs.