

WinDock

Version 1.3

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Special thanks to Morgan T. Savage for his great icon! At 13 years, definately a budding artist if I've ever seen one.

Intro

This is a little app I put together to try out the new drag-drop capabilities of Win3.1 and to provide a more convenient facility for launching applications. I've seen a couple of other versions of similar apps floating around, but they all require too much effort to get the apps you want to display - the thing is pretty much useless without drag-drop.

Setup

Just copy the drop.ini file to your windows directory, and put the executable somewhere.

What to do

- You can drag executable files from the File Manager to the dock to place them there (sorry, one at a time for now). This can be any executable file, or a data file that has been associated with a file. Data files display the icon of the associated executable initially, DOS apps display the DOS icon by default. Icons can be easily changed in the Application Options Dialog, accessible by clicking the *right* mouse button on the app icon in the dock.
- You can launch an app by double clicking on its icon. Launching behavior can also be modified by the Application Options Dialog. You can set any parameters you want your app to be launched with, you can set the default directory that the app starts up with, and you can set the "state" of the app (ie maximized/minimized/normal) through this dialog.
Some apps remember their own "last window state", this overrides windows API's and may provide some unexpected behavior when launching these apps. Experimentation will provide the best results.
- You can move apps around by dragging them with the left mouse button. If you drop an app on top of another one, WinDock will beep, and the app will pop back to where it came from.
- You can delete an app by dragging it off of the dock and letting it go. (If you drag off without releasing, you can drag back on again).

- You can drag the dock out of your way by dragging the Windows Logo button at the top of the dock.
- You can exit the dock by double clicking on the Windows Logo button.
- You can see the WinDock About box and change some general options by clicking the right mouse button on the Windows Logo button.
- You can change whether the dock is on the left or right side of the screen by setting the radio buttons in the About box.
- You can make the dock stay on top of all windows by setting the checkbox in the About box.

WinDock will automatically save its layout and options when you exit it, or exit windows.

Bugs Fixed

Version 1.2

- WinDock now will properly release its "Always on Top" status when the box is unchecked.
- WinDock will now remember its vertical position between sessions.
- WinDock will now remember the icon attached to documents between sessions.

Version 1.3

- Right-clicking on an empty spot on the dock won't crash it.
- Starting WinDock with an ini file that contains pointers to apps that don't exist won't crash it.
- Parameters can now be added to apps in the Application Options dialog.
- Better reporting of errors when an app can't be launched.
- Default directory of an app now defaults to the directory in which the app resides.

Bugs not yet Fixed

- WinDock will still get cascaded or tiled when that option is selected from the Task Manager. This will be fixed when I learn more about how the Task Manager does this, and how I can tell it to exclude WinDock when it calculates new screen positions.

Coming Soon

- Ability to align WinDock with Top and Bottom of screen
- Option to trap application Maximize messages, and force them to resize so that WinDock doesn't cover any part of the app when it is maximized.
- Support for making WinDock the shell.
- A Run... dialog that will allow commands to be run, and will remember the last x commands.
- Make DOS apps maintain their icons so that when they are minimized, they have the same icon as they had on the Dock. This is what Progman does now.
- Support for adding more apps to the Dock. On VGA screen the number of apps you can

add is pretty limited, so it would be nice to be able to add more, without sacrificing the ease of just double clicking on the dock. One of the best ideas I've heard is allowing multiple sets of apps that can be "scrolled" through by clicking on a button. Thus you could have several different groups of icons that you can scroll through.

I've gotten some great feedback from people about improvements to WinDock, hopefully I'll be able to address all of them while still maintaining the programs simplicity. Keep them coming!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND BUGS IN THIS PROGRAM! I want to try and keep it as robust as possible, so I want stamp any bugs out as soon as they crop up.

I'm always looking for comments or suggestions for improving WinDock, so please forward these to me either at 73467,1453 on Compuserve, or at becap@cs.mcgill.ca on the internet. Or you can phone me at 514-848-9659 if neither of these means are suitable.

Sorry these docs are so sparse. I'll have a better version together soon. It's quite a simple concept anyway, so hopefully most won't need the docs.

Remember, WinDock is SHAREWARE! If you intend to use it, you must register it by sending \$15 to the author at 900 Sherbrooke St. West #92, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1G3. This will entitle you to notification of future upgrades that may not be made available except directly from the author. It will also give you the satisfaction in knowing that you support independant software development.

- Brian