

Thank you for trying version 3.2 of

Hunter

for Microsoft Windows 3.0 and 3.1

by

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What Is Hunter?

Hunter is a Microsoft Windows utility that allows you to search multiple disk drives for file names that match a given file specification, like '*.doc' (all document files) or multiple file specifications (like '*.doc *.txt *.wri'). You can also search based on the age or size of a file. One way in which Hunter distinguishes itself from other Windows file finding utilities is that it doesn't require you to wait for a search to complete for you to continue with your work. Hunter works in the background while you get your work done.

Hunter Is More Than A File Finder

How useful is a file finder if you can't remember the name of the file? Hunter can search the contents of the files that it finds for a key word or pattern of characters. When you find the name of the file or the text you're looking for, simply double-click on the line you're interested in. Hunter will load the file and the application that created it.

The technology Hunter uses to find text is called *Grep*. For those of you not familiar with *grep*, it is a tool borrowed from Unix that has powerful pattern matching capabilities. For example, if you want to find all references to the word 'color' or 'colour' you could use the Grep string 'colou-r'. The hyphen indicates that the letter u is optional. To find 'gray' or 'grey' use the Grep string 'gr[ae]y'. Characters enclosed in brackets form a list of possible matches.

Grep also understands numbers. If you'd like to locate all references to a month and day in no particular year, you could use the Grep string '1/4/:d:d'. The :d's indicate that any two digits will be acceptable. Finding the same date in 1991 is only a little more involved, use '1/4/:d*91'. This finds 1/4/91 as well as 1/4/1991. Using '1/4/91' would find only an exact match.

The Grep expression can be as simple or complex as you wish. Remember, you may always simply type in the word you wish to find and forget about Grep's special characters. For more information on using *grep*, refer to Hunter's on-line help.

Updates

Version 3.0b

A bug was fixed in version 3.0a in which a memory object was being deleted in a manner incompatible with Windows 3.1. The symptom was that the GDI heap became exhausted when altering the color settings. In other words, Windows was left with no memory to draw. This did not seem to be a problem with Windows 3.0.

International Character Support. New for people who use the extended character set. Hunter now supports the extended PC character set used by DOS applications and some Windows applications like Notepad and Write. Unfortunately, most Windows applications, like MS Word for Windows, store their characters in the ANSI format which has a different extended character set than DOS. I'm currently evaluating methods for supporting both ANSI and DOS character sets. My thanks to Per N Döhler of Hamburg, Germany for alerting me to this problem.

Version 3.1

Binary file search capabilities. Steven Friedman, of the Sacramento PC Users Group, pointed out that Hunter had a problem with binary files. It should now reliably search files created by word processors, spreadsheets, the Windows Cardfile and Calendar programs as well as database files.

File Save Capability. Hunter can now save the results of any search to a text file. There are two options for saving your data. The first gives you text formatted just like it is in Hunter's window. By selecting **Tabbed Text (*.TXT)** from the **Save File As Type:** combo box you may save your data with tab delimiters. This second method makes reading the file into a spreadsheet simple.

New Font. The font used by Hunter in previous versions was a telltale sign of Hunter's age. The new font is easier to read. Future versions of Hunter will probably allow user selection of fonts.

International Character Support Bug Fix. The file launch capability was incompatible with the extended character set. This is now fixed.

Version 3.2 (this version)

Streamlined Search Initialization. Many users had complained that there were too many steps involved in starting a search. I agree. If you've used Hunter before you'll notice that the file name dialog and the grep dialog are now combined. You'll also notice that this dialog comes up when you start Hunter and every time you select Go! Both of these actions are optional and can be independently enabled/disabled from the menu according to your preferences.

No More File Sharing Errors. Previous versions of Hunter would cause file sharing violations when attempts were made to open already open files. This was irritating and unnecessary. To indicate that the file was locked and could not be searched, Hunter now displays the file name in lower case.

Increased Capacity. Hunter can now accommodate up to 400 subdirectories in one directory. This does not mean 400 total, but 400 subdirectories per directory. For example, the directory c:\wp can contain 400 subdirectories. Each one of these subdirectories can itself contain 400 subdirectories. The previous limit was 200. If you don't understand this don't worry, you'll probably never run up against this limit.

Smaller Size. Hunter is now 30 per cent smaller and about 10 per cent faster.

Windows 3.0 and 3.1 Compatibility Note

Because Hunter uses the common dialog support supplied with Windows 3.1, I have included the standard Windows 3.1 file COMMDLG.DLL with Microsoft's permission. This file can reside in the same directory as hunter.exe and hunter.hlp or it may be placed in the Windows system directory (usually c:\windows\system). Users of Windows 3.1 should delete the COMMDLG.DLL file supplied with Hunter.

Pricing and Registration

It's not free, but it is inexpensive. I've decided to lower the asking price to \$15 per user. I enjoy updating and improving Hunter but it takes time and money. My new address is:

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In the future I hope to be able to accept credit card charges for Hunter, but as of now the preferred method of payment is by check.

Outside the United States

There are two payment options for customers outside the U.S.

1. A check drawn on a bank in your own country in your own currency at the current exchange rate for \$17. The two extra dollars covers the charge which I incur to cash the check. Please do not send checks drawn on your local bank in US dollars, the service fee is more than the value of the check.

2. A check for \$15 drawn on a US bank.

Checks drawn on Greek or Spanish banks must be marked "convertible", Italian bank checks must not be marked "non-transferable".

I appreciate the extra effort required to register Hunter from outside the US and wish to thank everyone that has gone to the extra effort to do so.

If you've already registered Hunter, thank you very much, this upgrade is free. If you use Hunter in your work and you work at a public school or a non-profit organization, please accept Hunter with my complements and well wishes.

Site Licenses

Site licenses are available, please contact me for pricing.

Upgrades

Because of the low cost of Hunter and the high cost of mailing disks, I prefer to distribute updates through CompuServe (type GO WINADV or GO WINNEW). If you don't have access to a modem or CompuServe, write me at the above address and include a disk (3.5 or 5.25 inch), a reusable mailer, and return postage. Let me know the version of Hunter you're using (it's in this file and in Hunter's About box). If you've got the current version I'll keep your disk until the next one is released, otherwise I'll send you the most current one. If you'd rather I just send you Hunter, I'll provide the disk, mailer and postage for \$5 (US or Foreign).

If you are a CompuServe or Internet user and would like to be notified of bug reports and upgrade announcements, please send me an e-mail stating so.

Bug Reporting

Please, if you find bugs or incompatibilities, notify me. Drop me a line, an e-mail (CompuServe or Internet) or send me a letter. Include a detailed description of your problem, the version of Hunter, the system you're running on, memory available to Windows, version of Windows, mode it's running in, display information, and any other information you think is relevant.

Comments and Suggestions

I always appreciate hearing comments and criticisms. If you've got an idea that you think would make Hunter a better application, let me know. All of the changes listed in the Updates section above (except the size reduction) were at the request of users.