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WinShade for Windows 95

Version 1.5.0

Description

WinShade is a Windows 95 desktop utility that makes it easy to switch between programs. Rather than minimizing an application to view another, WinShade allows you to click on the title bar and reduce the window to its smallest vertical dimension. In most cases the window will "roll up" into its title bar, leaving only a thin horizontal window on the desktop. After working in another application, you can click back on the rolled-up window's title bar and the window will expand to its previous dimensions. WinShade works with almost all windows, including dialog boxes, child windows, and even maximized windows.

Compatibility

WinShade is compatible with Windows 95. It does not appear to work under Windows NT or Win32s.

Installation Instructions

Create a new directory and move the file WinShade.zip to that directory. Using PKUNZIP, decompress WinShade.zip. You can now delete the WinShade.zip file. To run WinShade, simply double click the WinShade.exe icon. Or, if you want to run WinShade on startup, drag WinShade.exe into your startup folder to create a shortcut to the application. Restart Windows 95 and you're all set.

The Install Disk

Installation files for WinShade include:

WINSHADE.EXE	The application
WINSHADE.DLL	The necessary library
WINSHADE.DOC	This file
SAPPHIRE.DOC	Registration and Licensing information
RESTORE.WAV	Sound file
ROLLUP.WAV	Sound file

If you are missing any of the above files, please try and download WinShade.zip from another source. All of the above files must be included in any public posting of WinShade.

Using WinShade

With WinShade running, try left clicking on an active window's title bar. After a brief delay, the window should "roll up" into the title bar, leaving only a thin horizontal window. Left click on the title bar again, and the window will resume its previous dimensions. There is no limit to the number of windows that can be rolled up at any one time, and WinShade works with main windows, child windows, and dialog boxes.

If you close a window in the rolled up state while running WinShade, the window will return to its normal dimensions when the window is re-opened. However, if you close WinShade while a window is rolled up, you will not be able to restore the window's dimensions without restarting the application (restarting WinShade will not help).

Finally, it is normal for a small delay to follow after left clicking the title bar. This allows you to continue to perform the default title bar functions of moving the window and maximizing/restoring the window without WinShade interfering. See the customizations section for details on how to change this delay.

Customizations

Although WinShade runs seamlessly in the background, there are some options you can adjust. After starting WinShade, locate the WinShade icon in the Windows 95 tray (this is where the clock resides on the taskbar). Left click on the icon, and you will be presented with a menu. The first item in the menu allows you to customize WinShade's default settings.

When you choose the "Configure WinShade" menu item, a dialog appears in the center of your screen. The following options are currently available:

Suspend on startup: This instructs WinShade to automatically suspend itself when it is started. To activate WinShade, choose the "Activate WinShade" menu item.

Enable Sound: With sound enabled, WinShade plays a short wav file whenever a window is rolled up or restored. The default sounds can be altered by typing in the complete path of the desired wav file in the appropriate edit field, or by selecting the Browse button to the left of the field and searching for the desired wav file.

Click Delay: This is the time (in milliseconds) that WinShade waits before actually performing an operation on a window. This option is only enabled if the "Use Double Click Delay" checkbox is not checked. This time must be greater than the system's double click time if you wish to maximize or restore windows by double clicking the title bar. Note: You can make the click delay smaller than the double click time and still double click title bars. However, WinShade does not operate correctly in some situations. This is due to the way Windows sends mouse messages to applications and cannot be avoided.

Use Double Click Delay: If this checkbox is selected, WinShade uses the system's double click time as the Click Delay. This allows you to continue using the double click maximize feature of Windows while still performing WinShade operations as quickly as possible. The system click delay can be changed by selecting the mouse icon in the Control Panel.

New in this version

The dll included with version 1.4.0 was not compatible with Microsoft Office. Version 1.5.0 corrects this incompatibility.

New to version 1.4.0 is the tray icon. In addition, WinShade now sports a configuration dialog box to

change options and save them to the registry. I have also fixed some bugs relating to maximizing rolled-up windows.

New to version 1.2.0 is the interface. WinShade is now a fading window. Also new is the ability to hide the WinShade window by invoking the /hide parameter in the command line. Finally, I added sounds to WinShade's actions.

New to version 1.0.1 is compatibility with maximized windows.

Known BUGS or Incompatibilities

If you find any bugs or incompatibilities with WinShade please e-mail me with a brief description of the bug and how I might be able to recreate it.

1. AOL 2.5

WinShade does not work with AOL 2.5. This is not a problem with WinShade, but rather a problem with the way AOL 2.5 responds to system hooks. Hopefully the next version of AOL will correct this problem. If you are using both WinShade and AOL 2.5, first disable WinShade by choosing the "Suspend WinShade" menu item. To reactivate WinShade, choose the "Activate WinShade" menu item.

2. Word 6.0

WinShade appears to run into conflicts with the Word 6.0 help system. Specifically, WinShade does not work with the child windows created by the primary help windows. Programs specifically designed for Windows 95 should not have this problem, as the help system has been redesigned.

3. Menus

For windows with menus, you can still active the items in the menu when a window is rolled up. This can be an advantage or a disadvantage, so I have decided to leave WinShade the way it is.

Where to contact Me...

You can contact me at the e-mail address below:

lemmings@mit.edu

The subject of the message should begin with the phrase "WinShade" followed by the version, e.g. "WinShade 1.5.0". The version number can be obtained from the About dialog box, or by viewing the original WinShade.exe file Properties, choosing the Version tab, and looking at the Product Version string. Make it clear if you would like a reply, and be sure to include a valid e-mail address which I can reply to.

Future Revisions

I plan on implementing an instance checker to make sure that only one WinShade application runs at a time.

November 6, 1995