Win Fast 3.x - Windows 3.1 Button Bar/Program Launcher

Win Fast (WINFAST.EXE) Copyright (c) 1992 by Art Ullman

Win Fast is a Button/Bar Program Launcher which does not interfere with or disable Program Manager.   **Win Fast** provides fast access to applications in Windows by displaying your applications in a logical ordered fashion so you can find and execute them without having to pull up Program Manager.   Besides regular mouse support, **Win Fast** allows you to find and execute applications through its keyboard interface.

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Groups Pulldown Option

The **Groups** Pulldown allows you to select from an alphabetical listing of your Program Manager Groups.

Click on **Groups** to get a list of available Groups.   Then select a Group by clicking the proper menu item.   Note: you can use Up and Down Arrows to change your selection.

If all of your Groups will not fit on the pulldown menu, there will be one final option: **More...**   Click on this menu option to display another page of Groups.   After the final page of Groups are displayed, you will get a **Beginning...** option.   Click here to go back to the beginning.

Program Items - Finding, Scrolling and Launching

Program Items represent your applications as they are set up under Program Manager. When you select a Group, you are then presented with a Button Bar-like list of Program Items.   These Program Items (applications) are listed in alphabetical order by name.   The Program Icon along with a title are displayed.

Launching application using the mouse.

To launch your application using your mouse, simply click on either the Icon Button, or on the Program Name.

Launching applications using the keyboard:

In many ways, the keyboard interface is faster than using a mouse.   Once you have selected a Group, you can type the first letter of any application in the Group.   **Win Fast** will move the blue text to the first item starting with that letter.   You can type the same letter again in order to scroll to the next Program Item starting with the letter (and so on).   When the blue Text is on the Program Item you want, you can hit <enter> to execute it.

Note: you can use Up and Down, Home and End, or PageUp and Down to scroll and to move the blue text indicator.

Iconize Groups

Win Fast allows you to take a Program Manager Group and minimize it on your Windows Desktop.

If you want to minimize a Group on your desktop, all you have to do is click on the desired Group from the **Groups** pulldown.   Then click on the Options pulldown and select Iconize Group.

Iconized Groups use the Program Manager Group Icon by default.   However, you can set a Group to use any Icon on your system.   From the **Options** Pulldown, click on **Set Group Icon**.   Then select a **Group** from the Select Group Combo Box.   Icons are stored in ICO, EXE and DLL files.   **Win Fast** allows you to extract Icons from any of these files, for use as a Group Icon.   Choose the file type and scroll through the files on your system to choose an Icon.   Note; the program MORICONS.DLL in you Windows System directory contains 106 Icons.   You can scroll through the Icons in any single file using the scroll bar next to the Icon Count label.   Once you have decided on an Icon, click on the **Set** button.   This setting is stored in your WINFAST.INI file and used every time you Iconize a Group.

Iconized Groups in Windows Startup

One of the most powerfull features in **Win Fast** is the ability create Group Icons on your Windows Desktop.   You can do this through the Iconize Group option under the Options Pulldown, when you are running **Win Fast.** If you want to take advantage of this feature on Windows Startup, you can do this very easily.   Simply put your WINFAST.EXE into your Windows STARTUP Group with the Name of the group you would like to start up as the paramater.   Example:

Use:

> WINFAST.EXE MAIN

This will start up the Main Group as an Icon.   Note: always click the Minimize on Startup in order start your Group in a minimized state.

Win Fast Settings

Use this option (from the Options pulldown) to set **Win Fast** window Width, Font Size, Shrink on Execute, Always on Top, and Click Label to Execute.

Arrange Desktop Icons

Use this option (from the Options pulldown) to have Windows arrange your Desktop Icons for you.

Shrink on Execute

In order to get **Win Fast** out of the way after it launches an application, you can set it to **Shrink on Execute** from the Settings Pulldown.   This option can be turned on or off.   It is on by default.

Always on Top

You can tell **Win Fast** to always be your **top-most** Window (even when it is not active.)
This option can be turned on or off from Settings Pulldown.

Missing Icons in Win Fast

Occasionally, you might find that a Group in **Win Fast** is missing Icons after you have made a change under Program Manager.   This occurs because Win Fast reads Program Manager Group files (it does not update them), in order to get applications information. Unfortunately, Program Manager sometimes does not update the Group files until after you exit Windows.   To correct the problem, exit Windows with the Exit Windows option, and then start Windows again.

Click Label to Execute

You can select whether you would like **Win Fast** to execute your applications when you click on the Icon Button only, or anywhere on the Button or Label.   This option can be set from the Settings Pulldown.

Win Fast Registration

You can get a registered copy of **Win Fast** in either of two ways.   The first method is faster and is the preferred method, but either is acceptable.   Win Fast registration costs $15 either method.

If you have an account on CompuServe, you can GO CIS, then GO SWREG to get to software registration forum on CompuServe.   There are several ways to register, the easiest is by FILE NAME.   Win Fast is registered under the file name WINFST.ZIP.   SWREG has instructions on how to register software.   ID Number is 598.   As soon as the Registration is forwarded, I will send you a registration number.   This registration number disables the NON-REGISTRATION NOTICE, making your copy a registered copy.   Note: you can always the   newest version of Win Fast on Compuserve, by: GO CIS, GO WINADV, Library 2 (File Utilities), then browse on keyword WINFAST.

Send a check for $15 payable to Art Ullman at the following address:

      Art Ullman

      PO Box 17474

      Ft. Worth, Tx 76102-0474

No letter is required, if you have your address on either the check or the envelope, and write Win Fast Registration on the check Memo line.   I will send out 3 1/2 inch HD floppies unless otherwise requested.

Win Fast Technical Support

If you ever have any questions/comments concerning Win Fast, you can get a hold of the author on CompuServe MAIL.   Art Ullman can be reached by his ID 70604,517.