

CYCLE

By Robert F. Nee

INTRODUCTION

One feature of the X Windows system that I have come to love is the ability to raise or lower a window. I generally have quite a few windows active on my screen at one time and as luck would have it the window I need is usually on the bottom of the pile, partially or completely obscured by other windows. X Windows allows you to place a window on the bottom by clicking one of the buttons on the title bar. By repeatedly pushing windows to the bottom you can eventually grab the window you need. Sadly, Microsoft Windows doesn't have a feature like this. While you may press ALT-TAB to cycle through windows I don't like to have to go back to the keyboard to do this. The Task Manager allows you to directly activate a window but this is a multistep process.

Cycle is a small utility I wrote to fix this problem. Cycle allows you to double-click the right mouse button on the desktop to raise the bottom-most Window. It takes up a very small amount of memory (about 8K) and may be hidden to get it out of your way.

RUNNING CYCLE

To run cycle just start it from the Program Manager as you would any other application. Cycle will load as an icon. Once loaded double-clicking on the desktop with the right mouse button will cause Cycle to raise and activate the bottom-most window on your screen. Repeatedly double-clicking will cycle through all windows on your screen (hence the name.) The easiest way to run Cycle is to place a LOAD= line in your WIN.INI file. For example :

```
[Windows]
Load=Cycle
```

OPTIONS

The Options dialog box on the Cycle menu allows you to specify how icons are handled and gives you the option of hiding the Cycle icon to get it out of your way.

There are four options for how Cycle handles icons. These are listed below

| | |
|------------|---|
| NORMAL | Icons are highlighted |
| OPEN | Icons are opened to a window |
| OPEN/CLOSE | Icons are opened to a Window. Subsequent Cycling returns the window to an icon. |
| IGNORE | Cycle ignores all icons. |

After selecting an icon option, Cycle saves it as the default for the next time you run the program.

Another choice in the Option Box is to hide the Cycle window. Once the window is hidden there is no way to alter any of the options or exit the program without restarting windows. Therefore use this option only after you are satisfied with it's operation. Changing the Hide Window option also changes the default for the next time Cycle is run. If the default is to hide the window, Cycle displays it's icon for 5 seconds to let you know that it is running. To reset the default from hidden to visible edit your WIN.INI file and set the following option.

```
[Cycle]
Hidden=0
```

HOW CYLCE WORKS

Cycle works by intercepting all messages to the desktop. It watches for a right button double-click which activates Cycle. All other messages are passed along to the routine that normally handles them. Therefore the Task Manager will still work normally because Cycle ignores all other mouse actions.

THE CATCH

There is no catch! I believe that too many Windows authors are asking for a registration fee for trivial little utilities such as Cycle. Therefore I am offering Cycle as Freeware. You may freely distribute Cycle for personal use so long as no modifications are made to the code and full credit is given to the author. I would like to hear any comments users may have. You can reach me by sending mail to RNEE on Genie or by writing me at the following address

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If you are interested in a copy of the source code I would be willing to part with it for the small price of \$10. Please send a formatted disk (any size) to the above address.