

## **\*.INI-Navigator 4.0 Program Information**

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### **1. System Requirements**

The **\*.INI-Navigator Version 4.0** will run on any computer running **Windows 3.1** or higher. VGA display resolution or higher required.

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### **2. New Features**

The following lists some of the new features found in the **\*.INI-Navigator 4.0**

- File association and command line support has been added. You can associate the extension **.INI** with the **\*.INI-Navigator** in the File Manager (or other file utility) and launch the **\*.INI-Navigator** by double clicking the file name. The INI-file will be automatically loaded at startup.
  - For those of you running Windows at a screen resolution of 800x600 or higher, the program will "remember" the last size and location of its main window. The next time you start the **\*.INI-Navigator**, the main window will be positioned and sized where it was when you last exited the program.
  - A more up-to-date 3-D look for all windows. (THREED.VBX and CTL3D.DLL are no longer required)
  - The "Find" dialog no longer covers other applications. It still stays on top of the main program window, but will not obstruct other apps when switching tasks.
  - You can now select your own font to be used in the text editor.
  - No more "wandering" list box cursor. The cursor now stays put on the current file name to avoid confusion (unless you move it yourself). This seemed to annoy a lot of users.
  - A more "user-friendly" menu structure. The custom files you add to the menu are no longer buried in a submenu. They now appear at the bottom of the "File" menu.
  - When restoring files, you can now select a file to restore directly from the "Browse" dialog if you switch directories.
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### **3. Packing List**

The **\*.INI-Navigator** is distributed in a compressed archive which does not include the file

VBRUN300.DLL required to run the program. If you do not already have a copy, the file VBRUN300.DLL can be downloaded from many bulletin board services or from a number of forum libraries on CompuServe. The compressed archive should contain the following files:

**ININAV.EXE**  
**ININAV.HLP**  
**READTHIS.WRI** (the file you are now reading)  
**CMDIALOG.VBX**  
**VBCTL3D.VBX**

If any files are missing from the archive, please contact the author at the address listed at the end of this file.

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## **4. Installation Instructions**

To install the program, follow these steps:

1. Extract the files from the compressed archive.
2. Copy the following files to the drive/directory of your choice:  
**ININAV.EXE**  
**ININAV.HLP**  
**READTHIS.WRI**  
**VBCTL3D.VBX**  
Please note that both **ININAV.EXE** and **ININAV.HLP** must reside in the same directory. Otherwise, the application will not be able to access its help file.
3. Copy the following files to your **WINDOWS\SYSTEM** directory:  
**CMDIALOG.VBX**  
**VBRUN300.DLL** (once obtained)
4. Add the program icon into the Program Manager as described in the Microsoft Windows user manual.
5. That's it!

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## **5. Limitations of the Unregistered Version**

The unregistered version of the **\*.INI-Navigator** is fully functional with the following exceptions:

- The **Print** command is not available, so files cannot be printed out. The Printer Setup function has been left enabled, however, to allow you to get an idea of how the printer-related dialog boxes look and feel. They're typical Windows.
- Only the WIN.INI file can be restored using the built-in restore feature. However, **all** INI-files can be backed up. The backup feature has not been crippled in any way.

The unregistered version also displays a start-up screen when run to allow you to enter your registration number. Once a registration number is entered, the start-up screen will no longer appear, the print function will be activated and the restore feature will allow you to restore any INI-file. In addition, all references to the program being an unregistered version will be gone

for good, and the menu item "Registering" will be removed from the Help menu.

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## **6. Tech Notes**

For the programmers and power users out there, some comments on the technical aspects of the program:

This program was written in Visual Basic for Windows 3.0. The reason: development time. I have found that I can develop a Windows app in about a quarter of the time it would take me to do it in C or Pascal. The drawback: Visual Basic places a number of constraints on the programmer and conventional programming techniques.

Yes, the ease of development has its price. There is absolutely no built in support for message processing (there is no message loop in a VB program. Well...uh..., there is one, you just don't ever see it). Callbacks and function pointers are not supported (directly). Functions in dynamic link libraries (DLLs) can be called from a VB program, but VB is not capable of creating DLLs itself. This sometimes creates some hurdles that can only be overcome by cranking up your C compiler or by using third party tools in the form of .DLL or .VBX files. VBX stands for Visual Basic eXtension - these files are dynamic link libraries designed specifically for use with Visual Basic programs (although MS Visual C++ newer versions of Borland C++ will also support their use).

An example: Many users have requested that when you double-click a section in the "Sections" list of the program, the section title should then appear at the *top* of the text editor, not at the bottom. This seemingly simple implementation is not possible without the use of a DLL which would allow for Windows message processing (due to the fact that the text editor window can vary in size). The smallest DLL/VBX I could find which would accomplish this task is about 17 KB, and I had to ask myself, "Is it worth it to add 17 KB to the program size just to implement this one feature?" I, personally, don't think so. However, I do plan to release a version of ININav shortly which will implement this feature. If you can afford the 17 KB and feel the extra comfort is worth it, look for version 4.1 shortly. Other than this feature, 4.1 will be identical to this (4.0) version.

I must admit, I am not an enthusiastic supporter of VBX files. There have been many problems reported with version incompatibility (there are numerous versions of the same VBX file floating around) and I try to stay away from them whenever possible (but sometimes, there's no getting around using them). However, the \*.INI-Navigator does use two VBX files: VBCTL3D.VBX and CMDIALOG.VBX. Here's why:

More and more Windows programs today incorporate a 3-D interface design. This not only gives a more attractive look to the program, but also aids in orienting the user visually. The Microsoft Corporation has publicly released a dynamic link library "CTL3D.DLL" which many developers have used to implement this 3-D look. It subclasses standard window classes to display dialogs and controls in a 3-D look. But... since CTL3D is not able to subclass superclasses of standard windows and controls, it doesn't work with Visual Basic [all VB forms (windows) and control elements are superclasses of standard Windows window classes...hope you're following this].

Enter VBCTL3D.VBX. This custom control file allows standard VB windows and controls to be displayed in 3D. The advantage of using this file instead of THREED.VBX is that no new control classes need to be loaded at run time, the file is half the size and the overall visual effect is extremely close to the look achieved by Microsoft's CTL3D.DLL.

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## **7. General Information**

The **\*.INI-Navigator** is a shareware program. This means, it may be freely copied and distributed without the author's permission, provided certain conditions are met. You'll find an detailed explanation of these conditions as well as instructions on how to register your copy (shareware does not mean free software) in the program's on-line help. Please read this information carefully.

Those of you who use CompuServe can register very easily using the CompuServe Shareware Registration Service. Just type GO SWREG at any ! prompt and follow the menus. The Registration Database ID Number for the **\*.INI-Navigator** is **911**.

**From the author:**

First of all, thank you for giving this program a try. I'm sure you'll find it a more than viable alternative to Windows' SysEdit or any other text editor when it comes to working with Windows INI-files.

Next, I want to let you know that I am not an advocate of "cripple-ware". I decided a minimal function limitation would, however, still allow for a fair evaluation of the program, and give the user who registers some reward for his honesty and effort. I, personally, get really bugged when I install a new shareware program on my computer only to find I can't do anything with it until I cough up the registration fee. How do I know if I want to register if I can't see how the program works to begin with???

With ININav, you should be able to judge if the program is worth registering or not. I hope you'll find that it is. I feel that the registration fee is reasonable for a program of this type and quality.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me and share your opinions and ideas. Your input is very important. I want to make the next version even better, so let me know what you'd like to see in future versions. Almost all of what has been introduced in this version of ININav was suggested its users. After all, this program is for you.

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Germany**

You can also contact me via CompuServe. My CIS User ID. is:  
100140,1156

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End of **READTHIS.WRI**