

Introduction

LocoView is so easy to use and intuitive that most users only need to consult the manual once. A quick review of the basics is all that is necessary for full enjoyment of hassle free graphics viewing. The fact that LocoView is so simple to use that it doesn't even require (or have) menus should not be mistaken for a lack of sophistication. In fact LocoView's 32 bit graphics engine and intuitive interface represent the state of the art in computer image viewing. LocoView was designed to be used entirely with a mouse, with a view toward ease and speed. It is not necessary to manually unload an image before loading the next and, consequently, it is possible to view hundreds of files in scarcely more than the time it takes your drive to load them. Nevertheless, the keyboard can be used to activate all command buttons, and check boxes. While LocoView can certainly be used to view a single image or a small number of images, it's speedy design becomes obvious when large numbers of files are viewed.

To fully appreciate the quality of LocoView's image display it is recommended that your computer's display adapter be set for at least 256 colors for viewing .GIF, older .PCX , and other files with limited color depth and at least 64k colors for .JPG and other color rich formats. If possible, setting your video card for 24bit, or "true color" will give the best possible results where high quality images are concerned.

There are two basic screens in LocoView, the Selection Screen, and the Viewing Screen. The Selection screen is where LocoView begins and where the user selects the location in which the graphics files are located. Once a drive, directory, and file are selected, LocoView switches to the Viewing Screen where the entire directory of graphic image files are available for manual or automatic viewing.

Selection Screen Overview

The opening LocoView screen is used for selecting the drive and directory where the files you wish to view are stored. The Windows 95 Help system and documentation now refer to directories as “folders” but, with the exception of support for longer names, they are the same as the directories of old. At the upper left hand corner of the screen is the familiar drop down drive list from which the appropriate Hard Disk, Floppy Disk, or CD-ROM drive is selected. Networked drives also appear in the drive list and are as easy to use as local drives. Below the drive list is the directory (folder) box from which the appropriate directory is selected. It should be noted that, as with most of the common Windows dialog boxes, directories must be double clicked while drives require only a single click.

Once a drive and directory are selected, the file list box in the lower left corner of the screen will contain the names of the files in the selected directory that match the pattern in the box directly above the file list. The default is to show all supported image files based on the filename extension. The checkboxes to the right of the file list can be used to filter the list of files to show any combination of supported file formats. One or all of the supported formats can be selected as well as all possible combinations. To select a file format, either click the appropriate box (point to the box with the mouse and tap the left button) or use the tab key to get to the appropriate box and then select it with the space bar. As soon as you select a file the screen changes to the image viewing mode. For this reason, it is best to use the mouse to scroll down the file list if you wish to begin viewing anywhere but at the beginning or end of the list. You can start viewing at the end of the file list by tabbing to the file list box and pressing the “END” key (under the “HOME” key) or by scrolling the list box with the mouse and clicking the last file. You can also click the first file and then the “PREV” button (with Continuous View enabled) to quickly view the last file in a long list. You can begin viewing at any file and, as explained below, you can view files in forward or reverse order manually or automatically.

On-screen instructions can be viewed from the file selection screen at any time by clicking the “Instructions” button, or by tabbing to the button and pressing the “ENTER” (Return) key. For information on a specific screen element see it’s separate topic.

Selection Screen Elements

The opening LocoView screen is the Selection Screen. Here the drive, directory, and first file to be viewed are selected. The following is a list of the various elements of the Selection Screen:

Drive selector box

Directory (Folder) selector box

Pattern display box

File Format checkboxes

File selector box

Instructions command button

Exit command button

Drive selection

To select the drive on which the desired files are located, click the Down Arrow button to the right of the drop down drive list box and click the letter of the appropriate hard, floppy, or CD-ROM drive. Networked drives also appear in the drive list and are as easy to use as local drives. You can select a drive with the keyboard by using the **TAB** key to move the focus to the drive selection box and then using the **DOWN ARROW** key to select a drive, or by typing a valid drive letter.

Directory (Folder) selection

To select the directory (folder) where the desired files are located, double click the uppermost directory (the “Root” directory) in the directory selection box located just below the drive selection box. Next, double click the main directory where the files are located, then double click any sub-directories necessary to get the target sub-directory in view, and double click the target sub-directory as well.

Pattern selection

The pattern box located just below the directory selection box indicates which files will be listed in the filelist box below it, based on file types selected and the filename extensions of the files in the target directory. By default, LocoView shows all supported image files based on the filename extension. The checkboxes to the right of the file list can be used to filter the list of files to show any combination of supported file formats. One or all of the supported formats can be selected as well as all possible combinations.

File Format selection

To select a file format, either click the appropriate checkbox (point to the box with the mouse and tap the left button) or use the **TAB** key to get to the appropriate checkbox and then select it with the **SPACE BAR**.

Together, the formats checked form the pattern used by LocoView to determine which files to show.

File selection

To select a file from the list, use the mouse to scroll through the names in the filelist then click the desired file's name. You can use the keyboard to select either the first or last file in the list, but not to select other files in the list. To select the first file, use the **TAB** key to move the focus to the filelist and press the **DOWN ARROW** key. To select the last file in the list use the **TAB** key to move the focus to the file list box and press the **END** key (under the **HOME** key).

Instructions

The “Instructions” command button is used to display a quick set of instructions on screen without loading the Windows95 help system.

Exiting LocoView

The “Exit” command button is available at all times. When activated, LocoView will terminate immediately, without the delay of a confirming dialog box.

The Image Viewing Screen

Once the first file has been selected, the next or previous file in the list can be viewed by clicking the “Next” or “Prev” buttons with the mouse. All command buttons can also be activated by tabbing to the button and pressing the “ENTER” key. The name and path of the currently displayed file appears in the box at the upper right hand corner of the screen. You can return to the directory/file selection screen at any time by selecting the “File” button located at the top of the viewing screen to the right of center. When you return to the file selection screen, the name of the last file viewed remains visible in the file name box.

Just to the right of the “File” button is the “Exit” button which is used to quit the program immediately. There is no confirming dialog box so quitting LocoView is as fast as all its other functions. Also, the “Clr” button immediately removes the image from the screen which can be helpful for security or privacy considerations.

Unlike many viewers, when you select a corrupted or otherwise unviewable file, the most common response from LocoView is for the screen to simply remain blank.. It is rare for LocoView to choke on bad files or spontaneously abort as a result of errors. This stability will be greatly appreciated by users who do a lot of downloading from the Internet. Despite the great pains taken to make LocoView as bullet-proof as it can possibly be, a truly rogue file CAN cause a problem, but these are in the nature of graphics viewing and not the fault of LocoView. In addition to the improvements incorporated into Windows95 which result in far fewer memory leaks and system resource shortfalls, LocoView is designed so that hundreds of images can be viewed at a sitting without any concern for the eventual depletion of system and Graphical resources.

For information about a specific element of the Viewing Screen, see the topic on that item.

Pan and Zoom

By default LocoView displays images automatically in full screen, Auto-Fit mode. The correct ratio of width to height (called the aspect ratio) is automatically maintained so as to eliminate distortion while making maximum use of screen real-estate. In some cases you may prefer to view images in their normal resolution which may or may not fit in the image viewing window. To view images at their normal size simply uncheck the check box marked "Fit" using the mouse or spacebar. This can be done at any time and returned to at any time without leaving the view screen. You can also Pan and Zoom as described below even when the image is initially loaded in auto-Fit mode and you can do so without shutting off the auto-fit feature.

When auto-fit is disabled or overridden, the image may be initially too large to fit in the window or may become too large because of manual zooming. To see the parts of an image that aren't currently on-screen you have several options. You can pan the image by using the "Up", "Dn", "Lf", and "Rt" buttons to move the image in any direction. Each direction has two buttons, one of which is labeled in a bold font. The buttons with the bold labels move the image three times as far as the non-bold buttons.

Another way to view a large image is to use the "Out" button to zoom out from the image until it fits in the screen. Each click of the "In" or "Out" buttons changes the image size by 20% in the indicated direction. Also, right-clicking the viewing area with the mouse zooms out by 20% AND roughly centers the point clicked on the screen. Likewise, left-clicking any part of an image moves the point clicked to the approximate center of the screen and zooms in by 20%. Using the zoom feature it is possible to view high resolution images in very intricate detail and the auto-centering feature makes it unnecessary to pan the image each time the zoom is changed. Pressing the "Home" button in the upper left hand corner of the screen (not the "Home" key on the keyboard) removes any zooming in or out and puts the image back in the upper left hand corner of the screen.

The Slideshow

Perhaps the handiest feature of LocoView is the ability to automatically cycle through a directory of files at user selectable time intervals. To begin showing files automatically, just enter an amount of time, in seconds (up to 60), in the small blue box at the top of the screen next to the "Stop" button. The interval should be selected with the size of the files to be viewed in mind. Large files that take several seconds to load will only be visible for a moment if the interval in use is shorter than the load time. If you enter a positive number, the next file in the list is loaded after each interval. Entering a negative number causes the previous file in the list to be loaded at the specified intervals. You can stop the automatic cycling at any time by pressing the "Stop" button or by clearing the number in the blue box. For convenience, a single click of the mouse in the time interval box will start the slideshow using a 10 second interval. Double clicking the interval box starts the slideshow going backwards with an interval of 10 seconds. You can start the slideshow at any point, interrupt at any point, and continue on at any point without any special setup and without having to start from the beginning after interrupting. This is especially handy when you have many files and wish to cycle quickly through them, stopping occasionally to view an image of interest in more detail. Bear in mind that a blank screen generally means a bad or corrupted file that usually does not cause any difficulty other than a brief blank screen. There are no dialog boxes to clear before continuing and the program rarely quits unexpectedly. In the very rare instance that LocoView(or any other Windows program) should quit spontaneously it is advisable to restart Windows before proceeding. Given the variety of implementations of most graphics file formats, the imperfections of data transmission over telephone lines, and a plethora of other technical factors beyond the control of programmers and end users, there will be occasions when LocoView will choke on a file but great pains have been taken to insure that this is rare, particularly as regards the more popular .GIF, .JPG, and .BMP formats.

Viewing Screen Elements

File controls:

Prev (Previous) command button

Next

File command button

Filename display box

Zoom controls:

In command button

Out command button

Panning controls:

Lf, Lf_ (Left) command buttons

Rt, Rt_ (Right) command buttons

Up, Up command buttons

Dn, Dn_ (Down) command buttons

Slideshow controls:

Blue Box

Stop command button

Other controls:

Fit checkbox

Clr_ (Clear) command button

Home command button

Status Bar

Exit command button

Prev (Previous)

The “Prev” command button is used to display the image file that appears in the filelist box just above the current file.

Next

The “Next” command button is used to display the image file that appears in the filelist box just after the current file.

In

The “In” command button is used to zoom in on the currently displayed image by a factor of 20%. The effect of this is to make the image 20% bigger. A single left click on an image will also zoom in by 20%, and it will move the point clicked to the approximate center of the screen.

Out

The “Out” command button is used to zoom out from the currently displayed image by a factor of 20%. The effect of this is to make the image 20% smaller. A single Right click on an image will also zoom out by 20%, and it will move the point clicked to the approximate center of the screen.

Lf, Lf (Left)

The “Left”, and bold Left command buttons are used to pan the image, moving it to the left relative to the fixed screen. The bold labeled button moves the image 3 times as far as the non-bold button. At a zoom factor of 1 (no zoom), it takes approximately 5 clicks of the bold button to move the image the width of the screen.

Rt, Rt (Right)

The “Right”, and bold Right command buttons are used to pan the image, moving it to the right relative to the fixed screen. The bold labeled button moves the image 3 times as far as the non-bold button. At a zoom factor of 1 (no zoom), it takes approximately 5 clicks of the bold button to move the image the width of the screen.

Up, Up

The “Up”, and bold Up command buttons are used to pan the image, moving it up relative to the fixed screen. The bold labeled button moves the image 3 times as far as the non-bold button. At a zoom factor of 1 (no zoom), it takes approximately 4 clicks of the bold button to move the image the height of the screen.

Dn, Dn (Down)

The “Down”, and bold Down command buttons are used to pan the image, moving it down relative to the fixed screen. The bold labeled button moves the image 3 times as far as the non-bold button. At a zoom factor of 1 (no zoom), it takes approximately 4 clicks of the bold button to move the image the width of the screen.

Blue Box

The blue box at the top of the view screen (next to the “Stop” button) is used to enter a time interval, in seconds, for the slideshow feature. This is the amount of time LocoView will pause between images. A single click in this box will set the timer to 10 seconds. Double clicking the blue box sets the timer to minus 10 seconds, making the slideshow go backwards at 10 second intervals. The maximum interval is 60 seconds.

Stop

The “Stop” button clears the slideshow time interval (Blue Box), stopping the automatic cycling of images displayed.

Fit

When the “Fit” box is checked, images are displayed using LocoView’s autofit feature. Autofit automatically sizes each image so that it uses the maximum amount of the viewing area while maintaining the proper ratio of width to height. This ratio, called the “aspect ratio” must be maintained in order to avoid distorting the image.

File

The “File” command button returns LocoView to the Directory/File selection screen.

Filename

The filename box is located at the upper right hand corner in all screens. The name of the currently selected file is shown in this box if one is currently selected. If no file is selected, this box will indicate the name of the last file that was selected

Clr (Clear)

The “Clear” button is used to immediately remove an image from the screen. There are no confirming dialog boxes to delay the removal of the image. The clear command can be useful when security, or privacy is an issue.

Home

The “Home” command button is used to undo all panning (movement) and zooming (resizing) of the displayed image, including any autofit adjustments. You can move the image to the upper left of the screen and change the zoom to a factor of 1 (no zoom) at any time, even when the autofit feature is enabled.

Status Bar

The gray strip at the bottom of LocoView is the status bar. When the mouse is moved over most controls, a brief explanation of that control appears in the status bar to remind the user of the function of that control.

Registration and Technical Support

LocoView is neither Public domain software nor freeware, it is Shareware. This means that the publisher of LocoView is willing to let you try it before you spend a penny of your hard earned money. You are invited and encouraged to put it through it's paces, take it for a few test drives, kick the tires, and see what it can do. Side by side comparison with other viewers is highly recommended so that you can really appreciate how technically advanced LocoView is and how utterly painless it is to use. LocoView does not try to be a doer of all things graphical, but rather it does one thing exceptionally well, namely viewing graphical images.

After you have fully tested LocoView, if you don't feel that it meets your needs simply quit using it and you will be out nothing. This is one of several major benefits of the Shareware concept. You will note below that another big advantage to the Shareware distribution method is dramatically lower marketing costs compared to software that is shrink wrapped on a retailer's shelf. Advertising and other marketing costs often exceed the cost of employing the actual authors of commercial software distributed through retail outlets, which is why a product like LocoView, and Shareware in general, can be as good as, or better than software costing many times as much. Please feel free to pass the complete LocoView package on to as many friends as you like as long as you distribute all the original unaltered files together. If you like LocoView and would like to receive the latest edition, a printed manual, technical support, notices of future releases and discounts on related products, you should register your copy. Please see the file "Register.Txt" for complete details on how to order LocoView95 by fax, phone, e-mail, snail mail, or the CompuServe registration system. Payment options include checks, credit cards, money orders, or your CServe account. Please have the information requested in the file "OrdrFrm.Txt" handy when ordering and please do not call the ordering phone numbers except to order.

It should be noted that although technical support is not included until your copy is registered, any help you may need to get LocoView95 up and running will be cheerfully provided at no charge. Registered users are entitled to unlimited technical support via e-mail or regular mail for a period of one year. Send your questions, comments, and suggestions to:

Richard Palermo on CompuServe 70754,2475 (70754.2475@compuserve.com via Internet) or to:
tonyp@vivid.net on the Internet.

ASP Ombudsman



This program is produced by a member of the Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP). ASP wants to make sure that the shareware principle works for you. If you are unable to resolve a shareware-related problem with an ASP member by contacting the member directly, ASP may be able to help. The ASP Ombudsman can help you resolve a dispute or problem with an ASP member, but does not provide technical support for members' products. Please write to the ASP Ombudsman at 545 Grover Road, Muskegon, MI 49442-9427 USA, FAX 616-788-2765 or send a CompuServe message via CompuServe Mail to ASP Ombudsman 70007,3536.

Shareware Version Limitations

The opening countdown screen in the shareware version of LocoView95 will reappear on exiting LocoView95 as a reminder to the user to register. This screen does not appear ever in the registered version.

Supported File Formats

LocoView can display the .BMP, .DIB, .GIF, .JPG, .MAC, .MSP, .PCX, .PNG, .TGA, .TIF, and .WMF graphics file formats in their standard implementations. The user is reminded that some standards are a lot more standard than other standards.

.BMP

Microsoft Windows Bitmap

.DIB

Windows Device Independent Bitmap

.GIF

Graphics Interchange Format

.JPG

JPEG File Interchange Format

.MAC

Macintosh Paint

.MSP

Microsoft Paint

.PCX

PC Paintbrush File Format

.PNG

Portable Network Graphic Format

.TGA

Truevision Graphics Adapter, Targa Graphics

.TIF

Tag Image File Format or TIFF

.WMF

Microsoft Windows Metafile

Uninstalling LocoView

You can uninstall LocoView at any time by following the procedure below. You **MUST** uninstall LocoView if you do not register and pay the license fee after a reasonable evaluation period. To remove LocoView from your system:

1. Double click the “My Computer” icon on your Windows95 desktop
2. Double click the “Control Panel” icon
3. Double click “Add/Remove Programs”
4. Select the “Install/Uninstall” tab
5. Select LocoView95
6. Click the “Add/Remove” button
7. Click “Yes” to confirm removal of LocoView95

