

Installation

Valet consists of three files: VALET.EXE, VALET.HLP, and CMDIALOG.VBX. Installing Valet is as easy as copying the VALET.* files to any directory you wish to install them in (I recommend using the same directory as Visual Basic, but all of us have our own preferences for how we configure our machines), and copying the CMDIALOG.VBX file to your Windows system directory (i.e. C:\WIN31\SYSTEM). Once the Valet files are where you want them, simply run the VALET.EXE program. The first time Valet is run it will prompt you to locate Visual Basic for it. Valet needs to know the location of Visual Basic so that it can start VB whenever it starts. This step is made easier with the BROWSE button that uses a common dialog box to find the VB.EXE file.

Once Valet is up and running you will want to get some files into the Help list, Text list, and Add File to Project menu features. This can be done by clicking on the Show Menu button and selecting File ... Add File Maintenance from the menu bar. With this dialog you can add, maintain, and delete entries from each of the option lists. My preferred method though is to use File Manager and Drag-N-Drop. With this method you simply select the files you wish to set up in File Manager and drag them to the Valet icon or form. When you drop the files on Valet you automatically go to the add new item dialog box. Here you can type in the description of the file as you would like it to appear in the lists or on the menu. By default the description is equal to the file's name. Also in this dialog is how you control where the file is added to Valet. By default, all .HLP files go to the help list, all .VBX, .BAS, and .FRM files go to the Add Items, and all others, including .TXT and .EXE, go to the Text and other files list. NOTE: Drag-N-Drop can also be used to open a MAK file.

Automatically Loading a Project

Valet, like Visual Basic, accepts a project name as a parameter to the program when you run it. If you start Valet with a valid project name, the project will automatically be opened. Also if a log entry exists for the project, the log will be started.

Associating .MAK Files with Valet

When Visual Basic is installed, it associates the .MAK extension with itself. This allows you to click on a .MAK file in File Manager and start Visual Basic with the selected project file. This also allows you to create icons in Program Manager without having to specify the program to be used to load it. By changing the association for .MAK files to VALET.EXE, you will always be able to have Valet ready when you are working on Visual Basic applications. This is very handy, as I never use Visual Basic without Valet. The association can be changed in File Manager by selecting a MAK file and then doing a File Associate from the menu and selecting VALET.EXE.