

Auto Exec Help Index



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Introduction

AutoExec augments the standard "Load" and "Run" entries of Win.Ini with an easily altered list of startup applications. This utility is intended for those persons who frequently modify their Win.Ini to automatically start different applications.

Load: Specifies one or more applications that are to be run as icons when Windows is started. This value is a list of one or more filenames of applications, or documents that are associated with an application, each separated by a space.

Run: Tells Windows to run one or more specified applications when Windows is started. The value is a list of one or more filenames of applications, or documents associated with applications, each separated by a space.

Installation

The AutoExec.Exe file can be located in any directory (assuming full path is specified on the "Run" line of the Win.Ini). The Visual Basic runtime library, VBRUN100.DLL, should be located in the default Windows directory or on the system search path. AutoExec.Ini and AutoExec.Hlp must be located in the Windows directory.

AutoExec.ini is a comma-separated-values (CSV) file used to store AutoExec settings. The format of this file is similar, but not identical, to the format of standard Windows ".ini" files. This file must be located in the default Windows directory. The CSV file format was used to simplify I/O using Visual Basic.

AutoExec.Hlp is standard Windows 3.0 Help file (obviously since that's what you are probably using to read this!). This file must be located in the Windows directory.

AutoExec Window

The AutoExec Window is displayed when the application starts and lists up to ten applications eligible for automatic startup. Eligible applications are listed as checkboxes, with a checked box indicating whether the application is to be started.

A user specified countdown timer begins running when AutoExec loads. Prior to the timer expiring the user may take one of several options:

1. Select or deselect applications ('Application' checkboxes)
2. Start selected applications immediately ('Start Now' button)
3. Modify AutoExec settings ('Modify Settings...' button)
4. Request help ('Help...' button)
5. Cancel processing ('Cancel' button).

Note that changes made to application checkboxes will be saved for the next running of AutoExec.

Modify Settings Window

The Modify Settings window is displayed when the 'Modify Settings...' button is pressed prior to the countdown timer expiring. This window allows up to ten applications to be defined for automatic start. Each application defined here will appear as an application button on the AutoExec window.

There are three ways one can navigate from application to application in the Modify Settings Window:

1. Pull down the "Edit" menu and select "Next" or "Previous"
2. Press the "<--" or "-->" buttons
3. Select an item from the "Modify" combo box.

Note that a hesitation is normal when moving from application to application within the Modify Settings Window. This hesitation occurs as AutoExec validates that the named executable can be found in the startup directory or on the system path.

Application Startup Settings can be modified once an application is located using one of the above techniques. A new application can be added by locating an empty 'slot' and providing any needed information.

The current application entry can be deleted by pressing the 'Delete' button. Entries above the current application will be shifted into the newly vacated slot. A new entry can be inserted by pressing the 'Insert' button. A blank slot must exist above the insert point.

Application Startup Settings

AutoExec is controlled by settings stored in AutoExec.Ini and maintained by the Modify Settings window:

AutoExec Window Specific:

Initial Greeting: Greeting displayed at the top of AutoExec window.

Count Down: Number of seconds to wait before checked applications are started.

Application Specific (for each of up to 10 applications):

Button Name: Name of application as will be displayed by the AutoExec window.

Startup Path: Path to "Chdir" into prior to starting application (drive and directory).

Executable: Name of executable to be run. The executable must be an EXE, COM, BAT, or PIF. Associations are not supported by this version of AutoExec.

Command: Command line argument to be passed to the started application. A leading "?" will cause the remainder of the argument to be used as a prompt for input. The input will then be passed to the started application.

Window State: Initial state of application window (Minimized, Normal, or Maximized).

Installation Disk Contents

AutoExec.Exe - Executable File
AutoExec.Ini - Initialization File
AutoExec.Hlp - Compiled Help File

Credits, License, and Warranty

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Software License

AutoExec is not intended to be free software. Non-registered users are granted a limited license to use the product to determine if it is suitable for their needs. A single user license permits a user to install the program on different computers, but may not use the program on more than one computer at the same time. The product may be distributed, in its original form, for the purposes of evaluation only. No modification of the program is permitted.

Limited Warranty

This warranty states that in no event will the author be liable for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use or the inability to use this product. If, within thirty days of registering the product, you are unsatisfied with it, your registration fee will be returned.

AUTOEXEC
A handy registration form

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I have found the AUTOEXEC application to be so functional that I am enclosing a nominal registration fee to cover its continued use:

- \$5 for an individual.
- \$15 for five corporate users.

User Identification

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ (optional)

I received my copy of AUTOEXEC from:

- CompuServe
- GENie
- Other _____

Bugs found, comments, suggestions, other:
