Too Cool Tool Cube

The Too Cool Tool Cube from A Priori Software is a lanch pad with an difference -- it has multiple faces to show to the user, just like a cube. The first two tools on the tool cube allow rotation of the faces to show the different groupings of tools so that you can work like you want to work!

Click on the items below for help on using the Too Cool Tool Cube

Installing The Tool Cube
Adding a Tool
Deleting a Tool
Changing the Icon
Configuring the Tool Cube
Configuring a Single Tool
Renaming a Cube Face
Adding a new Cube Face
Deleting a Cube Face
Changing the Button Size
Running a Program which is not an Installed Tool
Quitting Too Cool Tool Cube

Additional Information can be found by clicking the mouse on the topics below:

Limitations and Warranty
Registering Your Copy

About A-Priori Software

Installation

Run the Setup program included with the files. It will install the program and the necessary custom controls.

If you have the program and associated files without the setup program, then copy the VBX files to your SYSTEM directory under your Windows directory. Copy the executable file cube3.exe and all other files to the directory of your choice. Once you run it, it will create a directory under its current directory to store program icons that is uses for display.

If you want it to come up whenever you start windows, add the file to your Windows StartUp group.

Adding a Tool

There are two means for adding tools:
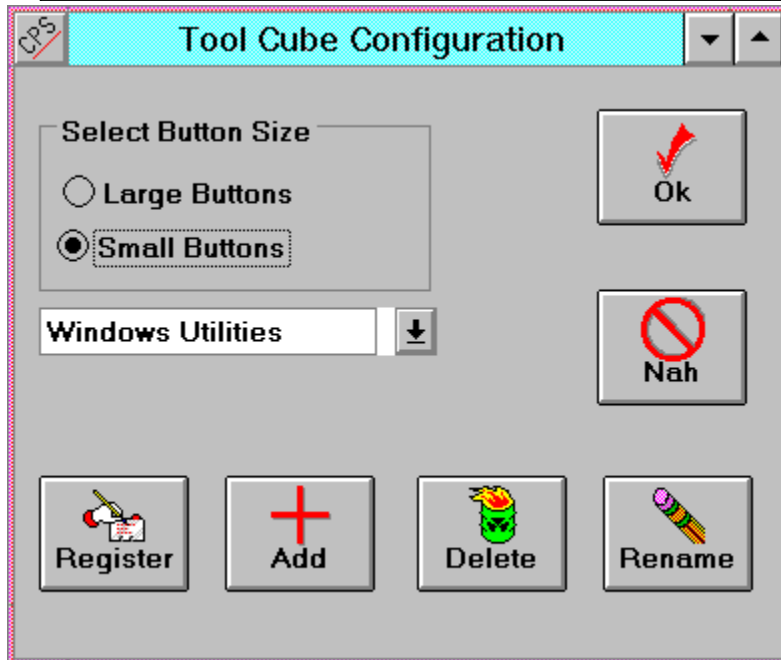
n   Drop the tool from the file manager

If you bring up the file manager, click on an executable file, and move the cursor while holding down the left mouse button, this is called dragging. You can drag a file from the file manager to the tool button. Releasing the button is called dropping. After you drop a tool on the selected tool button, it will be added to that button. Thereafter pressing on the button will activate that tool.

n   Click on an unused tool button

If you click on an unused tool button, a browse dialog will appear and allow you to track down the file you wish to add. Click on OK when you have selected the file you want. Clicking on CANCEL will abort the procedure.

See Configuring the Tool Cube

Configuring Too Cool Tool Cube

Tool Cube Configuration

Select Button Size

○ Large Buttons
◉ Small Buttons

Windows Utilities

Ok

Nah

Register   Add   Delete   Rename

The configure button (at left) brings up the configuration dialog (above). From this dialog you can:

n   Register your copy of Too Cool Tool Cube

n   Add a new Cube Face

n   Delete a Cube Face

n   Rename an Existing Cube Face

n   Change the Button Size

n   Select the currently visible cube face

Deleting a Tool

The easiest way to delete a tool is to bring up the Tool Configuration Menu. Select the Delete File Association option.

Another way to delete a tool, move the focus to the tool to be deleted and press the DEL key. The focus can be moved by either clicking on the tool button and moving the cursor off the button before letting up, or using the cursor keys to highlight the tool button desired.

You will be prompted to make sure its OK before the tool is actually deleted.

See Configuring a Single Tool

Configuring a Single Tool

To configure an individual tool, position the mouse cursor over the selected tool, and click the right mouse button. This brings up the Tool Configuration Menu. From here you can

n   Delete the tool

This option deletes the tool association and DOES NOT delete the executable file from the disk.

n   Replace the tool

This option brings up a file browser from which you may select an executable file to replace the current one associated with the tool.
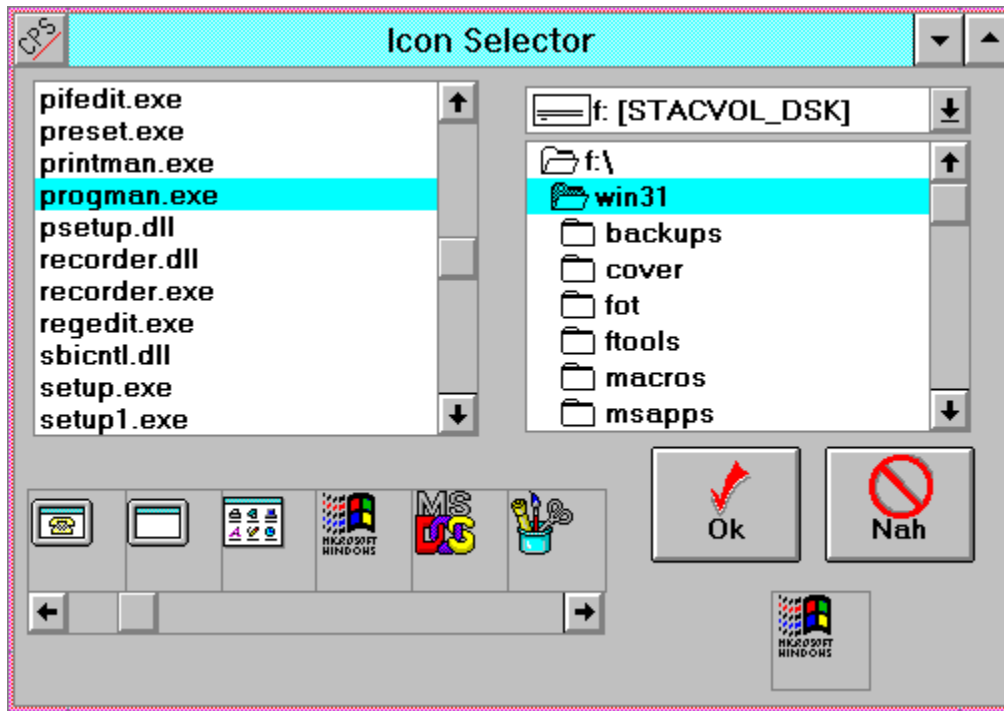
n   Change the icon

This option displays a browser box from which you may select an EXE or a DLL file which contains one or more icons. Then you may select any icon within the file to be used for the displayed icon for the tool.

n   Bring up the "About" dialog box.

This option displays an informative dialog box with the revision number for the Too Cool Tool Cube program you have.

Changing Icons

To change an icon, bring up the Tool Configuration Menu. From there, select "Change Icon." This brings up the Icon Browse Dialog box:

The file boxes allow you to set the drive, directory and file desired. When you see the correct file, double click on the filename to select that file. When you do so, the icon banner will display the icons available within that program. The scroll bars will allow you to see move icons if the file contains too many to display.

Once you see the icon you want, click on it in the icon banner and it will be displayed below the OK button. To accept your choice, click on the OK button. To abort at any time, click on the NAH button.

Some of the icons within the PROGMAN.EXE program provided with windows are shown in the example above.

See Configuring a Single Tool

Adding a Cube Face

Adding faces to the cube is easy. The fourth button is the configuration button. Click on that button and the configuration dialog appears. The click on the Add button on that dialog and you will be prompted for the name of the tool cube face. Generally, the best approach is to use functional grouping so you might have tool faces with names like "Word Processing Tools", "File Management Tools", and "Mathematical Tools".

See Configuring the Tool Cube

Deleting a Cube Face

Deleting a Cube face is easy. Click on the Configure Tool (Fourth Button) and select the face to delete from the list box. Click on the Delete Face button. You will be asked if you're sure. If you are, click on OK, and the face will be deleted. You cannot delete a face if only one exists.

See Configuring the Tool Cube

Changing Button Size

The Configure Tool allows you to set the button size. Select it (it is the fourth tool) and then use the mouse to select the desired button size.

See Configuring the Tool Cube

Special Actions

The special actions button (the third button) allow you to:

n   Run a program which is not a tool

n   Quit the Too Cool Tool Cube

n   Register your copy of Too Cool Tool Cube

n   Return with no action

n   Exit Windows

n   Exit and Restart Windows

The dialog box looks like this:

Running a Non-tool Program

If you click on the Run button, you are presented with a file browse box to track down the executable file you want to run. Once selected, clicking on Ok executes it, while clicking on Cancel ignores the file selection.

Limitations and Warranty

There is no warranty whatsoever on this software. This software has been checked for errors and contains no known errors. However, if some error or feature should cause any damage A Priori and its agents are not liable. Your use of this software constitutes an agreement to the effect that the user assumes all liability for any and all damages from the use of this software.

If you disagree with the license agreement, you are prohibited from using the software and its use in that case is a violation of law.

Should you discover a problem with the software or a feature you would like changed or added, please contact us, and we will consider it.

Registering Your Copy

Registering your copy of Too Cool Tool Cube is easy and cheap. Just send $15 to

A Priori Software
5409 North Pass
McFarland, WI 53558

and we will send you a copy of the latest version when it appears. You will also get technical support should it be required. Most of all, you'll get the satisfaction for paying for quality software that makes your life easier.

A Priori Software

A Priori Software specializes in:

n   Numerical Analysis

n   Scientific Computing

n   Object Oriented Software Analysis and Design

n   Neural Networks and Fuzzy Logic

n   Real Time, High Reliability Embedded Systems

A Priori Software does both training and consulting.   We can be contacted at :

A Priori Software
5409 North Pass
McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-6189
Compuserve 70673,2715

Using A Tool

Once a tool is installed in the Too Cool Tool Cube, it can be run by:

n Positioning the cursor on the tool and click the left mouse button

n Dragging a file from the file manager and dropping it on the tool. This invokes the tool with the dragged file as a parameter. Dragging README.TXT to the NOTEPAD tool, for example, runs NOTEPAD and loads the file README.TXT (assuming you have installed NOTEPAD.EXE as a tool). If the tool is not associated with a program file, then this procedure will not work.

n Using the keyboard arrow keys move until the desired tool is highlighted, and then press the <ENTER> key.

A Priori Software

Developers of fine scientific, numeric, and object oriented software since 1980.

Tool Configuration Menu

This menu is brought up by positioning the mouse cursor over the desired tool and clicking with the right mouse button.