

Welcome to Dashboard 95

README File

This document contains some last-minute news and information about Dashboard 95. Please read through this document carefully.

A Suggestion: Print copies of this document and store it with your Dashboard *User's Guide*. This way all of the information for using Dashboard 95 will be in one place.

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1. Summary of new features

- Dashboard 95 is specifically designed to work with Windows 95 and Windows NT 3.51, providing a fast and easy interface for finding and launching all your programs.
- Quick Launch buttons can now be organized in groups, displayed as tabs. Three system groups are pre-defined (when Dashboard is installed on Windows 95 systems):
 - Desktop, containing the shortcuts found on your Windows 95 desktop;
 - Documents, containing the documents you have recently accessed (the documents found on your Start menu Documents folder);
 - Layouts, containing all Dashboard Layouts you have defined.
- The first time you run Dashboard 95, the AppOrganizer scans to find installed programs it recognizes, and arranges them into Quick Launch groups, including Utilities, Internet, and Suites (such as Microsoft Office).
- The Quick Launch panel snaps off and attaches to any side of your screen, so you can easily find and launch your favorite applications without having to go through several menu levels. You can configure it to work like a separate toolbar for launching applications, and can even set it to auto-hide.
- Dashboard's Taskbar can float as a separate panel on your Windows 95 desktop.
- Layouts now appear in a group of Quick Launch buttons, so you can launch multiple programs with one click on a layout button.
- The WinTools panel provides single-click access to the Windows 95 utilities you use most, such as Explorer, Find, and Control Panel.
- Dashboard 95 supports .WAV files for alarm sounds.
- On Windows 95 systems, the Resource panel displays even more system resources: CPU activity percentage, number of threads, and number of virtual machines running on your system.

2. Earlier versions of Dashboard

Before installing Dashboard 95, we recommend that you delete any earlier versions of Dashboard on your system (use DASHZAP.EXE to do this). If you do want to keep an earlier version of

Dashboard, be sure to install Dashboard 95 to a different directory, such as the default directory, Dashboard95.

3. Notes about Dashboard 95

Reinstalling Dashboard 95

If for any reason you need to re-install Dashboard 95, be sure to uninstall the existing version first. See Section 6 of this README file for information on uninstalling.

Dynamic resizing

When you snap on or off panels, or hide or remove panels, Dashboard 95 dynamically resizes itself. If a panel is not displayed properly, drag the borders of Dashboard 95, or hold down the Shift key and drag the edges of individual panels, as described on page 25 of the *User's Guide*.

When you resize Dashboard, the left edge remains anchored. So when you drag a panel's left border to enlarge it, the right edge of Dashboard moves to accommodate it. After resizing, drag Dashboard's title bar as needed to reposition it.

The Programs Panel

When you first install, the initial Programs Panel contains a tab for each folder in your Windows 95 Programs menu. Each application in both the Start menu and the Programs menu is put into a Programs Panel tab called Start Menu.

Long filenames containing spaces

Windows 95 permits you to use long filenames that included spaces when naming files or folders. However, in some procedures Windows 95 may have difficulty parsing a path and filename containing spaces. For example, in the procedure on page 47 of the *User's Guide*, it may be difficult to enter path/filename information containing spaces in a way that can be parsed correctly by Windows 95. In this case, you can use the Dashboard 95 Run command, and type DIR to locate the file and see the condensed version of path and filename that includes spaces. These names are automatically created by Windows 95 using the tilde (~) in place of deleted characters.

Programs that need manual editing in layouts

When you save layouts, some programs need editing of the launch information to run correctly. Open the Manage Layouts dialog box, click the layout and the application, and click the Edit button.

Microsoft Exchange Inbox: In the Parameters text box, enter the characters /i to open the Inbox.

MS-DOS prompt: Revise the Command Line text to read: COMMAND.COM

Running a Setup program

When using Dashboard Run to run a program, the working directory is defined as the directory currently displayed in the Run dialog box. However, some software setup programs work best if they are run from the current directory. To avoid setup errors, always change directories to wherever the setup program is located. That is, if you have a setup program on a disk in your A Drive, type

A: and press Enter. Then type

SETUP and press Enter
(instead of just typing A:\SETUP and pressing Enter.)

If drag-and-drop printing doesn't work

If a program does not print properly when you drag one of its documents to the current printer in the Dashboard printer panel, the program may not be registered with Windows 95 for printing. You can use the Windows 95 REGEDIT program to see if the program is registered for printing. In most cases, you must re-install the program in order to get a proper registration for Dashboard's drag-and-drop printing feature.

If a program loads, but its window doesn't appear

Sometimes a program will load but its window will not appear. This typically happens when a program's window was moved off of the screen and then the program was closed. The program will open again later, but because its window was off the screen when the program was closed, you can't see the window.

The first thing to do is to verify that the program is indeed open:

1. Hold down the Alt key and press the Tab key to cycle through the open programs. If the program you want is open, it will be listed in the Alt-Tab message box.

If the program is not listed in the Alt-Tab message box, then it did not load properly. In that case try to load it again from either Dashboard or the Windows Start Menu. If you still cannot open it, something is wrong with the program, not with Dashboard.

Release the Alt key when the program is listed.

2. Press Alt-Space to display the program's System menu, and then type the letter M to choose the Move command.

3. Use the arrow keys to bring the window back onto the screen. Press Enter when the program's window is positioned properly.

Tile and Cascade with Extended Screens

With Extended Screens displayed Full Size, you can Tile or Cascade open windows by right-clicking the extended screen and choosing the option you want from the shortcut menu. When Extended Screens are displayed in Compact view, there are buttons that let you choose the Tile or Cascade option you want (see the illustration on page 65 of the *User's Guide*).

Dashboard Task Manager

When you iconize Dashboard to the System Tray, you can open the Dashboard Task Manager by right-clicking the Dashboard icon and selecting Task Manager from the shortcut menu.

Drive Watch

When a floppy disk or CD-ROM is ejected, the relevant Drive Watch icon will change to read "Empty" and display a red symbol over the drive. When a floppy disk is reinserted, it is necessary to left-click on the red symbol to reactivate monitoring of that drive. Inserting a CD-ROM automatically resumes monitoring of that drive.

Changing the printer with old Windows applications

If you change the printer with a 16-bit (Windows 3.1) application running, you must close the 16-bit application and restart it before it will recognize the printer change.

Non-standard Windows applications

Non standard Windows applications, such as the Windows 95 Resource Meter and applications that cannot be maximized/minimized, will not display as tasks in Dashboard 95.

4. Running Dashboard 95 under Windows NT 3.51

When Dashboard 95 is loaded onto a Windows NT 3.51 system, the WinTools panel will not be visible, since this functionality is not currently supported by Windows NT 3.51. Also, the Program panel and CPU activity will not be visible, for the same reason. However, the Drive Watch window will function.

Win NT Notes

- With Layouts, you must edit the information for each application. In the Manage Layouts dialog box, select the layout in the upper window. Then click each application in the lower window, and click the Edit button. Add the program name and path in the Command Line box, and the working directory name in the Working Directory box.

- Printer paper orientation cannot always be displayed by Dashboard, because of Windows NT security features.

- Launching a program by dragging it to an extended screen opens the program in the current extended screen. You can then drag it to another extended screen if desired.

5. Corrections to the *User's Guide*

Page 45: The Launch Bar panel was omitted in the discussion of Quick Launch customize options. If you snap off the Quick Launch panel, you can use these options to attach it to any side of your screen, or have it "float". You also can set these options by right-clicking on the snapped-off Quick Launch panel.

Page 46: Please disregard the last paragraph (third bulleted item). Ctrl-drag of Quick Launch buttons is not implemented in this release.

Pages 77-82: References to the Program Manager should refer instead to the Windows 95 Program menu. Please also disregard references to program group files.

6. Removing Dashboard 95

To remove Dashboard 95, select the Dashboard 95 entry in the Add/Remove Programs facility of the Windows 95 Control Panel, and click the Remove button. Or you can choose Uninstall in the Dashboard 95 program group.