



# *ThumbsUp!*

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## Introduction



**ThumbsUp** is a graphic file previewer and selector which simplifies the process of locating specific graphics or clip-art files among many. It displays a small image (Thumbnail) of each file. You can use ThumbsUp to browse, view, crop, launch editors, and copy images to the clipboard. ThumbsUp will also create a slide show from selected graphics, and install bitmap files as Windows wallpaper. Though not designed primarily as a conversion tool, ThumbsUp can convert any image that it displays to the appropriate native windows format. ThumbsUp will also convert metafile graphics to bitmaps.

ThumbsUp currently handles the following types of files (more to be added with each subsequent version):

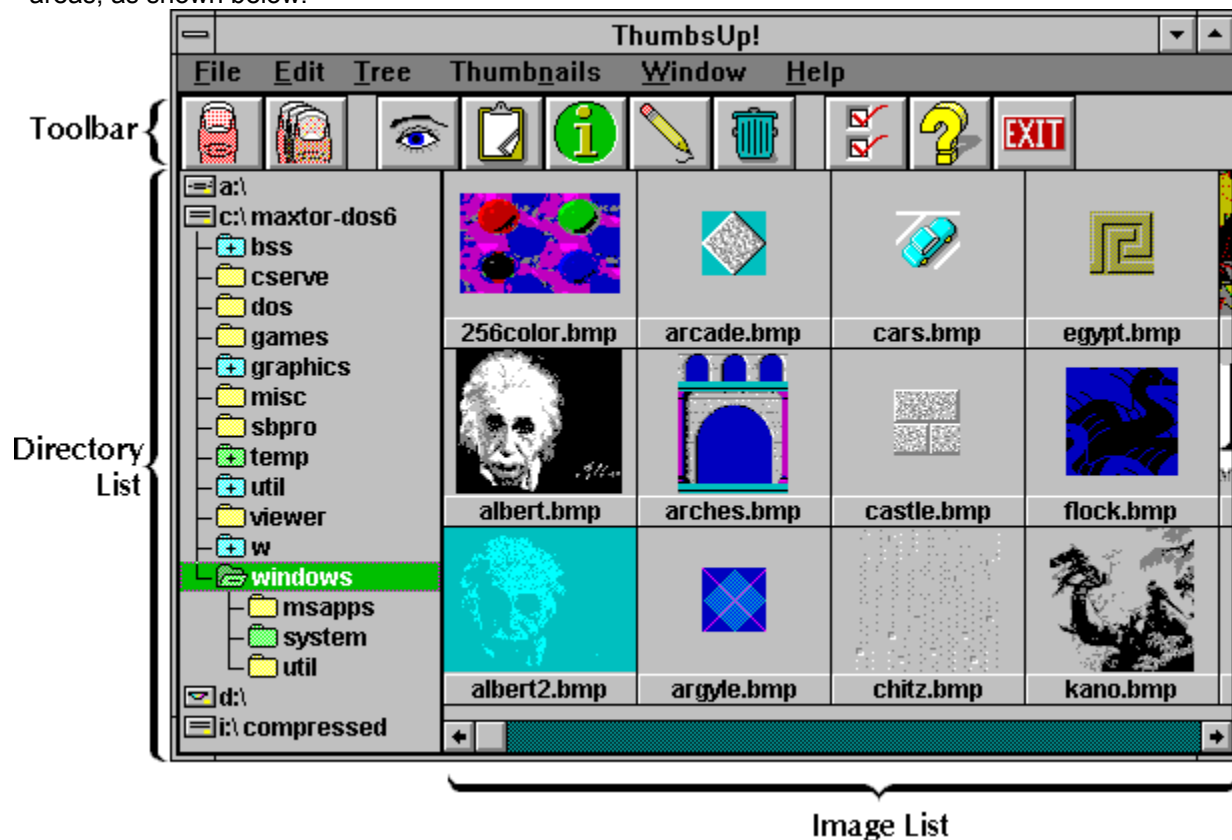
- .BMP        Windows Bitmap files (also recognizes .DIB and .RLE extensions)
- .WMF        Windows Metafiles and Placeable Metafiles
- .GIF        CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format files
- .PCX        ZSoft Picture files

By using the Graphics Import Filters supplied by Microsoft with **Word for Windows 2.0** and other packages, ThumbsUp will also handle these graphic file types:

- .CGM        Computer Graphics Metafiles
- .WPG        DrawPerfect graphics files
- .DRW        Micrografx Designer and Draw
- .HGL        HP Graphic Language
- .EPS        Encapsulated Postscript files
- .PIC        Lotus 1-2-3 Graphics files
- .PLT        AutoCAD Plot files
- .TIF        Tagged Image Format files

## Main Window

The main window consists of the normal Windows interface (title bar, menus, etc.) and three functional areas, as shown below:



The toolbar provides short-cuts to several frequently-used commands.

The **directory list** displays disks and directories from which you may select a directory to display.

Unless disabled from the Tree menu, directories are color-coded to indicate the presence of previously "nailed" images:



No images cataloged in this directory or its sub-directories.



No images cataloged in this directory, but some sub-directory contains images.



This directory contains images.

Selecting a directory works much like the Windows File Manager; most operations and menu short-cuts work similarly, although drag-and-drop to move directories or files is not yet implemented.

When you select a directory from the **directory list**, file names (and thumbnails, if generated), display in the **image list**.

You may select one or more files from the **image list** using standard Windows keystrokes or mouse clicks, then take action on the selected image(s), such as:



Generate thumbnails.



View the image.



Show information about the image.



Copy the first selected image to the clipboard.



Edit the first selected image.



Delete the images from the disk.

## Toolbar

Each available toolbar button is described below.



Makes thumbnail(s) for all selected files.



Makes thumbnails for all recognized files in the current directory.



Scans the current drive and creates thumbnails for all recognized files.



Opens view windows for all selected files, up to the maximum number of view windows specified in the General Options dialog box.



Copies the first selected file to the clipboard.



Displays an information window for the selected files. Click the **Next** button until information on all files has been displayed, or click **Cancel** to end the sequence.



If an editor for the file type of the first selected file has been defined, this will launch that editor. Editors are defined by the Editor Configuration dialog box.



Deletes the selected files. If deletion confirmation is enabled from the Confirmations dialog box, confirmation will be requested for each selected file.



Displays the General Options dialog box.



Displays the help for ThumbsUp!



Exits ThumbsUp!

## ThumbsUp Menus

File

Edit

Tree

Thumbnails

Window

**Help**

## File

File - View

File - Edit

File - Delete

File - Info

File - Wallpaper (Center)

File - Wallpaper (Tile)

File - Slide Show

File - Modify Options

File - Save Options

File - Restore Options

File - Register ThumbsUp

File - Print

File - Page Setup

File - Exit



### **File - View**

**Enter**

Opens a view window for each of the currently selected files, up to the maximum specified in the General Options dialog box. This option will be grayed if no files are selected.





## **File - Edit**

## **Shift+Enter**

Edits the first selected file by launching the editor defined for its file type. To modify the editor defined for a file type, select File - Modify Options - Editors.



## File - Info

F6

This option displays an information window for each selected file in turn. Press **Next** to continue to the next selected file or **Cancel** to stop.



### **File - Delete**

**Del**

Deletes the selected file(s). If confirmation of file deletion is selected from the Confirmations dialog box, you will be prompted whether or not to delete each file.

## **File - Wallpaper (Center)**

**F7**

If a valid Windows Bitmap file (.BMP, .DIB or .RLE) file is selected, it is installed as the current Windows wallpaper, centered on the screen.

## **File - Wallpaper (Tile)**

**Shift+F7**

If a valid Windows Bitmap file (.BMP, .DIB or .RLE) file is selected, it is installed as the current Windows wallpaper, tiled to fill the screen.

## **File - Slide Show**

**F8**

Displays the selected images one at a time, in full-screen mode, with a delay between images. Press any key or the left mouse button to end the slide show.

## **File - Modify Options**

General

Confirmations

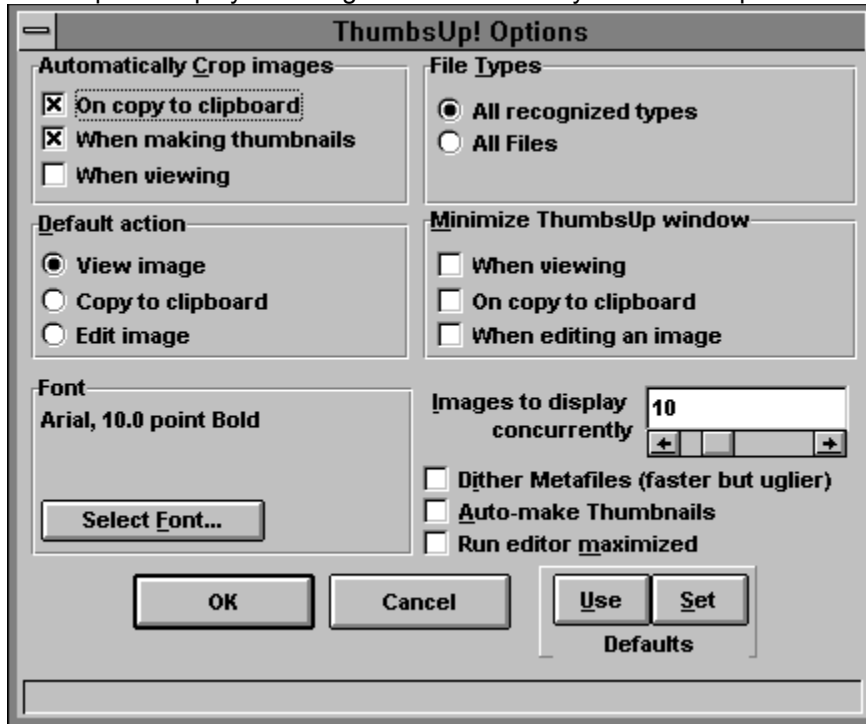
Editors



## File - Modify Options - General

Ctrl+O

This option displays a dialog box which allows you to set the parameters for the operation of ThumbsUp!



**Automatically Crop Images.** Automatically crops, by removing all continuous border of the same color, any image. This may be on or off for each of the following operations:

- On copy to clipboard
- When making thumbnails
- When viewing

**Default Action.** Selects the default action (taken for a double-click with the left mouse button). Select one of the following operations:

- View Image
- Copy to Clipboard
- Edit Image

**Font.** Shows the currently selected font for the **Image List** and the **Directory List** in the main window. Click on **Select Font** to change this font.

**File Types.** Click on **All Recognized Types** to display only recognized file types in the **Image List**, or on **All Types** to display all files.

**Minimize ThumbsUp Window.** Selects times when you would like the ThumbsUp main window to automatically reduce to an icon for less screen clutter; similar to the **Minimize on Use** option in the program manager. You may elect to minimize ThumbsUp at any of the following times:

- When viewing
- On copy to clipboard
- When editing an image

**Images to display concurrently.** Selects the maximum number of View windows which ThumbsUp can manage at one time. Select a number between 2 and 40.



**Dither Metafiles.** Windows Metafiles generally include 24-bit color information. On 256-color palette-based displays, these colors will be dithered. ThumbsUp generates (up to) 236-color palettes for displaying metafiles, resulting in much smoother displays. However, generating the palette and modifying the metafile display to take it into account slows the display process down. Select this option if you are in a hurry. Also select this option if you are using a 16-color or 24-million color display driver.

**Auto-make Thumbnails.** Causes ThumbsUp to automatically generate thumbnails for any file which it recognizes but has no thumbnail associated. File types processed by a Microsoft graphics import filter will **not** be automatically processed due to a limitation in Windows.

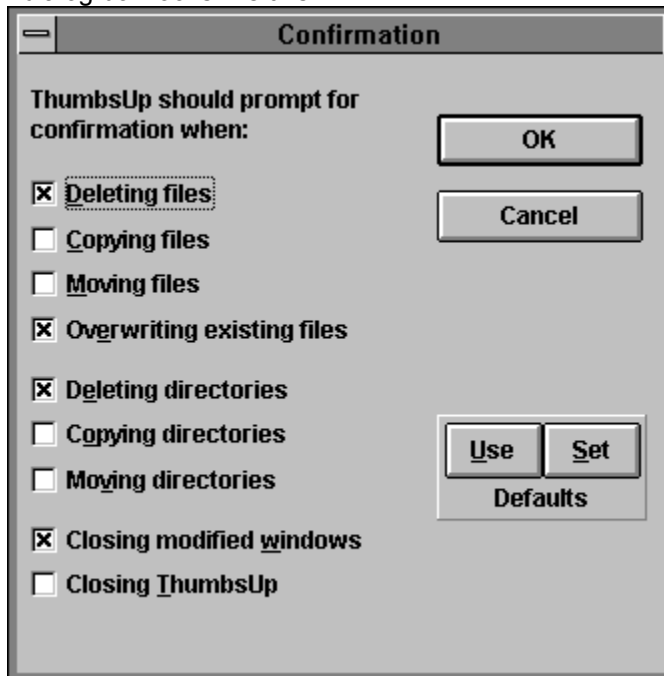
**Run editor maximized.** When you select this options, ThumbsUp maximizes editor applications when it runs them.

**Defaults - Use.** Reverts settings in this dialog box to those stored in the ThumbsUp! profile (.INI) file.

**Defaults - Set.** Saves the current settings as the defaults in your ThumbsUp! profile (.INI) file.

## File - Modify Options - Confirmations

This menu selection allows you to configure which items ThumbsUp! prompts for confirmation. For example, if you want ThumbsUp! to make sure before deleting files, that option should be checked. The dialog box looks like this:

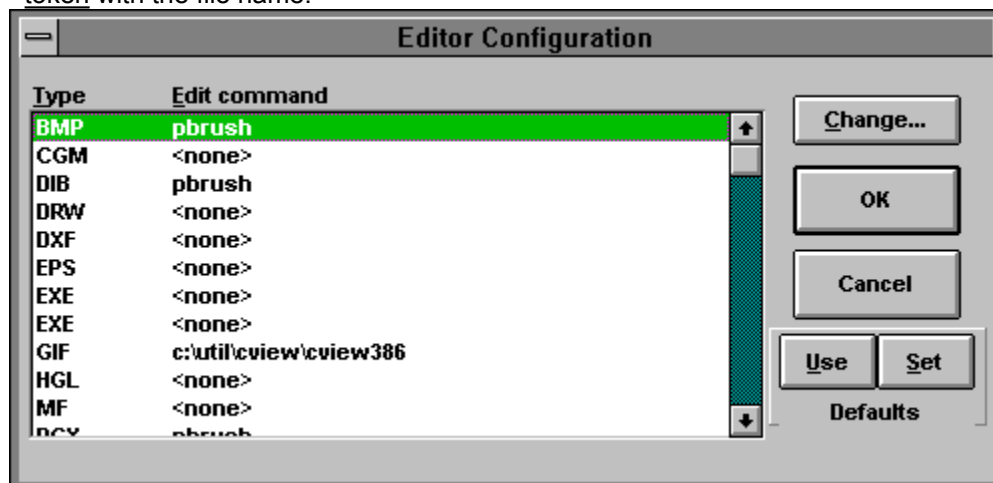


The items here are pretty much self-explanatory; however, some are listed in preparation for the next version of ThumbsUp!, which will include directory and file management similar to the **Windows File Manager**, including drag-and-drop to organize files and directories.

## File - Modify Options - Editors

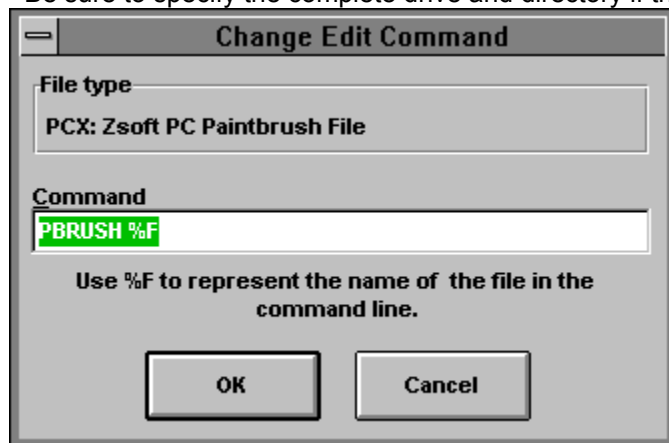
This option lets you specify graphics editor programs for each image type that ThumbsUp recognizes. When you select to edit an image, ThumbsUp! executes the editor specified here for that graphic file type.

As you can see in the picture of the dialog box below, each file type has a command associated with it. ThumbsUp executes the command, appending the file name after the program, or replacing the '%F' token with the file name.



If you specify a graphics program to edit a file type, make sure from its documentation that it supports loading a file from the command line. The '%F' option is provided to invoke editors that accept additional parameters after the file name. For most programs, you can simply enter the program name.

When you select to change an editor, enter the command to run the program in the following dialog box. Be sure to specify the complete drive and directory if the program is not in the default path.



## File - Save Options

Ctrl+S

This menu selection saves the current ThumbsUp configuration (profile) as the default when starting ThumbsUp. The information saved includes:

All options in the General, Confirmations and Editors dialog boxes.

The current directory tree options, from the Tree menu.

## **File - Restore Options**

**Ctrl+R**

Use this selection to set all ThumbsUp options to their last saved settings, as saved from within the dialog boxes or by the File - Save Options selection.

## **File - Register ThumbsUp**

After you have paid the ThumbsUp registration fee, use this option to enter your name and code. See [Ordering](#) for more information about registering your copy of ThumbsUp.

## **File - Print**

This selection has not yet been implemented. The next version of ThumbsUp will provide this capability.

## **File - Page Setup**

In the next release of ThumbsUp, which will include printing, this option will provide the ability to configure the printed page to your specifications.



## **File - Exit**

Select this option to exit ThumbsUp!

**Alt+F4**

**Edit**

Copy

Paste

Select All

Clear All

## Edit - Copy

Ctrl+C

This option copies the first selected file to the clipboard in the appropriate format for the file (bitmap for raster images or metafile for vector images).

If no files are selected, this menu option is grayed.

## Edit - Paste

Ctrl+V

This option pastes the current clipboard contents to a ThumbsUp View Window. If the clipboard is empty, or the contents are not in a recognized graphics format, this options is grayed.

## Edit - Clear All

This option deselects any selected files in the **image list**.

## Edit - Select All

This option selects all files in the **image list** for processing by any of the commands which accept multiple files, such as view, info or slide show.

## Tree

Expand One Level

Expand Branch

Expand All

Collapse Branch

Collapse All

Collapse to Path

Refresh Tree

Indicate Expandable

Indicate Thumbnails

List Thumb Dirs Only

## Tree - Expand Branch

## Keypad \*

This option expands the currently selected directory entry in the **Directory List** by showing any sub-directories. Any sub-directories are also expanding, thereby showing this "branch" of the tree in its entirety.



## Tree - Expand One Level

## Keypad +

This option expands the currently selected directory entry in the **Directory List** by showing any sub-directories. Double-clicking an expandable entry also performs this action.

## Tree - Expand All

This option expands all branches in the directory tree.

## Ctrl + Keypad \*

## **Tree - Collapse Branch**

## **Keypad -**

This option hides any subdirectories of the currently selected entry. Double-clicking on an expanded entry also does this.

## Tree - Collapse All

Hides all directories, leaving only the top level (drive entries).

## Ctrl + Keypad /

## Tree - Collapse to Path

## Keypad /

This option collapses all entries except those directories on the currently-selected path. For example, if the current directory is C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM, all entries for drives other than C are hidden, all first-level directories of C: are shown, and all sub-directories of WINDOWS are show.

## Tree - Refresh Tree

Ctrl + Keypad +

This option rereads the directory tree. Use this option if you change the directory structure from another application. This option also collapses the tree to the current path (Tree - Collapse to Path).

## Tree - Indicate Expandable

Checking this menu item causes ThumbsUp to display a '+' in directory entries which contain sub-directories and may be expanded, or '-' in directory entries which are already expanded.

### **Tree - Indicate Thumbnails**

Checking this option causes ThumbsUp to use differently colored folders to indicate "interesting" directories. Folders for directories which contain thumbnails are colored green; folders for directories which do not themselves have thumbnails, but whose subordinate directories do, are colored blue. This option is really useful only after drive(s) have been scanned for images (see [Scan Drive](#)).



### **Tree - List Thumb Dirs Only**

Select this option to only show directories which contain thumbnails. This is only useful once graphics files have been located (usually by Scan Drive).

## Thumbnails

Make

Make All

Scan Drive...

Refresh

Statistics...



## Thumbnails - Make

F2

This option does the hard work of ThumbsUp: it reads the graphic files selected in the **Image List** and reduces them to create thumbnails, and stores the thumbnails in the ThumbsUp database. These miniature pictures of your graphics files make life with Windows easier by helping you find specific images or drawings quickly and easily.

To create or update thumbnails for all files in the current directory, use the menu option Thumbnails - Make All. To scan a disk drive for all recognized files, use Thumbnails - Scan Drive.

Unlike these other options, **Thumbnail - Make** does not check for updated files and always makes thumbnails, regardless of whether one is already on file.



## Thumbnails - Make All

Shift+F2

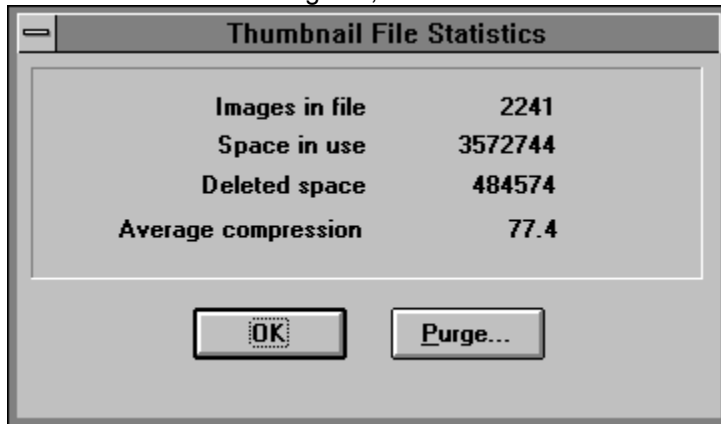
This option creates or updates thumbnails for all recognized files in the current directory. If a thumbnail already exists for a file, its update date and time are checked against what is stored in the ThumbsUp database. If the file has been modified since the thumbnail was made, it is regenerated from the file.

While running, a progress box displays which indicates how much of the work is complete. Click **Cancel** to quit making thumbnails. This progress box also contains a list box where any errors which occur are listed. These errors include the file name being "nailed" at the time of the error. If any errors occur, the progress box will remain until you click **OK**.

## Thumbnails - Statistics

Ctrl+T

This option provides disk usage information about the ThumbsUp database. You may also Purge the database from this dialog box, which rewrites the ThumbsUp file excluding any deleted thumbnails.



### Images In File

The total number of thumbnails which are stored in the ThumbsUp database, not including deleted thumbnails.

### Space in Use

The number of bytes of disk space used by the thumbnails, not including the index.

### Deleted Space

The amount of disk space in use by thumbnails which have been deleted. Whenever a thumbnail is replaced, the original thumbnail's space becomes deleted space. The Purge button will reclaim this deleted space, making it available for new thumbnails or other applications.

### Average Compression

ThumbsUp compresses the thumbnails using a simple Run Length Encoded algorithm. This number indicates the amount of space saved by this algorithm. A standard bitmap of a thumbnail would take 6912 (96 \* 72) bytes; ThumbsUp saves much of this space (generally 50-75%).

## Thumbnails - Refresh

This option re-reads the current directory and searches for thumbnails for any files there. You should select this option if you delete, move or add to the files in the current directory.



## Thumbnails - Scan Drive

Ctrl+F2

When you select **Scan Drive**, ThumbsUp examines all files on the current drive looking for files that it recognizes and creates a thumbnail for each of them. If a thumbnail already exists for a file, its update date and time are checked against what is stored in the ThumbsUp database. If the file has been modified since the thumbnail was made, it is regenerated from the file.

While running, a progress box displays which indicates how much of the work is complete. This progress indicator is based on the total space in use on the drive, and is updated by the size of each file as it is examined. Since graphics files are usually grouped together, and different types of files take various amounts of time to analyze and reduce, this indicator does not really indicate the amount of progress made in *time*, but only how far through the disk ThumbsUp has looked.

Click **Cancel** in the progress box to quit making thumbnails. This progress box also contains a list box where any errors which occur are listed. These errors include the file name being "nailed" at the time of the error. If any errors occur, the progress box will remain until you click **OK**.

Note that most CD-ROM disks have useless "total size" information stored on them, so the progress percentage is essentially meaningless for these drives.

## Window

Show All

Close All

Minimize All

This menu also contains a list of all currently opened windows. Selecting any of these entries will cause that window to display.



## Windows - Show All

F4

Causes ThumbsUp to display all open view windows (in the order they were opened). Minimized (iconized) windows are restored; hidden windows are brought to the front.

## Windows - Close All

**Shift+F4**

Closes all opened view windows. If you have selected confirmation on closing modified windows from the General Options dialog box, ThumbsUp will prompt you before closing any modified windows.

## Windows - Minimize All

Ctrl+F4

This option will minimize (reduce to an icon) all open view windows. These icons display on the normal Windows desktop for easy access.

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## Ordering Information



**ThumbsUp** is distributed as for evaluation for thirty days (see [License](#)). I have avoided unobnoxious reminders until after thirty days have passed, but please remember to support Shareware authors by registering the products you use. To register and receive the latest version of **ThumbsUp**, please send **US\$40.00** and a completed [order form](#) to:



*Phillip Crews*

***cerious software***

*5424 Chedworth Drive*

*Charlotte, NC 28210*

*(704)529-0200*

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Internet:	71501.2470@compuserve.com

## ThumbsUp Order Form



*Click here to print this order form. If you do not have a printer, please write or type the information requested below.*

I like **ThumbsUp** and want to register it.

Name

Address

City

State/Country

Zip/Postal Code

Telephone number (optional)

I received my evaluation copy of ThumbsUp from:

- |                                     |                                   |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CompuServe | <input type="checkbox"/> Prodigy  | <input type="checkbox"/> America Online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genie      | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> A friend       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BBS:       | _____                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:     | _____                             |   |

Select disk format:

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3½" (720K) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5¼" (1.2Mb) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Please enclose \$40.00 in U.S. funds; North Carolina residents add sales tax.

Remit to:

***cerious software***  
*5424 Chedworth Drive*  
*Charlotte, NC 28210*

## File - Save

Ctrl+S

This option saves the current file under its current name. It may be used to save a cropped or otherwise modified image. ThumbsUp currently only supports three formats for saving files: Windows Bitmap and Compuserve GIF formats for raster images, and Windows Metafile format for vector images.

If the current file has an extension representing another format (such as .PCX or .CGM), it is changed to reflect the format being saved (.BMP, .GIF or .WMF).

## File - Save As

Ctrl+A

This option saves the current file, allowing you to select a file name from a standard Windows Save As dialog box. It may be used to save a cropped or otherwise modified image. ThumbsUp currently only supports three formats for saving files: Windows Bitmap and Compuserve GIF formats for raster images, and Windows Metafile format for vector images.

If the current file has an extension representing another format (such as .PCX or .CGM), it is changed to reflect the format being saved (.BMP, .GIF or .WMF).



## **File - Close**

**Alt+F4**

This option closes the view window and removes it from the screen. If you have modified the image and selected confirmation for closing modified images (from the Confirmations dialog box), ThumbsUp will ask you if you wish to save the modified image.

## **File - Close All**

**Shift+Alt+F4**

This option closes all open view windows. If you opted to confirm closing modified images (from the Confirmations dialog box), ThumbsUp will prompt you to save each one before closing it.

## File

Save

Save As

Close

Close All

## Edit - Copy

Ctrl+C

This menu selection copies the currently selected area in the view window to the clipboard.

## Edit - Crop Image

Ctrl+R

Use this menu option to reduce the view window to only the selected area of the image. Anything outside the selected area is eliminated. This change will only be written to the disk file if you use the File-Save or File-Save As option.

## **Edit - Cancel Selection**

**ESC**

This option removes the selection rectangle from the window.

## **Edit - Select All**

**Ctrl+E**

This option selects the entire contents of the view window for processing.

## **Edit - Make Thumbnail**

**F2**

This selection uses the currently selected area in the view window to generate a thumbnail for the image. This is especially useful for clipart files which contain many related images. You can select a representative part of the file and create the thumbnail from only that part.



## Edit

This menu provides options that operate on a selected area in the view window. Only bitmaps can be selected from; to operate on a portion of a metafile, it must first be converted to a bitmap using the View-Convert to Bitmap option.

Use the mouse to select an area in the view window: press the left mouse button to start a selection area at one corner, and hold it down while moving the mouse to the opposite corner. Then release the mouse button. ThumbsUp will draw a rectangle around the selected area. If the area is large enough, ThumbsUp will also display the selected area size in a small rectangle in the center of the area.

To select an area from the center out, hold the SHIFT key down, press the left mouse button at the place you want to be the center of the selection, and drag the mouse to a corner. Then release the mouse button.

Copy

Crop Image

Cancel Selection

Select All

Make Thumbnail

## View - Full Screen

**F3**

This option causes the View Window to use the entire screen, without title bar or menus. If the image is larger than the screen, you will still have scroll bars. While in full screen mode, use the right mouse button or the F10 key to see the View Window menus, which will appear vertically instead of horizontally. You can perform any of the View Window commands while in full screen mode; however, cropping an image will reduce the window to the size of the cropped image. You can select View-Full Screen again or press F3 to exit full screen mode.

## View - Autocrop

F4

This option automatically crops the current image, removing any edges composed entirely of the same color. The pixel in the bottom left corner of the image is used as the reference pixel. Each of the four sides is compared to this pixel; any side entirely of that color is removed. This process is repeated for each side until a pixel of a different color is found.

## View - Convert to Bitmap

F5

This option converts a metafile to a bitmap. If the metafile contains aspect ration information, the resultant bitmap conforms to that aspect ratio (even if the current window shape is different). Note that you can only select portions of bitmaps, so you must use this select if you want to select part of a metafile.

## View

Full Screen

Autocrop

Convert to Bitmap

## ThumbsUp!

This "quickie" menu, which has no drop-down items associated with it, simply brings the ThumbsUp main window to the top of all windows. It is useful when a large view window obscures or covers the ThumbsUp main window.

## View Window

The View Window provides a simple way to view graphics images from within ThumbsUp. It also allows you to crop images, either manually or automatically; to create a thumbnail from a portion of an image; to convert a metafile (vector) image to raster (bitmap) format; and to save the modified image. The View Window provides the following menus:

File

Edit

View

**H**elp

ThumbsUp!

Future releases of ThumbsUp will add functionality to the View window.

## Glossary

Aspect Ratio

Bitmap

CD-ROM

Crop

Desktop

Dither

Graphics Filter

Metafile

Path

Pixel

Profile

Purge

Raster image: see bitmap

Thumbnail

Token

Vector image: see metafile

Wallpaper



## Aspect Ratio

The relation between the height and width of an image. For example, a square has an aspect ratio of 1-to-1 (the height is the same as the width).

## Pixel

A pixel is a dot in a raster image, or bitmap. Depending on the color resolution, a pixel takes from 1 to 24 bits to represent in memory and on disk. Therefore, an uncompressed bitmap which is 100 pixels wide by 100 pixels high can require from 10,000 to 240,000 bits (1250 to 30,000 bytes).

## Metafile (vector image)

A metafile is a stored sequence of drawing commands which the computer can repeat to generate an image. Metafiles can contain simple drawing commands (such as *line*, *rectangle*, *circle*, *arc*, *polygon*); they may also contain commands to set colors, fill areas, display text, and even include bitmaps. Thus, metafiles are much more flexible than bitmaps, but they are more difficult for programmers to support and slower to display.

## Bitmap (raster image)

A bitmap (raster image) is a graphics image composed of small dots (pixels). These dots can be simple on-or-off bits (a monochrome bitmap), or represent colors. Windows supports four levels of raster images: monochrome (1 bit per pixel), 16-color (4 bits per pixel), 256-color (8 bits per color), or 16 million color (24 bits per pixel). Raster images do not generally scale to larger sizes very well; the dots become squares or rectangles and the image appears grainy. Also, raster images use lots of disk space and memory. However, they display faster than metafile (vector) images and can show much more true-to-life detail. Scanned images, such as Compuserve GIF files, are raster images.

## Crop

Cropping an image involves selecting an area and removing the rest. ThumbsUp can crop manually (where you select the crop area) from the View Window; ThumbsUp can also crop automatically, removing unnecessary space from around an image. You can control when ThumbsUp does this automatic cropping from the General Options dialog box.

## Desktop

The window that acts as the background for all windows in Windows 3.1. Other windowing systems generally call this the root window. Icons appear at the bottom of the desktop window.

## Wallpaper

A Windows bitmap displayed in the background (the desktop). This image may be tiled (repeated to fill the screen) or centered.

## Graphics Filter

A program or library (DLL) which can convert graphics from one format to another. Microsoft provides several filters with Word for Windows and other products. ThumbsUp can use these filters to import graphics files.



## Token

A sequence of letters or symbols which represent something else. For example, '%F' is a token which represents a file name in the editor command string invoked by ThumbsUp.

## Dither

Dithering is a process which allows many colors to be represented by a few. The standard Windows VGA driver only has 16 colors, and combines these in simple patterns to represent many more. Dithering is acceptable when viewed from a distance, but often causes images to appear grainy and cluttered.

## Profile (.INI file)

Lists configuration options and selections for a program. The Windows profile is called WIN.INI; the profile for ThumbsUp is THUMBSUP.INI. Profile files are generally stored in the Windows directory to be unique for each user in a network environment.

## Path

The DOS Environment variable which specifies where DOS and Windows look for executable files when no explicit drive or directory information is given. It is usually set in the **AUTOEXEC.BAT** file, which runs when DOS starts up.

## **CD-ROM**

A CD (compact disk) used to store data. ROM stands for "Read-Only Memory." You cannot write to a CD-ROM disk.

## Purge

To eliminate unneeded, unused or deleted space.

## Thumbnail

A small representation of an image, used as an aid in indexing or cataloging graphics images.

