

WinChain

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What is it?

WinChain is a set of programs that let you run Windows applications from a DOS Compatibility Box. If you are developing Windows software, you can also use WinChain to start your Windows application automatically from the DOS prompt. WinChain works with Windows 386 enhanced mode only.

WinChain can be used as a way to quickly run Windows applications from DOS-based menuing programs such as POWERMENU.

Getting Started Quickly

The program WINCHAIN.EXE should be put somewhere in your search path (typically C:\WINDOWS). Using the "WinChain Options..." menu selection, you can add WinChain to your WIN.INI file to automatically have it start when Windows does. WinChain must be running before you can use DosChain.

The program DOSCHAIN.EXE should also be in your search path (with your development tools). It works with WinChain to automatically run Windows applications from the DOS prompt. After starting WinChain, you can type DOSCHAIN CONTROL from a DOS prompt and start up the Windows control panel.

The program CHANSTUB.EXE should go wherever WINSTUB.EXE resides. When you specify this stub program in your Module Definition (.DEF) file, typing in the name of your program will actually run it.

Included in the package

- WINCHAIN.EXE, a Windows application
- DOSCHAIN.EXE, the companion DOS application
- CHANSTUB.EXE, a Windows/DOS stub application
- WINCHAIN.WRI, these application notes

Version Information and History

10/27/1990	Version 1.0	Initial release
10/28/1990	Version 2.0	Fix of bug in adding WinChain to the list of startup applications in WIN.INI

Registration Considerations

You have obtained an un-registered version of the WinChain which is being marketed under the "Shareware" concept. As such, it is a fully working version of the product, and the documentation is complete. In its unregistered state, WinChain will display an informative message when it is first run, and will not allow itself to run "hidden" automatically; i.e. without an on-screen icon. When you register the program with Services Rendered for \$10, you will be free of the startup message, be allowed to "hide" the application automatically, and be entitled to 1/2 hour of software support.

You may register the product by mail with a personal or business check. To order, select "Print Order Form..." from the WinChain control menu.

Address: Services Rendered
 455 14th. Street
 San Francisco, CA 94103

By registering, you receive the following benefits:

- A registration code.
- 1/2 hour of free technical support by the author.
- Periodic notification of upgrades and enhancements; along with the ability to upgrade at a nominal cost.
- The ability to automatically hide WinChain when Windows starts.
- No startup screen.

You are authorized to make as many copies of the un-registered version of the product as you would like, and to distribute them freely to individuals or onto bulletin boards. You must, however abide by this one simple rule ... that you always include with such distribution all of the files that you have received.

Installing WinChain

Change to your \WINDOWS subdirectory and copy the zipfile CHAIN2.ZIP to it. Type:

```
PKUNZIP CHAIN2
```

to unpack the files to your system.

If you develop Windows software, move (or copy and delete) the file CHANSTUB.EXE to your Windows SDK subdirectory (usually /WINDEV).

Starting WinChain the first time

Select "File" from the Program Manager, then select "Run". Type "winchain" and select "OK".

Adding WinChain to the Program Manager

With WinChain running, move the mouse down to the WinChain application icon and click once to see the command menu. Select "WinChain Options...". Click once on the "Install WinChain in Program Manager" button to install.

Starting WinChain from the Program Manager

Double-click on the "WinChain" icon in the Program Manager to start the program.

Starting WinChain Automatically with Windows

With WinChain running, move the mouse down to the WinChain application icon and click once to see the command menu. Select "WinChain Options...". Click once on the "Start WinChain automatically" button to automatically load WinChain the next time you start Windows.

Hiding WinChain

WinChain can operate in the background and not show at all on your screen. With WinChain running, move the mouse down to the WinChain application icon and click once to see the command menu. Select "Hide" to make it disappear. To make WinChain reappear (if you want to change the options or close it), double-click on the WinChain icon in the Program Manager window.

Registered users can have WinChain hide itself automatically when loading. Just click once on the "Hide automatically" button in the "WinChain Options..." menu.

Quitting WinChain

You can quit WinChain by choosing "Close" from it's command menu. Or, from a DOS prompt, type:

```
DOSCHAIN /Q
```

to cause WinChain to quit.

Using DOSCHAIN

From a DOS window, type DOSCHAIN to see a list of parameters.

Using CHANSTUB.EXE as the DOS part of a Windows program.

When you compile a Windows application, the linker Module Definition File contains a reference to WINSTUB.EXE. This file is what is run if you should accidentally try to run a Windows application from DOS. Usually, all you'll get will be a message that says "This program requires Microsoft Windows".

If you'd like to instead have the application switch to Windows and run, change the line in your .DEF file from:

```
STUB    WINSTUB.EXE
```

to:

```
STUB    CHANSTUB.EXE
```

When you recompile your application, you'll be able to run the application from DOS (even full-screen DOS) as long as Windows is running in the background.

How Does it Work?

WinChain uses the Windows Clipboard to pass information from DOS to Windows. Because of the way Windows handles the clipboard when running a DOS compatibility box, WinChain works with Windows 386 enhanced mode only.

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