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What Is Shareware?

Shareware is a method of software distribution which gives users a chance to *try software before buying it*. If you try a shareware program and continue using it, you are expected to register. Individual programs differ in detail; some request registration while others require it. Some specify a maximum trial period. With registration, you get anything from the simple right to continue using the software to extended privileges such as update notification and printed manuals.

Copyright laws apply to both shareware and commercial software. Shareware authors are accomplished programmers just like commercial programmers and their programs are generally of comparable quality. The main difference is in the method of distribution. The shareware author specifically grants the right to copy and distribute the software, either to all and sundry or to a specific group. For example, some authors require written permission before a commercial disk vendor may copy their shareware. Some require written permission to have their software included in shareware bundles, such as CD ROMs.

You should find software that suits your needs and your budget, whether it's commercial or shareware. The shareware system makes fitting your needs easier because you can *try before you buy*. And because the shareware author's overhead is low, prices are low also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use the product, you don't pay for it.

The Honor System!

Beginning January 1, 1995, we have removed the "nag/splash screens" (need to register messages) from all of our programming add-on shareware.

More explicitly, you can now use our dynamic link add-ons (DLL's and VBX's) and VB code libraries in both design-mode and run-mode without having to use a corresponding LICense file **and** without registering the shareware with our firm, Digital PowerTOOLS.

We have taken this bold step in the firm belief that most folks are honest. However, you still have 30 days to either register the shareware or remove it from your system and you are not authorized to distribute the add-ons with your completed application(s) until you have registered same. We trust that if you do use the product for more than 30 days, you will register it promptly with our firm. And, upon registration we will immediately send you a disk (or disks) with the latest version. And, we notify registered users by mail

when the next major version is completed, requesting only \$2.00 per disk (plus/minus any pricing difference) to send the update. Future versions will also be available to registered users at a very nominal fee. Also, registered users receive free online technical assistance through AOL, CIS, or the Internet (our e-mail addresses are listed below).

Upon registration, you may distribute our dynamic link libraries (VBX's and DLL's) with your completed application(s) royalty-free. However, you may not (without prior written permission from an agent or officer of Digital PowerTOOLS) distribute or otherwise disclose the source code and/or calling conventions used in these add-ons. Site licenses (where more than one copy will be used in the design-mode) are available for each additional site for only 10% of the original single-user registration fee.

So ... try our stuff. Take it for a spin around the block. Kick the tires. Check the oil level. If the ride is smooth and you want to continue using it though, please register within our 30-day trial period. We trust you!!!

If you want to pass any of our shareware packages along to friends and relatives or upload them to BBS's or online subscription services, you are welcome to do so. However, you must not alter the original files in any manner or add to or subtract from the files in the package; in short, just send the original ZIP file containing the entire package.

Who Is Digital PowerTOOLS?

We are commercial software developers and professional desktop publishers. We have developed these tools for use in our own commercial projects. We are also avid supporters of the shareware market registering hundreds of dollars in shareware each year.

Our chief software development engineer is Vernon L. Whitman. With more than 12 years of commercial programming experience in Assembly and C, he received Visual Basic™ as a Christmas gift a couple of years ago. He was highly impressed with the dramatic increase in Windows™ programming productivity and has been a fervid supporter of the powerful language ever since.

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