

CT-Shell for Windows

Release Notes v2.20c

Welcome to CT-Shell for Windows, v2.20. You're ready to begin "making Windows easy!"

While CTINSTALL is copying your files to the destination directory, perhaps you'll want to review these release notes. They contain an introduction to the new features of v2.20, and possibly last-minute additions, changes, or corrections to the documentation. If you prefer not to read them, simply exit from Windows Write at this time.

When CTINSTALL is finished, it will assert itself as the top window. If you asked for CT to be your root shell, and all has gone well with the installation, you can tell it to [Ok] restart Windows to begin using CT right away, or [Cancel] to continue reading these release notes.

If you are installing from a floppy disk, you probably got a chance to read these first paragraphs while the copying was being done, but an installation from a hard disk directory was probably fast enough to leave you wondering!

New in CT220 revision C

Development continues for CT221, which will add a sophisticated batch file language to CT-Shell. In the meanwhile, some of the other new features have been added to CT220, wherever feasible. The change that prompted revision C is the addition of new printing routines that will be also used in CT221 when it is ready for release.

The *Configure Listngs* dialog box (from the *Shells* menu) will differ somewhat from the one shown in the manual (for those of you with registered versions). However, the changes are self-explanatory, and shouldn't cause any confusion. They are:

- o You can now select the text width you want, from 40 to 200 characters per line, instead of choosing from 80, 110, and 132.
- o You can now select fonts for the heading and body text from a list of all the fonts available on your system. In previous versions, default fonts were used that were not always appropriate for every system.

The biggest changes are ones that affect performance. If you're using TrueType fonts, you should find that file listings now print at near the maximum speed of which your printer is capable.

New Version 2.20 Keywords

Version 2.20 introduces several new keywords that are documented here, for the benefit of users who are already familiar with the v2.10

manual. Two of them have to do with Export/Import of a list of files from one instance of CT-Shell to another.

The manual explains that multiple copies of CT-Shell may be run simultaneously. Some users may find it convenient, when doing disk maintenance, to start a second copy of CT-Shell and use it to move to a destination disk/directory. Then the original copy of CT can be used to move from directory to directory, creating a list of files to be copied. (See the explanation of the *Pickup* keyword in Chapter 6.)

EXPORT/IMPORT. When a list of files has been gathered, you can use the new EXPORT keyword (implemented in the default *Pickup/Deliver* menu) to prepare that list for transfer to the other copy of CT-Shell. (Actually, you can copy to any of several other copies. We speak of just a second copy here, for simplicity.)

Change to the copy of CT that shows the destination directory, and select the *Import* entry (which invokes the IMPORT keyword) from its *Pickup/Deliver* menu. The files that were selected in the first copy of CT-Shell will be copied to the current directory of the second copy.

RESOURCE. The new RESOURCE keyword starts a resource monitor that displays GDI and USER free resources. The lower of these is the same value reported as "free system resources" in Program Manager.

ENTAB/DETAB. The new ENTAB and DETAB keywords can be used to insert or remove tabs from the current file, based on the TabSize option, which can be set from the *Preferences* dialog.

ENCRYPT. The new ENCRYPT keyword can be used to encrypt or decrypt any file, whether a data file or an executable. It will convert the current file to one that is totally useless to anyone. Data files appear garbled and executable files cannot be run.

This keyword acts as a toggle - in other words, if you use it on an original file, it will create an encrypted version. If you use it on an encrypted file, it will return it to its original, useful condition. It is invoked from the FILES menu in the default configuration.

If you would rather use a single encryption key, rather than providing one each time you use this feature, you can add the entry:

EncryptKey=ssssssss

to your CTSHELL.INI file, in the [Options] section. ssssssss represents the string (up to 64 characters) you want to use as your key. This entry is not available through the *Preferences* dialog, for security reasons - you must edit your CTSHELL.INI file manually to add it. A file must be decrypted using the same key that was used to encrypt it.

If you encrypt a data or program file, then forget the key you used, *do not* call Computer Training for help. This is one case in which we are unable to help you!

UNINSTALL. The UNINSTALL keyword is provided for those who would like to switch back to their previous Windows shell as their default shell.

It does not remove the CT-Shell files from the hard drive, so you can still start CT as an ordinary Windows application. To remove CT altogether, first do an UNINSTALL to change the shell entry, then delete all the files named CTSHELL.* from the directory where you installed CT.

Include File Processing

INCLUDE. By special request, CT-Shell is now able to include partial INI files into the one it configures itself with. Thus, you can store common components on your disk drive, and include them into as many INI files as you want. Examples:

```
include <foo.cti>
include "bar.cti"
```

The first example includes the file named FOO.CTI (for CT Include) from the Windows "home" directory. The second example includes the file BAR.CTI from the same directory as the original INI file. Those include files contain items, defined just as they are in the CTSHELL.INI file, and can be used in any INI file that CT is started with.

New Since Manual Printed

UNFORMATTED PRINTING. There are two new keywords that were added after the CT220 manual went to the printers. They are PRINTUNF, which prints the current file in an unformatted way, and TPRINTUNF, which does the same thing for a set of tagged files.

Although the listings are unformatted (like using the DOS PRINT command), output is produced much faster than using the CT-Shell formatted printing routines. This is the way to print a quick listing of a throw-away file that does not need to be formatted.

Although not included in the user manual, these two keywords are both documented in the CTSHELL.HLP file, and are implemented in the default menu configuration.

NEW SORT MODE. By popular demand, a fourth sorting mode for the files list of files has been added: sorting by size. This option is selected from the keyboard by pressing the '4' key, or from the *Preferences* dialog, which can change the default order. It is new since the v2.20 manual was printed, but is documented in the on-line help file.

EVENTS (ALARMS) ENHANCED. A bug was found in CT220A that would sometimes cause scheduled events to be triggered at the wrong time. That logic error was corrected in CT220B, and the number of daily events was increased from 5 to 10. The Alarm Settings entry in the Shells menu now brings up a dialog box that allows you to set two banks of up to five events each. A new pushbutton selects the bank.

Windows v3.0 Support Discontinued

With version 2.20, CT-Shell has been engineered specifically for Win 3.1. It will no longer load and run under Win 3.0. This allows CT to run faster, to be more reliable, and to provide more features in a smaller size executable than would otherwise be required.

Those who must still use Windows v3.0 should not attempt to run this version of CT, but instead look for a copy of v2.10, which is the last one that is compatible with Win 3.0.

Documentation

In previous versions of CT-Shell, we have included a version of the user manual in Windows Write format. The document file that was used to create the CT-Shell user manual contains many graphics, and the current version is more than 3.5 MB in size when translated to Windows Write format. (That's MEGAbytes!) Therefore, starting with this version, we must consider it impractical to include a WRI format copy of it with the shareware version of the program.

The shareware version *does* include the entire on-line help file, just as the registered version does. That should be more than enough documentation for anyone to decide whether they like using CT, and leaving out the huge user manual file will result in a shareware product that more people will be willing to download and try out.

Of course, as always, registered users receive the 100+ page user manual along with their latest-version diskette. This manual is professionally printed and bound, and it includes a complete reference to all program operations, options, features, commands and keywords.

These Release Notes

This file will not be copied into your Windows directory when CT-Shell is installed, as that would be a waste of disk space for most people. You probably will want to read these notes just once, but if you want to keep this file for future reference, copy it (or print it) from the place where your installation source files are, *before deleting that directory or passing the shareware disk along to someone else.*

Toll-Free Support

Because CT-Shell is so easy to use, and so far telephone support has not taken a large part of our development resources, we are experimenting with offering toll-free support to our users. We're doing this without changing our shareware price. From anywhere in the US, call us at the (800) number printed inside the cover of your registered user manual for help when you need it.

Be sure to have your registered user number handy, because we are unable to provide toll-free support to those who are only evaluating CT (though we're happy to help if they buy the call). You can find your registered user number on the label of your registered diskette, and in the *About CT-Shell* entry in the *Help* menu.

We intend to set a new, higher standard for support of a shareware product. Please! Help us by checking *first* with the on-line help file or the user manual when you have a question. If that doesn't answer it, then, by all means, give us a call.

Needless to say, please do not disclose the toll-free support number to non-registered users of CT. If the toll-free support number is abused, our only option will be to discontinue the service.

Updating Your Manual

If you are a registered user of CT-Shell, your SoftKey will automatically register any new version that you may download from a service or BBS. If you would like to purchase just a new manual for the newer version, you may now do that. If this is a shareware package, the enclosed file, CTREGIST.WRI contains pricing information for CT-Shell, now including the cost of manuals bought separately.

Note that this separate manual offer is extended only to registered users. CT-Shell manuals are not available separately to those who are only evaluating the product.

---end of notes---