

Introduction

I Ching for Windows allows you to select and display I Ching hexagrams. Once a hexagram is selected, it is displayed with its interpretation, as well as the meanings of its two component trigrams. The hexagram can then be printed or copied into another Windows program (for example, a word processor or paint program).

Required Hardware and Software

I Ching for Windows requires Windows 3.0 running in standard or enhanced mode. A Windows compatible printer is optional.

Installing I Ching for Windows

In the DOS shell, or with the Windows File Manager, create a subdirectory for I Ching for Windows. For example:

```
mkdir c:\iching
```

Then copy all files from the distribution disk into the subdirectory. For example:

```
copy a:\*. * c:\iching
```

Using the Windows Program Manager, select the File menu and the New submenu. Then press the Program Group button and the OK button. Enter I Ching for Windows in the Description field, and ICHING in the Group File Field.

Select the File menu and the New submenu again. This time, press the Program Item button and the OK button. Enter I Ching for Windows in the Description field, and enter the location of the program in the Command Line field, for example:

```
c:\iching\iching.exe
```

I Ching for Windows is now installed.

Automatically Loading I Ching for Windows

If you want I Ching for Windows to be automatically loaded every time you start Windows, edit the "win.ini" file in your Windows directory.

Add the pathname of I Ching for Windows to the line beginning with "load=". For example, the following line causes the clock program and I Ching for Windows to be loaded every time Windows starts:

```
load=clock c:\iching\iching.exe
```

Running I Ching for Windows

After starting I Ching for Windows, you can select and display a hexagram, print it on your printer, copy it into another Windows program (for example, a paint program or word processor), and get on-line help.

To select and display a hexagram, type F2 or choose Select Hexagram from the Hexagram menu. Type in a question that you would like to pose to the I Ching. Then select a hexagram from the list by double-clicking it, or press the Random button to have the computer randomly select a hexagram pertaining to your question (see Hexagram Selection, below).

After selecting a hexagram, you can print it on the currently selected printer. To change the printer's setup, choose Setup Printer from the File menu. To print the hexagram, choose Print from the File menu.

A hexagram can be copied into another Windows program after it has been displayed. Simply type Ctrl+Insert or choose Copy from the Edit menu. Then go to the other Windows program and select Paste from the Edit menu. The hexagram will then be copied into the program. NOTE: only the visible portion of the window will be copied.

To obtain on-line help while running I Ching for Windows, select the appropriate submenu from the Help menu.

Background

The I Ching, or Book of Changes, is the most important of the five Confucian Classics. The book, which predates the Bible, describes a method of divination that originated from the ancient Chinese practice of tortoise shell divination.

Tradition credits Fu Hsi (2953 - 2838 B.C.), the first of the Five Emperors of the legendary period, with the invention of the eight trigrams which became the basis of the I Ching.

The I Ching

Each of the 64 messages of the I Ching has its own six-lined figure called a hexagram, which is made up of two three-lined figures called trigrams.

Hexagram Selection

I Ching hexagrams were traditionally selected by using divining sticks, preferably yarrow stalks. Today the more popular method involves tossing coins. Each line of the hexagram (starting from the bottom) is selected by tossing three coins, with heads worth 2 and tails worth 3. If the sum of the three coins is 7 or 9, the line is undivided. If the sum is 6 or 8, the line is divided. Since each toss of the 3 coins has 4 possible results (6, 7, 8, or 9), and the coins are tossed 6 times, there are 4^6 or 4096 possible outcomes.

When you specify that I Ching for Windows randomly selects a hexagram, the program does not simply choose a random number between 1 and 64. Instead, it simulates the six tosses of the three coins as described above.

Although selecting a hexagram with your computer does not rely on the established divining practices, synchronicity is still present in the selection process. Coincidence and subjective judgement are still factors influencing the outcome. Your discernment of these images will depend upon your own understanding, intuition and wisdom.

Recommended Reading

There are several good translations of the I Ching available:

I Ching

Edited with an Introduction by Raymond Van Over
Mentor Books
ISBN 0-451-62681-8

I Ching
Edited with Introduction and Study Guide by
Ch'u Chai with Winberg Chai
Bantam Books
ISBN 0-553-26002-2

I Ching
Translated by James Legge
Second Edition
Dover Publications, Inc.
ISBN 0-486-21062-6

Notes on the Text

The hexagram interpretations and trigram descriptions in I Ching for Windows are from James Legge's translation.

Acknowledgements

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Distribution and Payment

I Ching for Windows may be freely copied without cost, provided it is not changed in any way. If you find the program useful, please send \$10.00 to:

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