

ProLauncher 1.0(TM)

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Overview

NewVision's ProLauncher is a powerful application launching system. It may act as a replacement for Windows' Program Manager, or it may operate alongside it. It provides most of the functions of the Program Manager, but goes beyond it with many additional features.

ProLauncher was written using Microsoft's Visual Basic 1.0, and thus requires the file VBRUN100.DLL, available free of charge on CompuServe and most BBS's. Custom controls provided by the Microsoft VB Professional Toolkit and Sheridan Software. The DLL's were constructed using Borland's Turbo Pascal for Windows.

Features

IconBar: ProLauncher's main function is to launch other applications. Its main window is a fully customizable IconBar which can display up to 50 program items. Launching an application (or a group of applications) is as simple as double-clicking on its icon. No more hunting through all those Program Manager groups to find that program you haven't used in a while: all programs assigned to ProLauncher's IconBar are just a scroll-bar away. Also, ProLauncher takes up only a fraction of the screen space of the Program Manager, and includes many more features.

Trash Window: ProLauncher includes a fully-functional "trashcan" that functions in conjunction with Windows' File Manager. You may drag items from the File Manager into the trash, and then later decide to put all the files back or delete them all. Or you can set the Trash Window to delete files immediately when they are dropped, providing for easy one-step deletion (the File Manager always requires at least two steps, since it always asks for confirmation).

Floating Menus: ProLauncher utilizes a floating popup menu which can be accessed any time by clicking the right mouse button on the title bar of any application, or the icon of any minimized application. This provides a quick and convenient way to access many of ProLauncher's functions.

Fully Automated Setup: All setup/customization routines are simple and user-friendly, with context-sensitive help always available. No more manual INI file editing or deciphering. Just tell ProLauncher what you want to modify with a few point-and-clicks, and your changes will take effect right before your eyes.

We hope you enjoying using ProLauncher as much as we do. If you find it of use, please take a few minutes to register it. Doing so provides us with the means to continue improving ProLauncher (adding more functions, making it faster and easier-to-use), as well as developing entirely new quality, inexpensive applications for you to use.

System Requirements

To run ProLauncher, your system must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:

- * IBM 286 or compatible (386 or higher recommended)
- * Microsoft Windows 3.1
- * The file VBRUN100.DLL (free from Microsoft)

Installation

To install ProLauncher, use the included setup utility, PLSETUP.EXE. Alternatively, copy everything with the extension *.DLL and *.VBX into your /windows/system subdirectory, copy the file PLDOS.PIF into the /windows directory, and place the rest of the files together in a directory of your choice.

When running the setup program, it is recommended that new users select "Full Installation." The "Program File Installation Only" choice is primarily for users of earlier versions of ProLauncher who want to install the new files without overwriting their INI file settings.

Getting Started

After running the install program, start ProLauncher by double-clicking on it in the File Manager or Program Manager. A startup screen will appear while ProLauncher reads its INI file and extracts the appropriate icons to display. A moment later, an IconBar will appear. The first thing you may want to do is position it to your liking. To do this, hold the right mouse button down over the NewVision logo (the sunrise), and drag it anywhere on the screen.

Assuming the setup program was able to construct an INI file successfully, the IconBar will contain icons representing 10 of the most commonly used programs that ship with Windows. To launch any of them, simply double-click on its icon. To get information about an icon, hold the CTRL key down while clicking on it. And if you want to move an icon to a different location, hold the ALT key down while clicking on it, then click on the location where you wish to move it to.

Now for the stuff which isn't so obvious. Click the right mouse button over the Notepad icon. A menu will pop up listing several files. Click on the "win.ini" file, and voila, Notepad is launched and immediately opens up your "win.ini" file. Customizing this list of files is easy. Again, click the right mouse button over the Notepad icon, but this time when the menu appears, click on "Modify List." A dialog box will appear, showing you which items are currently on the list and giving you a chance to add, delete, or edit the items. This feature can come in quite handy. Scroll down the last item on the IconBar using the scroll bar. You should see the MS-DOS icon. Click the right mouse button down over it, and the familiar menu pops up. This time, the menu items look a little different. For example, the first is "/c chkdisk a:." If you click on this, a DOS window will open, and a "chkdisk a:" command be performed. All with only two mouse clicks! (When chkdisk is done, the title bar will include the word "inactive." To close the

window, press Alt-F4, or use the control box..) Any DOS command can be added to the list for easy access. Just make sure to preface each with the "/c" command.

Now let's go back to Notepad. Double-click on the Notepad icon to launch it, then maximize it so it fills the whole screen. Say you were writing something, but wanted to check your calendar. With ProLauncher, you can do so without leaving Notepad. Simply click the right mouse button over the title bar of notepad, and another floating menu appears. This is ProLauncher's main menu. (By the way, this menu is also available by clicking with the left mouse button over the NewVision logo at the top of the IconBar.) Select QuickLaunch from the menu, and then Calendar from the submenu which appears. Calendar is launched, allowing you to check some dates, and you never had to leave Notepad! Again, changing the list entries is as easy as selecting "Modify List" from the QuickLaunch menu.

At about this time, you may want to add other applications to the IconBar. Again, no problem. Open up the File Manager, find a program you wish to add, and drag it over to the IconBar and drop it where you want it to appear. A dialog box appears asking you for a title for the program. After you press OK, the program appears on the IconBar at the position you dropped it. You can change which icon is assigned to the program, the program's title and startup directory by using the Setup Window. To get there, click on the NewVision logo at the top of the IconBar with the left mouse button to bring up ProLauncher's main menu. Choose "Setup..." and the Setup Window appears, allowing you full control over each program's attributes.

That pretty much covers all the basics. To learn more, call up the help file, which gives detailed information about commands and procedures used in ProLauncher, and should be able to answer your questions.

Software License

ProLauncher is not public domain software, nor is it free. Non-licensed users are granted a 21-day period during which they may use ProLauncher on a trial basis, to see if it is suitable for their needs. After the 21-day trial period, users are required to register the program or discontinue using it.

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Registration / Customer Support

The single-license registration fee for ProLauncher is \$49.95. In return you will receive a diskette containing the latest version of ProLauncher and accompanying documentation files, along with a unique registration number. Additionally, your name will be displayed in the "About" box as the registered user. Registering ProLauncher enables us to continue to develop high-quality, inexpensive software for you to use, so please support the Shareware concept and register this program if you find it of use! Also, if you register you will be eligible for discounts on future upgrades.

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Additionally, if you have any questions, problems, comments, or suggestions regarding ProLauncher, contact us at the above address, or on CompuServe at 76020,732. All comments and suggestions are appreciated and welcome.