

Look-up Box

Now you know how a Look-up box works. App Director contains many Look-up boxes that give you term definitions or tips for use.

Menu Text Defaults to Filename

If this checkbox is selected, then the **Menu Text** edit control will automatically be filled with menu text whenever you select a new item from the **Directories and Files** list box. The menu text will be the text of the file name to the left of the file extension.

Warning Dialog

A dialog box that is used with Launch Applications that have been configured to either run on **Selected Days and Time**, or **On Date and Time**.

When selected, a dialog box will appear 5 minutes before the scheduled launch time. The dialog box will give the user an opportunity to proceed with the scheduled launch, cancel the launch, or postpone the launch. If there is no user intervention, the Warning Dialog Box will time out and launch the application.

Program extension

The period and the three letters after the period in a filename are known as the filename's extension. Program extensions are those extensions that are known by Windows to be executable. Examples include: .exe, .com, .bat, and .pif.

Associated Filename

A filename with an extension that has been associated with a certain application. In effect, that file "belongs" with the application that it is associated with. When you select a file with an extension that has been associated to an application, that application is opened automatically and the filename is passed to it as a command line parameter.

For example, filenames with a .WRI extension are associated with the Windows Write application. When you choose a document with a .WRI extension, Write will be launched and the document with the .WRI extension that you selected will be opened for editing.

User Shell

The User Shell is the first user application started by Windows and is the main user interface to Windows. It is typically used to launch other applications and to exit Windows.

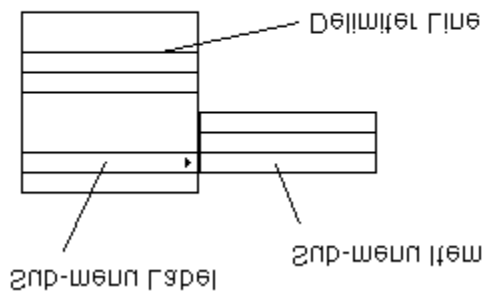
Last Application Run Box

A drop down list box that displays the last 10 applications run with the Run Application dialog box. The current selection is highlighted in the rectangular area of the closed list box.

Sub-Menu

A Sub-menu is a pop-up menu that is activated by a desktop menu item. It consists of a **sub-menu label** and at least one **sub-menu item**. The label appears as an item in the main desktop menu and the sub-menu is activated when a desktop menu label is selected.

Desktop menu with an open sub-menu



Files Configured

This list box control contains a list of the files corresponding to the applications presently configured.

Built-in Functions

These are functions that are "built in" to App Director and are selected by using the corresponding button. The built in functions include an "Exit Windows" function, an "Arrange Icons" function, a function to add a delimiter line to a menu, and a "Run Application" function. They can be added to menus, deleted, or inserted and they can be in sub-menus. They can contain custom menu text, with the exception of the Delimiter line, which has no text on the menu.

Item Button

This button indicates that the application or built-in function being configured is an item on a sub-menu. Sub-menu items are indented in the Files Configured list box. The state of an existing menu item is indicated by the lamp over the Item Button.

A sub-menu item highlighted in the Files Configured list box can be changed to a regular menu item by pressing the **Item** button (turning off the indicator lamp) and then pressing the **Add/Change** button.

Label Button

This button is used to indicate that the **Menu Text** edit control contains a sub-menu label. The lamp over the Label Button indicates the if an item highlighted in the Files Configured list box is a Menu Label.

Insert Button

This button is used to insert a new application (highlighted in the Directories and Files list box) **above** an application highlighted in the Files Configured list box.

Run Now Button

This button can be used to immediately run an application highlighted in the Directories and Files list box.

Delete Button

This button is used to delete an application highlighted in the Files Configured list box.

Add/Change Button

This button allows the user to:

Add an application to the Files Configured list box if a selection is highlighted in the Directories and Files list box.

or

Change the options of an existing application highlighted in the Files Configured list box.

Use Program Manager to exit Windows

If you check this box, App Director will use the Program Manager's Exit Windows dialog box, which allows the user to save Program Manager changes before exiting.

If this option is not checked, then App Director uses its own dialog box, which will not save Program Manager changes.

App Director always uses its own dialog box if it is installed as the user shell.

Menu Text

This edit control is used to enter or change the text that appears for a given entry in the desktop menu. If the **Menu Text Defaults to Filename** box is checked, the Menu text edit box will be filled in with the file name text that is to the left of the file extension.

You can add a menu accelerator key to your menu by placing the ampersand (&) character before the character in your Menu Text that you want to make the accelerator key. For example:

Menu text: &Word for Windows

makes the W a menu accelerator key and it will be underlined in the menu.

Run once per session

The purpose of the **Run once per session** option is to prevent multiple instances of an application from starting up if your computer is left on for several days with an application configured with Selected Days and Time in your task list.

This option is only available for the **Selected Days and Time** Run Time Option. When the **Run once per session** box is selected for an application, then that application will only be run once per Windows session and it will only be launched on days that are selected under the **Days to Execute** group box.

On Date and Time

When this options is selected, the application will be run on the Date entered in the **Date** edit box and the time entered in the **Time** edit box.

Selected Days and Time

When selected, the application will be run on all days selected under the **Days to Execute** group box, at the time entered in the **Time** edit box.

Run on Start-up

When this option is selected, the application will be run whenever Windows is started up, on all days selected under the **Days to Execute** group box.

Days to Execute

Each checkbox is used to select that day as one of the days that an application will be executed for both the **Run on Start-up** and **Selected Days and Time** Run Time Options.

Change Directory Box

When selected, App Director will change the current directory to the directory which contains the application before executing it. If the selected file is an associated file (i.e. it is not directly executable), then App Director will change to the directory of the executable application that is associated with the file.

Beep On Launch Box

When selected, there will be a beep before the application is launched (if sound is turned on in the Control Panel). If the **Warning Dialog** box is checked, then the **Application Launch Warning** dialog box will beep every minute (while the dialog box is visible) until the application is launched.

Run Button

A Launch Option that, when selected, means that the application will be started up with an open window (or full screen for some DOS applications).

Load Button

A Launch Option which, when selected, means that the application will be started up as an icon.

Optional Parameters Box

An edit control which is used to enter any optional application specific parameters that control how an application behaves.

File Specification Box

An edit control whose contents filter which files are displayed in the Directories and Files list box. Change the file specifications in this box to change which file extensions are displayed in the Directories and Files list box.

The File Specification Box defaults to all known executable file extensions. You can scroll through the list of valid extensions by first selecting the File Specification edit control (using the mouse or **Tab** key), and then using the **Right Arrow, Home, or End** keys to move through the list.

Directories and Files Box

A list box control which displays the directories and files that a user can choose from.

What is App Director?

App Director is a Windows application launch utility. It lets you:

- Easily configure and use a custom desktop menu system. Included is a Run Application function with history and full support for associated filenames.
- Load or run multiple applications when starting up Windows, with full support for application optional parameters and extensions to launch capabilities.
- Set-up applications to be run at a future date and/or time.
- Replace Program Manager as the User Shell (optionally)

App Director is started and run as an icon; it has no window. To select App Director menu items, click on the App Director icon to see the App Director System Menu.

App Director has also been designed to be network friendly. It can be run on a network as a shared copy, with individual configurations for each user. Also, unlike many applications, App Director does not change directories and/or drives unless you tell it to. That type of behavior can cause problems in a networked environment.

Desktop Menu

The desktop menuing system lets you configure a custom menu of those applications that you use most often. This menu can be displayed by clicking a mouse button on the desktop or by using the keyboard. You can then use the menu to select the application to be run.

The menu system allows a user to have one level of sub-menus, and includes several built-in functions. The **Run Application** built-in function is especially powerful, as it fully supports associated filenames and it includes a history feature. Start using it and you will probably never use the Program Manager's **Run** option again.

Launching Applications when Windows Starts Up

App Director makes it easy to launch applications when Windows starts up, and it extends the launch capabilities available to the user.

App Director allows you to:

- Easily change which Applications are run when Windows starts up
- Enter optional command line parameters.
- Specify whether to start up the application in a window (the *run* option), or start up as an icon (the *load* option).
- Control which days of the week an application is run.

For example:

You can configure a start-up application to be launched only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Launching Applications at a Future Date and/or Time

App Director allows you to configure applications that will be run at a specified time on selected days, or run only on a specific time and date.

For example:

You can configure an application to be launched only on June 1, 1993 at 1:45pm.

When setting up applications to be launched at a Future Date and/or Time, you can also configure an application so that an Application Warning dialog box pops up 5 minutes before the launch time. This is a powerful tool that lets you delay running an application if you so desire. If you are not around when the warning box pops up, however, it will time out and launch the application on schedule.

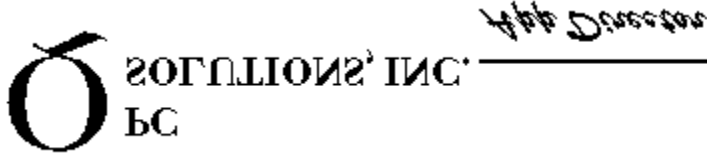
For example:

You can tell App Director to run your back-up program only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30pm. If you tell App Director to give you an Application Warning dialog box, then the dialog box will pop up 5 minutes before the back-up program is run. You then have an opportunity to delay the back-up, cancel it, or proceed with it. If you are not at your computer to respond to the dialog box, it will count down to the launch time and run the back-up program.

Using App Director as your User Shell

If you prefer a menu based approach to launching applications, you can make App Director your User Shell. When installed this way, App Director will be activated *instead of the Program Manager* whenever Windows is started up. The desktop menu can then be used to launch other applications, and it contains several built-in functions.

App Director is a product of QPC Solutions, Inc. and is being distributed as shareware.



App Director Index

Note: App Director Help makes extensive use of Look-up Boxes. If you don't know what they are and you are using a:

Mouse - Try putting your mouse cursor over the dotted underlined words and then click and hold your left mouse button.

Keyboard - Press Tab and then hold down Enter.

App Director Help is Organized into four topics.

What Is App Director? gives basic information on the function of the program.

Installation or Set-up Changes gives information on installing App Director for use or changing set-up options.

Automatic Installation
Installation as a Program Group Item
Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box
De-Installing App Director

The App Director Desktop Menu System tells how to configure Applications into the App Director Desktop Menu and how to use the menu system.

Basics of the Menu System
Adding or Inserting Menu Items
Changing Menu Items
Viewing Menu Items
Deleting Menu Items
Desktop Menu Built In Functions
Run Application Dialog Box

The App Director Application Launch System tells how to configure Applications to be run by App Director when Windows starts up or at some later time or date and time.

Basics of the Application Launch System
Adding Launch Applications
Changing Launch Applications
Viewing Launch Applications
Deleting Launch Applications
Application Launch Warning Dialog Box
Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI

Installation or Set-up Changes

App Director can be automatically installed using the built-in installation program, which modifies either the WIN.INI or SYSTEM.INI file. It can also be installed as a Program Manager Program Group Item. App Director Set-up can be changed by using the Set-up Options dialog box.

Topics:

[Automatic Installation](#)

[Installation as a Program Group Item](#)

[Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box](#)

[De-Installing App Director](#)

Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box

The Set-up Options dialog box is selected from the App Director System Menu.

There are 4 types of options in the Set-up Options dialog box:

- Menu Activation
- Functions Enabled
- Miscellaneous settings
- De-installation of App Director

1. The **Menu Activation Button** box selects which mouse button (left, middle, or right) activates the desktop menu. If you have a two button mouse, you will want to select either the left or right mouse button.

Note: The menu operates differently, depending upon which mouse button you choose. Go to the [Basics of the Menu System](#) help for a detailed explanation.

To support keyboard use of the desktop menu, App Director provides the **Enable Alt-M Hotkey**. If this box is checked, then the user can activate the desktop menu by using the following procedure:

1. Use the **Alt-Tab** keys to select App Director as the active application
2. Use the **Alt-M** keys to activate the menu.
3. Select the menu entry with the **Up** or **Down Arrow** keys.

2. The **App Director Functions Enabled** box allows the user to select which App Director functions are active:

If the **Desktop Menu** box is checked, the desktop menu will be active.

If the **Run Start-up Apps** box is checked, then any applications configured to Run on Start-up of windows will be launched when windows starts up.

If the **Run Deferred Apps** box is checked, then applications configured to be launched on Selected Days and Time or On Date and Time will be run as appropriate.

If the **Exit after running Start-up Apps** box is checked, then App Director will close itself if :

- a. It is not the User Shell
and
- b. The desktop menu is not enabled
and
- c. There are no Selected Days and Time or On Date and Time applications configured.

Note: The **Exit after running Start-up Apps** box will be disabled if the **Desktop Menu** box is checked.

3. The **Misc.** box allows the user to select from two miscellaneous options:

If the **Use Program Manager to exit Windows** box is checked, then the menu's built-in function to exit windows will use the Program Manager's Exit Windows dialog box.

If the **Use associated filenames in list boxes** box is checked, then all associated filenames will be displayed in the Directories and Files list boxes in addition to the normal program extensions.

4. The **De-install App Director** button allows the user to remove App Director from WIN.INI or SYSTEM.INI (depending upon how it was installed) and put applications back on the *load=* or *run=* lines in WIN.INI.

Related Topics:

[Automatic Installation](#)

[Installation as a Program Group Item](#)

[De-Installing App Director](#)

Installation as a Program Group Item

If you have used the [Automatic Installation](#) feature of App Director, you will probably not need to install App Director as a Program Group Item. App Director should be installed as a Program Group Item only if you think that you will be frequently opening and closing the application to make changes to the configuration.

When installed as described below and started up by clicking on the App Director icon, App Director will not run applications configured as [Run on Start-up](#).

Use the **New** option under the **File** menu on the Program Manager. Add App Director, as you normally would any application, but add **"-C"** to the command line as illustrated in the following example:

Command line: C:\WINTOOLS\APPDRT.EXE -C

This example assumes that you have installed App Director in a directory called WINTOOLS on the C: drive. The **"-C"** option tells App Director that it is being started from a program group, not from the WIN.INI file during Windows start-up.

For further information on installing applications as Program Group Items, consult your **Microsoft Windows User's Guide**.

Related Topics:

[Automatic Installation](#)

[Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box](#)

[De-Installing App Director](#)

Automatic Installation

App Director can automatically install itself as either a utility or as a user shell. If you run it without command line parameters, it will detect that it is not installed and automatically ask the user if installation is desired.

Installation Options are:

1. Install as a utility - Selecting this option will mean that App Director will be activated whenever Windows is started up. The desktop menu will be activated and/or applications will be automatically run, depending upon the set-up options and configuration. The WIN.INI file is modified to add App Director to the `load=` line.

If you like icons, you will probably want to select this option.

2. Install as shell - Selecting this option will install App Director as the User Shell. When installed this way, App Director will be activated *instead of the Program Manager* whenever Windows is started up. The desktop menu will be activated and /or applications will be automatically run, depending upon the set-up options and configuration. The SYSTEM.INI file is modified to put App Director in place of the Program Manager on the `shell=` line.

If you prefer to use menus instead of icons, you will probably want to select this option

The App Director installation process will also search the `load=` and `run=` lines in WIN.INI for other applications and give you the option to move them into the App Director Launch Applications list.

Notes: If you install applications at a later time that modify the `load=` or `run=` lines, you can re-scan WIN.INI and move these new applications to App Director by selecting the **Update Launch List from WIN.INI** option on the App Director System Menu.

If you are re-installing App Director, you may find that you end up with duplicate entries in your Application Launch List when you move applications to it from the `load=` or `run=` lines. This occurs because during de-installation, App Director moves its launch applications to the `load=` and `run=` lines, but does not delete your launch list data file (APPDRT.DTK). During the re-installation, these `load=` and `run=` items are added to the existing launch list when they are moved, creating duplicates. If you get duplicates, simply delete them by using the **Configure Launch Applications** dialog box.

The installation process can be aborted at any point by pressing the **Cancel** button present in each dialog box.

Other applications may be on the load line too, but you may want to use App Director to load these applications instead. If you choose to leave other applications on the `load=` line, remember that file names on the `load=` line are separated by a space or comma.

Related Topics:

Installation as a Program Group Item
Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box
De-Installing App Director
Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI

De-Installing App Director

App Director may be de-installed from your WIN.INI or SYSTEM.INI files by using the back-up copies of WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI created during the installation. During the installation, App Director saved your WIN.INI as WIN.APD and saved your SYSTEM.INI file as SYSTEM.APD. These files will be used during the de-installation process.

To de-install App Director:

1. Open the **Set-up Options** dialog box by selecting it from the App Director system menu.
2. Press the **De-Install App Director** button.
3. A dialog box will be displayed, and it will give you an opportunity to cancel the de-installation by selecting the **Cancel** button.
4. If you select **OK**, App Director will be de-installed. Items that were in your Launch Applications list will be moved to the *load=* or *run=* lines (as appropriate) of WIN.INI. If App Director was your *User Shell*, your shell will be restored to its previous program (usually Program Manager) by modifying SYSTEM.INI.

App Director files, including data files, are not affected by the de-installation.

Related Topics:

[Automatic Installation](#)
[Installation as a Program Group Item](#)
[Using the Set-up Options Dialog Box](#)

The App Director Application Launch System

Select **Configure Launch Applications** from the System Menu to view the **Configure Launch Applications** dialog box. If you wish, you can then make changes to the applications that are currently configured or add new applications.

For further Information on the Launch Application System, See:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)

[Adding Launch Applications](#)

[Changing Launch Applications](#)

[Viewing Launch Applications](#)

[Deleting Launch Applications](#)

[Application Launch Warning Dialog Box](#)

[Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI](#)

Basics of the Application Launch System

App Director makes it easy to launch applications when Windows starts up, and it extends the launch capabilities available to you. You can configure applications that are launched:

1. Every day on Windows start-up.
2. On start-up, but only on certain days.
3. At a predetermined time, and only on the days that you have selected.
4. Only on a certain date and time .

You configure applications to launch by selecting **Configure Launch Applications** from the App Director System Menu to view the **Configure Launch Applications** dialog box. You can configure up to 20 applications to launch, as described below.

Start-up Applications

Windows includes some capability to launch applications when it starts up. You can edit the WIN.INI to put applications on the *load=* or *run=* lines, which will launch these applications on Windows start-up. You cannot add optional command line parameters, however. App Director allows you to enter optional parameters, and more.

App Director allows you to easily change which Applications are run when Windows starts up, by giving you a file list box to select from. The file list box will display any application that App Director knows how to run, including associated filenames. It also gives you the ability to enter optional command line parameters and you can specify whether to start up the application in a window (the *run* option), or start up as an icon (the *load* option).

If you install new applications on your system you may find that they modify the WIN.INI *load=* or *run=* lines to add themselves. This usually occurs when an application is supposed to be started up when Windows starts up. You can automatically scan WIN.INI for applications by selecting the **Update Launch List from WIN.INI** option on the App Director System Menu. If applications are found, you can have them moved to App Director's task list, so that all "start up applications" are in the same place.

Launching Applications at a Specific Time

App Director allows you to configure applications that will be run at a specified time. You can also tell App Director which days (Monday, Tuesday, etc.) it should run the application. This is the Selected Days and Time option in the **Configure Launch Applications** dialog box.

Launching Applications on a Specific Date

App Director allows you to configure applications that will be run on a specified

date, at a specified time. This is the [On Date and Time](#) option in the **Configure Launch Applications** dialog box.

Application Launch Warning Dialog Box

If you have configured an application as either [Selected Days and Time](#) or [On Date and Time](#), you also have the option to configure an application so that an **Application Launch Warning** dialog box pops up 5 minutes before the launch time. This is a powerful tool that gives you more control over whether or not to actually launch a scheduled application. If you are busy doing something on your computer when App Director pops up the warning dialog box, you can delay the launch of the application. If you are not around when the warning box pops up, however, it will time out and launch the application on schedule.

For further information on launching applications, See:

[Adding Launch Applications](#)

[Changing Launch Applications](#)

[Viewing Launch Applications](#)

[Deleting Launch Applications](#)

[Application Launch Warning Dialog Box](#)

[Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI](#)

Adding Launch Applications

You can have up to 20 applications in your launch list.

1. Use the [Directories and Files](#) box to find the item that you wish to add. Highlight the file that you wish to configure.

Note: Use the [File Specification Box](#) to control which files are displayed in the [Directories and Files](#) box.

If you wish to run the selected application immediately, press the [Run Now](#) button.

2. Make other changes as needed:

[Optional Parameters](#)

[Load or Run.](#)

[Change Directory](#)

[Beep on Launch](#)

[Warning Dialog](#)

3. Select when to run the application:

[Run on Start-up](#) with selected [Days to Execute](#)

or

[Selected Days and Time](#) with the time entered and with selected [Days to Execute](#).

[Run once per session](#) can also be selected.

or

[On Date and Time](#) with the date and time entered to launch the application.

4. Accept your selection by pressing the [Add/Change](#) button.

Delete mistakes by using the [Delete](#) button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the [Files Configured](#) box).

When you are finished adding applications, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your selections or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Note: Pressing the **OK** button will activate the **Add/Change** button for you.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)

[Changing Launch Applications](#)

[Viewing Launch Applications](#)

[Deleting Launch Applications](#)

[Application Launch Warning Dialog Box](#)

[Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI](#)

Changing Launch Applications

1. Use the Files Configured list box to highlight the item that you wish to change.
2. Make changes as needed to:

Optional Parameters

Load or Run.

Change Directory

Beep on Launch

Warning Dialog

Run on Start-up with selected Days to Execute

or

Selected Days and Time with the time entered and with selected Days to Execute.

Run once per session can also be selected.

or

On Date and Time with the date and time entered to launch the application.

4. Implement your changes by pressing the Add/Change button.

Delete applications by using the Delete button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the Files Configured box).

When you are finished making changes, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your selections or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Note: Pressing the **OK** button will activate the **Add/Change** button for you.

Related Topics:

Basics of the Application Launch System

Adding Launch Applications

Viewing Launch Applications

Deleting Launch Applications

Application Launch Warning Dialog Box

Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI

Deleting Launch Applications

1. Use the Files Configured list box to highlight the configured item that you wish to delete.
2. Delete applications by using the Delete button.

When you are finished making changes, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your changes or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)

[Adding Launch Applications](#)

[Changing Launch Applications](#)

[Viewing Launch Applications](#)

[Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI](#)

Viewing Launch Applications

1. Use the Files Configured list box to highlight the item that you wish to view configuration information on.
2. The other controls in the dialog box will reflect the current configuration of the application.

When you are finished viewing applications, use the **Cancel** button to exit the session without making changes.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)

[Adding Applications](#)

[Changing Applications](#)

[Deleting Applications](#)

[Updating Your Launch List from WIN.INI](#)

The App Director Desktop Menu System

The desktop menu system is enabled by selecting it in the **Set-up Options** dialog box. When it is enabled and you have applications configured in it, you can click on the desktop with your mouse and select from a menu of the items that you have configured.

You select **Configure Desktop Menu** from the App Director System Menu to view the **Configure Menu Applications** dialog box. If you wish, you can then make changes to the applications that are currently configured, add new applications, or create sub-menus.

For further Information on the menu system, See:

- [Basics of the Menu System](#)
- [Adding or Inserting Menu Items](#)
- [Changing Menu Items](#)
- [Deleting Menu Items](#)
- [Viewing Menu Items](#)
- [Desktop Menu Built In Functions](#)
- [Run Application Dialog Box](#)

Basics of the Menu System

Using the desktop menu system is easy. When you install App Director, it will ask you if you want to create a default menu. If you select **OK**, it builds a sample menu containing some of the applications that came with Windows. You are then free to change the menu to suit your preferences. Alternately, you can build a menu from scratch.

Menus can contain one level of submenus. Submenus are useful when you want to condense the desktop menu, because you can combine similar applications into a submenu. For example, you could put all of the Windows accessories into a submenu titled "Accessories".

You set-up your menu by following these steps:

1. You enable the desktop menu by selecting the **Desktop Menu** box in the **Set-up Options** dialog box. You can choose which mouse button activates the menu by selecting the appropriate button in the **Set-up Options** dialog box:

a. If you choose the **left mouse button**, the menu is displayed while you click on the desktop and hold down the left button. You select menu items by moving to the item you wish to run and releasing the left mouse button.

Note: If you double click the left mouse button on the desktop, you will get the Windows Task List dialog box, not the App Director desktop menu.

b. If you choose the **middle or right mouse button**, the menu is displayed while you click on the desktop with the appropriate mouse button. The menu is "sticky" however. It remains displayed until you either:

Select an item with the middle or right mouse button (depending upon your set-up choice),

or

Click the left mouse button

or

Press the Esc key.

You select items by moving the mouse pointer to the item you wish to run and pressing either the middle or right mouse button.

To support keyboard use of the desktop menu, App Director provides the **Enable Alt-M Hotkey**. If this box is checked, then the user can activate the desktop menu by using the following procedure:

- a. Use the **Alt-Tab** keys to select App Director as the active application
- b. Use the **Alt-M** keys to activate the menu.
- c. Select the menu entry with the **Up** or **Down Arrow** keys.

2. You make changes to the menu with the **Configure Desktop Menu** from the App Director System Menu. Adding, inserting, changing, and deleting menu items are explained in detail in the appropriate Help topics. You can have up to 50 items in your menu (delimiter lines and submenu labels count as items, too).

What if App Director is your User Shell?

App Director can be set -up during installation as your user shell. When installed this way, App Director will be activated *instead of the Program Manager* whenever Windows is started up. If you are set-up this way, you will probably want the "Exit Windows" function in your desktop menu, and you may even want to put the Program Manager in your menu. You will most certainly want to enable the menu system.

For further Information on menu system topics, See:

[Adding or Inserting Menu Items](#)

[Changing Menu Items](#)

[Deleting Menu Items](#)

[Viewing Menu Items](#)

[Desktop Menu Built In Functions](#)

[Run Application Dialog Box](#)

Adding or Inserting Menu Items

A. To Add or Insert **Applications**:

You can have up to 50 items in your menu (delimiter lines and submenu titles count as items, too).

1. Use the Directories and Files box to find the application that you wish to add and highlight it.

Note: Use the File Specification Box to control which files are displayed in the Directories and Files box.

If you wish to run the selected application immediately, press the Run Now button.

2. Enter the text for the menu in the Menu Text box.

Note: If the Menu Text Defaults to Filename box is checked, the text will be filled in with the filename for you.

3. Make other entries as needed to:

Optional Parameters Change Directory

Note: If the ? character is placed in the Optional Parameters edit box, App Director will prompt for command line parameters whenever the application is run.

4. If the new item is to be a Sub-Menu item, press the Item button in the Sub-Menu Functions group.

Note: If you wish to cancel the Item button, press it again.

5. If you are **adding** the menu item, accept your selection by pressing the Add/Change button.

or

If you are **inserting** the menu item, press the Insert button. Now highlight the application in the Files Configured box that the new item is to be placed above.

Delete mistakes by using the Delete button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the Files Configured box).

B. To Add or Insert **Built-in functions**:

1. Select the built-in function that you want to add by pressing the appropriate button.

2. If you wish, change the text for the menu in the Menu Text box.

Note: The Delimiter line built-in function does not require menu text.

3. If the new item is to be a sub-menu item, press the Item button in the Sub-Menu Functions group.

Note: If you wish to cancel the Item button, press it again.

4. If you are **adding** the built-in function, accept your selection by pressing the Add/Change button.

or

If you are **inserting** the built-in function, press the Insert button. Now highlight the application in the Files Configured box that the new item is to be placed above.

Delete mistakes by using the Delete button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the Files Configured box).

C. To Add or Insert **Sub-menus**:

1. If you wish to add a Sub-Menu, press the Label button under the Sub-Menu Functions box.

Note: If you wish to cancel the Label button, press it again.

2. Enter the text for the menu in the Menu Text box.

3. If you are **adding** the sub-menu label, accept your selection by pressing the Add/Change button.

or

If you are **inserting** the sub-menu label, press the Insert button. Now highlight the application in the Files Configured box that the new item is to be placed above.

4. Now either add or insert items under the label using the procedure to Add or Insert Applications (item A. above).

Delete mistakes by using the Delete button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the Files Configured box).

When you are finished adding or inserting menu items, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your changes or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Note: Pressing the **OK** button will activate the **Add/Change** button for you.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Menu System](#)

[Changing Menu Items](#)

[Deleting Menu Items](#)

Viewing Menu Items
Desktop Menu Built In Functions

Changing Menu Items

1. Use the Files Configured list box to highlight the menu item that you wish to change.
2. Make changes as needed to:

Optional Parameters Change Directory

Note: If the ? character is placed in the Optional Parameters edit box, App Director will prompt for command line parameters whenever the application is run.

3. Use the Item button to change the sub-menu item status (as appropriate).
4. Implement your changes by pressing the Add/Change button.

Delete menu items by using the Delete button (with the selection to be deleted highlighted in the Files Configured box).

When you are finished making changes, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your changes or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Note: Pressing the **OK** button will activate the **Add/Change** button for you.

Related Topics:

Basics of the Menu System
Adding or Inserting Menu Items
Deleting Menu Items
Viewing Menu Items
Desktop Menu Built In Functions

Deleting Menu Items

1. Use the Files Configured list box to highlight the configured item that you wish to delete.
2. Delete menu items by using the Delete button.

When you are finished making changes, use the **OK** button to end the session and save your changes or the **Cancel** button to abandon the session without making changes.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Menu System](#)
[Adding or Inserting Menu Items](#)
[Changing Menu Items](#)
[Viewing Menu Items](#)
[Desktop Menu Built In Functions](#)
[Run Application Dialog Box](#)

Viewing Menu Items

1. Use the [Files Configured](#) list box to highlight the menu item that you wish to view configuration information on.
2. The other controls in the dialog box will reflect the current configuration of the menu item.

When you are finished viewing menu items, use the **Cancel** button to exit the session without making changes.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Menu System](#)

[Adding or Inserting Menu Items](#)

[Changing Menu Items](#)

[Deleting Menu Items](#)

[Desktop Menu Built In Functions](#)

Desktop Menu Built-in Functions

The App Director Desktop Menu contains four built-in menu functions:

Delimiter line will add a separator line to the menu above the menu item selected in the Files Configured box.

Arrange Icons will add the arrange icons function to the menu. When invoked, it will cause the icons on the desktop to be arranged in an orderly fashion.

Run Application adds a facility to run applications selected from the dialog box that pops up when this function is invoked. This dialog box also has a history feature which saves the last 10 applications run. The run history is saved in a history file, so each time you start up App Director you will see history from the previous session.

Exit Windows adds a function to the desktop menu which will exit Windows. This function will use its own dialog box or the Program Manager dialog box, depending upon configuration:

If you have selected Use Program Manager to exit Windows in the Set-up Options dialog box and you are not running App Director as the User Shell, the Exit Windows function will use the Program Manager to exit Windows. This allows you to save your Program Manager settings.

If you have *not* selected Use Program Manager to exit Windows or if App Director is the User Shell, App Director will use its own Exit Windows dialog box.

Related Topics:

[The Basics of the Menu System](#)

[Adding or Inserting Menu Items](#)

[Changing Menu Items](#)

[Deleting Menu Items](#)

[Viewing Menu Items](#)

[Run Application Dialog Box](#)

Run Application Dialog Box

The Run Application dialog box is displayed when the user selects the **Run Application** desktop menu built-in function. It allows the user to select and run an application that is not configured into the desktop menu.

The dialog box also includes a history feature that lets the user re-run applications that were previously selected. The last 10 applications run can be displayed, and run history is saved in a file when App Director is closed. Therefore, when you start up App Director, you will see listings in the Last Application Run combo box from the previous session of App Director.

1. To run a **new application**:

Use the Directories and Files box to find the file that you wish to run and highlight your selection.

Notes: Use the File Specification Box to control which files are displayed in the Directories and Files box.

If you are using a mouse and have no changes to either Optional Parameters or Change Directory, you can double click your left mouse button over the file you wish to launch to run it.

or

To run a **previous application** using the history feature:

Use the Last Application Run drop down list box to highlight your choice of application.

2. Make other entries as needed to:

Optional Parameters Change Directory

3. Press the **OK** button to run your selection or the **Cancel** button to abandon the dialog box without running an application.

Application Launch Warning Dialog Box

The Application Launch Warning dialog box is used with Launch Applications that are configured as either Selected Days and Time or On Date and Time. It is selected by checking the Warning Dialog check box.

When this option is enabled, the Application Launch Warning dialog box will appear 5 minutes before the scheduled launch time for the application. It will begin counting down to the launch time, with the **Minutes to launch** displayed as it counts down. The time display will be updated every minute. If you have checked the Beep On Launch check box, you will hear a beep every minute as well. If the user does not intervene, the application will be launched at the end of the count down.

If you are away from your computer and the dialog box pops up, it will count down to the launch time and automatically launch the application.

If you are at your computer when the Application Launch Warning dialog box pops up, you have several options available:

- A. To Proceed with the Launch as scheduled and make the dialog box an icon:

This dialog box has a *minimize* button in the upper right hand corner. If you have a mouse, you can press this button to change the dialog box to an icon. The count down will continue, and the remaining time is displayed in the center of the icon.

- B. To Proceed with the Launch as scheduled and remove the dialog box from the screen:

Press the **Proceed - hide dialog box** button and the launch will proceed. The dialog box will be removed from the display.

- C. To Launch the application immediately:

Press the **Launch now** button. The dialog box will terminate and the application will be launched.

- D. To Cancel the application launch:

Press the **Cancel launch** button and the launch will be aborted.

- E. To Postpone the launch:

1. Press the **Postpone launch** button.

2. The **Minutes to launch** display will be replaced by a **Time to delay** display, with an edit box showing 10 minutes. You may change the delay if you wish, up to a maximum value of 60 minutes.

Note: The Postpone launch button is hidden during the delay time entry sequence and the Proceed - hide dialog box button is changed to an OK button.

3. Press the **OK** button to accept the delay time. The application launch will now be delayed by the number of minutes you entered.

Note: The new launch time will be the *current time* + *delay time*. The

current time is the time at the point you pressed the OK button. The actual launch time may vary by as much as one minute, because the launch timer is updated every minute.

4. The dialog box will then return to the count down display mode, with the **Minutes to launch** display and continue to count down.

5. If you press the **Proceed - hide dialog box** button, the dialog box will be removed from the display and the count down to application launch will proceed.

Note: If the delay time that you entered was greater than 5 minutes, the dialog box will reappear when 5 minutes is remaining. You can again postpone the launch if you wish.

6. If you use the *minimize* button to reduce the dialog box to an icon, it will continue to count down, displaying the time remaining in the center of the icon.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)

[Adding Launch Applications](#)

[Changing Launch Applications](#)

[Viewing Launch Applications](#)

[Deleting Launch Applications](#)

[Application Launch Warning Dialog Box](#)

Updating your Launch List from WIN.INI

If you install new applications on your system you may find that they modify the WIN.INI *load=* or *run=* lines to add themselves or other applications. This usually occurs when an application is supposed to be started up when Windows starts up. You may want to move these applications to App Director's launch list, so that all "start up applications" are in the same place. App Director also gives you more control over start up than the WIN.INI method.

To automatically scan WIN.INI and move any applications found to App Director:

1. Select the **Update Launch List from WIN.INI** option on the App Director System Menu.
2. A dialog box will be displayed that explains what is about to happen.
3. Select **Scan** to proceed with the scanning process or **Cancel** to abort the scan process.
4. App Director will scan your WIN.INI *load=* and *run=* lines for applications to be moved. If no applications are found, it will display a dialog box informing you of this fact.
5. If Applications are found, a dialog box will display the applications found, and give you an opportunity to select the ones you want to move. Make your selections following the instructions in the dialog box and select **Move to App Director** to move the applications.

Selecting **Do not move** will leave all applications on the *load=* and *run=* lines.

The scan process can also be aborted by pressing the **Cancel** button.

6. If Applications were moved, they now appear in the launch list that you can view with the **Configure Launch List** dialog box.

Related Topics:

[Basics of the Application Launch System](#)
[Adding Launch Applications](#)
[Changing Launch Applications](#)
[Viewing Launch Applications](#)
[Deleting Launch Applications](#)
[Application Launch Warning Dialog Box](#)