

DeZkTop 1.7f

As of 1/2/95 this is the most up to date release of DeZkTop. This archive should contain the files:

DEZKTOP.EXE
DEZKLIB.DLL
DEZKTOP.HLP
DEZKTOP.INI
DEZKMENU.INI
DEZKFLT.INI
DEZKHKEY.INI
DEZKSIZE.INI
README.TXT
README.WRI (this file)

Installation

If this is a new installation just copy all the ini files to your windows directory. If it is an upgrade do not copy the dezktop.ini and dezkmenu.ini files. Put dezktop.exe, dezklib.dll and dezktop.hlp together in a directory of your choosing; these three files need to be kept together.

If you want an icon for DeZkTop in Program Manager add it using the New command from the Program Manager File menu. If you want to make DeZkTop your shell, which is the best way to use it, then follow the instructions in the help file.

Getting started

To start DeZkTop just run dezktop.exe. It will appear that nothing happens, but if you now right click on the desktop (ie the Windows background) then the DeZkTop menu will pop up. You will also find that you can drag a file out of File Manager and drop it on the desktop where it will appear as a floating icon. You can click on the icon to run the program or data file. You can change the menu windows, and you can define hot-keys and set apps to auto-size on startup. For further details see the help file dezktop.hlp, or choose About from a menu window system menu and then click the help button.

NB Some people have reported a bug that when upgrading from a previous version of DeZkTop the Sizing and HotKey windows can appear with their title bars off screen. I don't know why this should happen, but if it does then alt-tab to that window and press alt-space, to open the system menu, then M. You can then use the cursor keys to move the window back onto the screen. Alternatively close DeZkTop and edit the file dezktop.ini, which is normally in the Windows directory, and change the lines:

```
[DeZkSize]
WindowLeft=strange number
WindowTop=strange number
```

to

```
[DeZkSize]
WindowLeft=0
WindowTop=0
```

and

```
[DeZkHotKey]
WindowLeft=strange number
```

```
WindowTop=strange number
to
[DeZkHotKey]
WindowLeft=0
WindowTop=0
```

When you restart DeZkTop the Sizing and HotKey windows should be at the top left of the screen.

Changes:

v1.7f

This added a facility to make floaters link to menu windows so that when you click on a floater it opens the menu window. To do this simply put >Title in the Program field of the floater, where "Title" is the title of a menu window. The end effect is that the floater acts as a minimised menu window which can be moved and arranged just like the other floaters. This link is actually quite general, and you can use it with the icons in menu windows to make several links to a single menu window from other menu windows. You can also make a hot-key open a menu window in the same way.

v1.7e

This fixed a bug that the environment variable DEZKDIR was ignored when switching desktops. It also added a facility to make menu windows stay permanently on top, and made the menu window backgrounds match the current system setting instead of being permanently white.

v1.7d

This is the first official build for Windows NT3.5. It also adds a utility to import Program Manager information to create menus. A less major change is the use of two environment variables DEZKDIR and DEZKPREFIX to specify the location and name of ini files. The other small change is that better checking has been added to ensure that floaters and icons in menus point to valid files.

v1.7c

This release fixed a bug with full window dragging on NT3.5.

v1.7b

This release adds extra features for NT users to allow the priority for an app to be set, and for NT3.5 users to run Win16 apps in separate address spaces. For both W3.1 and NT users permanent menus now revert to an icon when minimised instead of disappearing. These means folders can be left on the desktop in an iconised state.

I have worked around the bug in NT that caused problems if the Sizing facility was turned on. Sizing now does not seem to cause any problems, but it is less transparent than before since windows will appear momentarily before being resized.

v1.7a

There was a minor bug in v1.7 that meant the first floater in the list could not have no title. v1.7a fixes this bug.

v1.7

You can now have different desktops with different menus/hot-keys/floaters etc. To change the desktop hold the shift key down and click on the desktop. Either choose a desktop from the list or create a new desktop by typing the id then optionally a space and a short description.

eg

john John's desktop

The id must be 1 to 4 characters long. The new desktop is described by the files <id>top.ini, <id>menu.ini, <id>flt.ini, <id>hkey.ini and <id>size.ini (hence the 4 character limit).

I have fixed some bugs, but nothing major. I have changed the way DeZkTop works internally (again). For the techies amongst you, the Windows 3.1 version has gone back to subclassing the desktop and the NT version still uses a transparent overlay. Neither of these versions will work satisfactorily with Windows 4 aka Chicago, but MS have promised there will be a feature in Windows 4 to enable apps like DeZkTop to work by the time Windows 4 is launched.

Shareware

DeZkTop is a shareware program. If you like it enough to use it do the decent thing and send ten pounds sterling to:

John Rennie.
18 Shaftesbury Avenue,
Vicars Cross,
Chester.
CH3 5LQ
United Kingdom.