

Chartist User's Manual: Options

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This chapter describes the options available in Chartist.

Display Options

The display options control the manner in which Chartist window elements are shown.

Tool Bar

The Tool Bar may be switched on or off with the View Tool Bar command.

Grid

Use the View Grid command to switch the display of grid points on or off. When the display is zoomed out, the process of displaying the grid can take a long time. The grid display is inhibited automatically if the display is zoomed out so far that the grid points would be difficult to distinguish. Turning off the grid display has no effect on snapping.

Ruler

The vertical and horizontal rulers may be switched on or off with the View Ruler command.

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Text As Printed

Text, by default, is shown in the display as closely to possible to its printed appearance. In some cases this means that extra space will be inserted between characters to make lines display the same length that they will be printed. This is done to provide better feedback to the user on how much text will fit in a symbol. This feature may be switched on or off with the View Text As Printed command.

Pictures

Bitmap pictures in symbols can take a long time to display. If the View Pictures command is unchecked, pictures are displayed as gray rectangles to save time.

Snap To Grid

This option causes all locations entered by the user with the cursor to be "snapped" to the nearest multiple of the current grid interval for each axis. If this option is turned off, no snapping occurs. Turn this option on or off with the Options Snap to Grid command.

Note that since symbols are centered on grid points, the borders of symbols may be placed on grid points, or half way between them (if the dimension is an odd multiple of the grid interval), when this option is enabled.

Changing this option has no effect on symbols until they are created, moved or re-sized.

Changing Grid Spacing, Chart Dimensions And Units

These characteristics of the chart may be changed with the Options Chart... command.

If Inches are selected for the units of measure, the ruler will be shown in inches and other dimensions of the chart to a precision of 0.001 inch.

If Centimeters are selected for the units of measure, the ruler will be shown in centimeters and other dimensions of the chart to a precision of 0.001cm.

Note that chart data is maintained internally to an precision of .001 inch,

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regardless of the units setting. This means when Centimeters are chosen as the units of measure, values for default symbol size, grid spacing, arrowhead length, and all user designated locations and dimensions are converted to inches for internal storage.

Typeface sizes are always stored and shown in points (1/72 inch).

The Default push button returns the grid spacing to 0.125" for height and width.

The height and width of the chart is limited to 60.000" maximum.

Setting Standard Symbol Size

The Standard Symbol Size of is normally set at 1.250" wide by 0.750" high. This size is used in the Set Default Symbol Size dialog when you click on the 50% Standard or Standard buttons. You may configure Chartist to use your own standard symbol size. To establish your own standard symbol size, edit the following lines into the CHARTIST.INI file (located in the windows directory), at the end of any other text in the file:

```
stdwidth=nnnn  
stdheight=nnnn
```

Where "nnnn" is the respective desired dimension in .001" units. For example if you wanted a standard symbol size of 1.500" by 0.825" you would enter the following lines:

```
stdwidth=1500  
stdheight=825
```

To change the standard dimensions, simply edit the numerical values. If you are using centimeters as your units of measure, you must convert the dimensions to .001" increments when you enter them.

Selecting Shape Properties For New Symbols

This option allows you to choose whether Chartist requests shape properties when you add new symbols. If you are adding the same symbol type to a chart many times, you may elect to bypass the Choose Symbol Shape dialog. When the Options Add Symbol Dialog command is unchecked, the new symbol takes on the current default shape properties, and no dialog is entered.

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Conversely, when adding a lot of different symbol types to a chart, you may want the dialog turned on, to save having to select the new symbol and change it from the default shape properties. This is the behavior that occurs when the Options Add Symbol Dialog command is checked.

Palette Colors

The list of colors displayed in the color dialogs is called the palette. It comprises a discrete list of color selections that may be chosen for color elements of symbols and lines. When Chartist starts, it sets this palette up to have the same colors as the Windows system palette.

You are free to customize the color palette, creating your own color selections. You may also save custom palettes and load them into Chartist at any time. Changing the palette has no effect on symbols that are already created.

Modifying The Palette

To modify the palette, choose the Options Edit Colors... command. The Edit Colors dialog box will be displayed.

The dialog box shows the color palette, with some scroll bars to the right. Each of the scroll bars controls a primary color value for the selected palette entry. Change the color values of the desired palette entries by using the scroll bars or typing in the desired values.

You can restore a given palette entry to its start-up value by clicking on the Default button.

When you are satisfied with the new palette, press the OK button to return to the main window.

Saving And Loading The Palette

To save a custom palette for future use, choose the Options Save Colors... command.

Similarly, to load a custom palette, choose the Options Get Colors... command.

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These commands operate similarly to the other File Operation commands in Chartist.

Using Chartist Data In Other Applications

Clipboard Formats

The clipboard format options determine which of the standard Windows clipboard data formats are used when copying or cutting Chartist symbols. The purpose of these options is to allow you to select the standard data format most suitable for exporting data to your other applications.

The two standard formats are Bitmap and Metafile Picture.

The Bitmap format is an image of the selected area of the chart. It is suitable for pasting into bitmap editors, such as Windows Paintbrush™, or into word processing applications that can incorporate bitmap data, such as Microsoft Word for Windows™, or Symantec JustWrite™. Bitmaps are generated to the same resolution as your display.

The Metafile Picture format is a recording of the actual Windows drawing commands used to print the selected area of the chart. Many word processing applications, including those mentioned above, can also read this format of data. The metafile is generated using the text capabilities of the Chartist's currently selected printer.

The Metafile Picture format offers the better rendition of Chartist data in the other application's document, since all text is drawn and positioned using the printer's, rather than the display's, text capabilities and resolution. The one possible drawback to using this format is that the other application may not be able to scale (stretch or shrink) the metafile to a size other than originally drawn. Also, the data may seem distorted after it is pasted into the other application. This distortion is an artifact of the display's lower resolution. The chart data will print correctly.

The clipboard formats used are controlled by checking or unchecking the Options Bitmap and Options Metafile Picture commands respectively. If both commands are checked (the default), both formats will be clipped. If your other application can read both formats, it will prefer the Metafile Picture if both are present (assuming the standard clipboard protocols are observed). To force the use of the Bitmap format in that case, uncheck the Metafile Picture command.

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Likewise, the Windows Clipboard Viewer application will prefer the Metafile Picture format if it is present. In many cases the Viewer's rendition of this format will look distorted. The reason is that the Viewer is using the display and not the printer to interpret the data, and the text positioning and sizing will not necessarily be correct for the display. You can force the Viewer to display the Bitmap. Refer to the Windows User's Guide.

Note that Chartist also exchanges data with the clipboard in a private format. This private format is the one that Chartist uses for pasting data into the chart document. This private format of the selected data is always copied to the clipboard in addition to and regardless of any other option settings, and is for the use of one or more instances of the Chartist application itself.

Importing Text Into Symbols

When editing text inside a symbol, text may be pasted from other applications. Copy the desired text from the other application into the clipboard, then Paste it into the symbol with the Paste button of the Edit Text dialog box. Font information from the other application is disregarded. Word wrapping is also disregarded. Text lines in Chartist always end with "hard" carriage return - line feed sequences.

Shape File

Chartist uses an auxilliary file, called a shape file, to define the characteristics of the symbols that it can represent. The default shape file is named SHAPES.SHP and must be located in the same directory as the CHARTIST.EXE file.

Chartist will not run if it cannot locate its default shape file. As a registered user, you can order additional shape files, or have a custom shape file developed. Refer to the front material of this manual for the customer support information.

To load a shape file, select the File Load Shapes... command. The Load Shapes dialog box will be displayed. This dialog is almost identical to the other file dialog boxes in Chartist. The default file extension for shape files is .SHP. Select the desired shape file and click the OK button to complete the operation.

If an unsaved chart is in work, you will first be prompted to save or abandon that file. Loading a shape file results in the clearing of the current chart.

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User modification of shape files is not supported.