More Information

Windows Launcher:

If you click on the picture the program will either start, install, or take you to another screen breaking down the individual programs - to start or install via the picture and possibly offer textual information through the text adjacent to the picture.

There are a few reasons why there isn't 100% consistency with the layout of the launcher. A lot of the programs we can make run directly from the CD completely, or in a "Preview" mode (which means your data, the game, or personal information will NOT BE SAVED unless you install it to your hard drive... easily determined by an error message at save or exit).

Some products have limitations and special requirements we have to work around, with, and through.

If you click on the written description of the product adjacent to the picture (usually) you will either go to an installation OR get access to any available information, known problem and solutions we have, etc.

BLACK SCREEN - or - Distorted Colors:

With regard to MS Windows and video cards and video drivers, there are a lot of differences. Through vigorous testing, we have found that our initial Launcher ran without any problem on at least 80% of the systems, but the other 20% may have a variety of difficulties. These problems ranged from grids over the pictures, to color swaps (which was plain ugly), and other times checker board effects. In an attempt to solve the problems we developed a base algorythmn which compares what the pallet was to what it currently is. If they were swapped currently, the pallet changes and the screen is redrawn instantly without problem or delay. If the pallet does NOT match, the screen will be left blank (black) and will force a re-draw so that you will always see the clear, clean, crisp image.

If you are one of the few that get the black screen, simply click on the title bar or a non-linked area to force the re-draw. We are looking into re-writing the pallet swapping portion of the program in the future so this inconvenience will no longer exist.

Distorted Colors... one of the testers has consistently reported distorted colors as a problem, even with the black screen algorithm. There is an on-going problem with pallets in Windows v3.1x through Win95 which developers must attempt to work around. If you have Quick Time, you will notice that your entire desktop turns yellow and black every time you start a movie or view certain pictures. MS Video customizes itself on installation for your video card and driver, and still has pallet swapping problems on some systems. Every program that is graphic intensive is GOING TO HAVE THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM. We are actively seeking a solution, and have the following suggestions to try:

1)   Try running in High Color or True Color (32K, 64K, or 16.7M color mode)... if there are more colors to choose from, there will be less of a chance of problems. 256 color is the MINIMUM recommended, 32K is the preferred minimum. You should always run at the most colors the resolution you selected will allow... as pallet swapping becomes less of a problem and your system will actually process data to the screen faster in most cases.
2)   Get updated drivers from your video card manufacturer for your version of Windows and install them. Most popular video card manufacturers have a WEB page on the Internet for a number of months, try using your Web Browser to find the video manufacturers name or search on "Video Card Drivers." Stb.com, diamondmm.com, ati.com, trident.com, etc. will access some

of the more popular companies.

3)   See if your video card is upgradable, add another meg of RAM to it, if possible. This will give you more colors (if the driver handles it) at your current resolution. Remember, 16.7 million is the maximum number of colors possible.

4)   Try minimizing the back ground stuff that is distorted, so the foreground item has the complete focus, the back ground picture will be correct when the program is closed and has primary focus once again.

5)   Disable your screen saver, even MS screen savers... this will reduce pallet conflict.

In most all cases the above information solves the problem, if you can't live with a distorted background while another program is running.

Working with the TEXT FILES (MS Write or WordPad):

We chose to use the basic word processing ability shipped on every computer running Windows to give you the most flexibility and us the fastest development and update ability. The operation hasn't changed, and is purposely left as standard. There have been a couple questions, which we shall attempt to answer below.

Information is COMING UP IN A LITTLE WINDOW:

MS Windows Write and Word Pad (for Win95) are set to save your last settings. If the window is too small, try MAXIMIZING the window. This should solve the problem. You might also try setting the wrap to Window, rather than the ruler (under the view menu in Windows 95).

GIVES OUT SIDE OF PRINT MARGINS WARNING:

Some printers, such as the HP II, require one-half inch right and left margins, and your WRITE or WORD PAD settings may be defaulting to smaller margins. The message is meaningless unless you are planning to print. In many cases, printing won't be a problem... in other instances you only need to make the margins narrower to print properly.

Cursor Disappears:

Though we have NOT yet seen, or been able to recreate this, we are told that the cursor disappears sometimes under Windows v3.1x. We are told the problem seems to be solved by moving the mouse, and appears to disappear when the end-user stops directly over a linked area, where the cursor isn't sure if it should be a pointer or pointer with a box (the symbol for a linked area). We are looking into fixing this, although it hasn't happened on 26 computers we have tested the front-end on, we endeavor to solve all difficulties, inconsistencies, and nuisances.

Exiting Programs:

The Windows Launcher is easily exited by Pressing the ALT key and the F4 (function key). You can also click on the X in the upper right hand corner of the window, or the minus sign or icon in the upper left hand corner of the Window.

The above exiting procedure is the same for 99% of the Windows programs on the market. The other 1% generally has some type of instruction either on the screen, in a help file, or in the information files. Other ways to exit programs (especially DOS programs - even some running through Windows) are:

         ESC (the escape key in the upper left of most key boards)
         Ctrl+Q (hold down the Ctrl key and press the Q key)

Ctrl+X (hold down the Ctrl key and press the X key)
Ctrl+Z (hold down the Ctrl key and press the Z key)
Ctrl+C (hold down the Ctrl key and press the C key)
Ctrlt+F4 (hold down the Ctrl key and press the F4 key)
Alt+F4 (hold down the Alt key and press the F4 key)
Alt+X (hold down the Alt key and press the X key)
Alt+Z (hold down the Alt key and press the Z key)

Knowing how to exit a program is actually more important than knowing how to start it. DO NOT hit the "RESET" button or power your computer off without completely exiting Windows. Doing so will leave TEMP files on your computer (wasting large amounts of space and potentially causing fragmentation, which can significantly slow your computer down).

Please let us know how we can best serve you.

Thank You for your purchase.