QuikGraf Version 1.0

C:\VB30\QUIKGRAF\3D-DEPTH.QG

Graph   Specs   Titles   Colors   Clipboard   Help

Farm Animals

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Horses	7	5	8	6	7	8	9
Cows	5	3	6	5.5	6	4	5
Pigs	3	2	3	4	5	3	1

Cols: 8   # Rows: 4   Graph   Max   Norm   Close
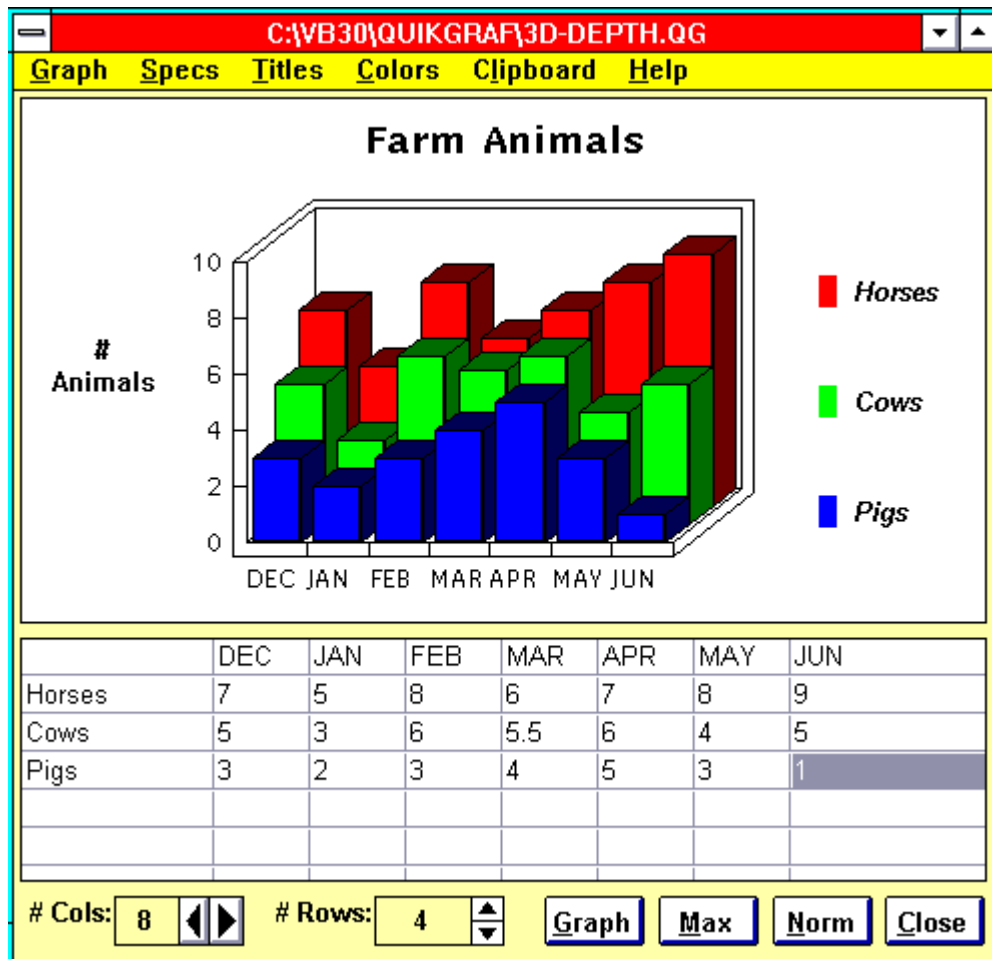
Overview

QuikGraf provides a quick, easy way to visualize data that is in numerical form. QuikGraf does this by allowing you to enter your numerical data into an array of rows and columns called the data grid, and then quickly generate various types of graphs directly from your data. QuikGraf supports many different types of graphs, with several options within each type. You can easily make and compare different types for graphs and select the one that best suites your needs.

Once you have finalized your graph, QuikGraf allows you to print it, save it as a disk file, and/or export it to another application. There are several options for saving and exporting: you can save a QuikGraf graph as a native QuikGraf data file, or you can save the graph's image as a Windows bit map (BMP) or meta-file (WMF). Also, you can use the Windows Clipboard to export a QuikGraf graph to another application as either a BMP or WMF object. (For example, the chart on the cover page of this document was created with QuikGraf, copied to the clipboard as a BMP file, and then inserted into the cover page by using Write's Edit Paste command.)

QuikGraf lets you create and work with as many graphs as you like. Each QuikGraf graph occupies its own window with its own menu bar, data grid, command buttons, etc. QuikGraf's main program window contains only a few menu items and the name of the currently active QuikGraf graph. Most of your work with QuikGraf will be done using the individual graph windows you create. Additional windows, which you can activate from any graph window, allow you to control the type of graph being displayed, the data it displays, and other items such as colors, fonts, title text, and pattern fills.

QuikGraf has been designed to be easy to use, and it has a simple, straight forward interface. The best way to learn how to use QuikGraf to to simply start using it. QuikGraf's Help system covers each of the program's functions. The section **Installation and Startup** explains how to install QuikGraf and get started making your own graphs.

Registering and the Registration Motivator

QuikGraf is distributed as shareware, meaning it is allowed to be freely copied and distributed, but if used on a regular basis, must be paid for. If you continue to use QuikGraf you are obligated to send its registration fee ($40.00 US) to Peninsula Software. The ASCII text file REGISTER.TXT is provided to make it more convenient to register your shareware copy of QuikGraf. Note that Peninsula Software accepts Visa and MasterCard orders.

Shareware copies of QuikGraf display the Registration Motivator dialog when the program starts and ends. This dialog requires you to enter the word **register** to contine. Registered copies of QuikGraf do not contain the Registration Motivator.

Upon receipt of your registration fee, Peninsula Software will mail you a 3.5" 1.44MB diskette containing a copy of the most current version of QuikGraf that is registered to you exlusively. As noted above, registered versions of QuikGraf **do not** contain the "Registration Motivator" dialog box, and also display

the name of the registered user in the "About" window. Finally, registering will allow Peninsula Software to continue further enhancements to QuikGraf and to develop other low cost software products.

Installation and Startup

The procedure for installing QuikGraf depends on whether the version you are installing is a Registered version or a Shareware version received from a shareware distributor or obtained from a BBS download. In the first two cases you will have two diskettes containing all the files needed by QuikGraf. In the BBS download case you will have three ZIP files that must first be unloaded to the same working directory on your hard disk. QuikGraf's installation will proceed from this working directory.

Registered or Shareware Distributor Version Installation

1. Run the SETUP program according to the instructions on the label of the diskette you receive. SETUP is a Windows program that uncompresses the files needed by QuikGraf and puts them in the proper directories. SETUP ensures there is sufficient space on your hard disk before beginning, and it will install a Program Manager Group and Icon in the Windows Program Manager if Program Manager is active while you run SETUP.EXE.

Shareware Version (BBS Download) Installation

1. You must have three ZIP files named QGxx_1.ZIP, QGxx_2.ZIP, and QGxx_3.ZIP, where xx is the QuikGraf version number. Un-ZIP the three QuikGraf ZIP files into a single working directory on your hard disk. Make this working directory the default directory.

2. From the working directory, run the SETUP program. SETUP is a Windows program that uncompresses the files needed by QuikGraf and puts them in the proper directories. SETUP ensures there is sufficient space on your hard disk before beginning, and it will install a Program Manager Group and Icon in the Windows Program Manager if Program Manager is active while you run SETUP.EXE.

3. After the QuikGraf installation is complete you can delete the working directory and its contents.

Startup

1. Start QuikGraf like any standard Windaws application.

2. From the **File** menu item, select **New**. QuikGraf will display a graph window with a sample graph in it. Note that the QuikGraph window displays the name **Graph1**, which is the format for all new graphs that have not been saved to disk.

3. Using the data grid at the bottom of the graph window, change some of the data values by clicking the cell to be changed and keying in new data. Click the **Graph** button at the botom of the window to see the effect of your changes.

4. Click the **Max** button to enlarge the graph to maximum size. Note that this covers up the data grid. Click the **Norm** button to return the graph to normal size and redisplay the data grid.

5. Resize the graph window to see how QuikGraf dynamically changes the size of the graph and data grid. You can make the graph window any size you like, including maximized (full screen) or minimized (an icon.) It is usually best to work with a graph window that is about 1/4 the size of your screen.

6. From the **Graph** menu item, select **Duplicate**. QuikGraf will display a second graph window containing a duplicate of the first (sample) graph.

7. From the **Graph** menu item, select **Open**. This will display a dialog window listing the file names of several sample graphs shipped with QuikGraf. Pick one and select **OK** (or simply double-click one of the sample graph names.) Reply **Yes** to the message about replacing un-saved data, and QuikGraf will load the sample graph you selected into the graph window. Note that the QuikGraph window now displays the complete name of the graph you just loaded, and the Graph Window's title bar contains this same information.

8. Click on the **Specs** menu item. This will display the **Specs** window that allows you to change many of the graph's characteristics. Start by changing the **Graph Type** to **3D Bar** and then click the **Graph** button at the bottom of the Graph Window. Observe that QuikGraf immediately changes the graph type to a 3D bar graph.

9. The **Colors** and **Titles** menu commands open specification windows that function like the **Specs** window. Experiment with all three to see how they work. You can make multiple changes using any or all of the specification windows before selecting the **Graph** command button to see them take effect all at once, or you can use the **Graph** button after each change to see its individual effect.

Saving a graph as a QuikGraf data file

1. From the **Graph** menu item, select **Save As**. This will display a dialog box requesting a name for the graph you are working on. Enter a 1 -- 8 character name and select **OK** to save the graph with that name. The default extension for QuikGraf data files is **.QG**. You can use a different extension, but this is **not recommended**.

2. After saving a graph you can close the window containing it and then re-load it into another graph window later.

3. You can save the image of a graph as a Windows bit map (BMP) file or a Windows meta file (WMF) by selecting the **Save BMP** or **Save WMF** menu options under the **Graph** menu item.

Pasting a QuikGraf graph into another application

1. To copy an image of the current graph to the Windows clipboard, select the **Clipboard** menu item.

You can copy the graph image as either a BMP or WMF object.

2. To copy the graph image as a BMP object, select **Copy as BMP**. To copy it as a WMF object, select **Copy as WMF**.

3. Once the graph image is on the Windows clipboard you can switch to any other Windows application and insert the clipboard contents by simple selecting **Edit Paste** or pressing the **Ctl + Insert** (or **Ctl + V**) keys.

QuikGraf Usage Tips

Using the QuikGraf Graph Windows

An important design point of QuikGraf is that it places each of its documents (a graph and its data grid) in a separate, independent Graph Window. Each Graph Window is fully functional and can be closed, minimized, maximized, or made any size you wish. The only link betwen the Graph Windows is that you use the same Specification Windows to specify each graph's basic properties.

The independence of QuikGraf's Graph Windows makes QuikGraf different from other multiple-document applications in which each active document is contained in sub-window, but all sub-windows are in turn contained in the main application's primary window. The technical name for this type of application is MDI, for Multiple Document Interface. Examples of MDI applications are the commercial word processor and spreadsheet programs available today. Because QuikGraf's Graph Windows exist outside of the QuikGraf main application window, QuikGraf is technically not an MDI application.

In addition to the Graph Windows, QuikGraf uses a set of "specification" windows that allow you to specify the type, format, and details of the graph itself. These windows are where you specify what type of graph you want (pie, bar, surface, etc.), what its titles should be, what fonts to use, colors, etc.

Because you can have many active Graph Windows that contain different graphs representing the same data, you will have to be careful when you perform a File Save (or File Save As...) operation. You should ensure that the graph you are saving really is the one you want, and that you are not overlaying the desired graph with a different or alternate version.

Using the Specification Windows

To control the graphs you make, QuikGraf provides you with three separate specification windows. These windows are named **Specs**, **Colors**, and **Titles**, and are activated by clicking on their respective names in any active QuikGraf graph window.

Initially, the specification windows are all located at the upper right corner of your screen, and they will overlay each other. However, the windows are shaped so that a section of each is always visible. By clicking on its visible part you can activate the window you need, enter/update data in it, and then return to the Graph Window.

You can relocate the specification windows anywhere on your screen, and you can minimize them. They cannot be resized or maximized.

Version History

Version 1.0

The initial release of QuikGraf.

Planned Enhancements

The following enhancements are planned for future versions of QuikGraf:

The ability to add or delete rows and columns from the data grid at places other than the right side or bottom.

The ability to select blocks of cells in the data grid and copy/move them to other locations.

The ability to perform simple claculations (such as sums and differences) within the data grid.

The ability to individually select fill patterns.

The ability to "drag and drop" QuikGrafs into other applications, rather than having to use the Windows Clipboard as an intermediate step.

Suggestions and Enhancements

If you have comments or suggestions about QuikGraf, please send them to:

Peninsula Software
28510 Blythewood Drive
Palos Verdes CA 90274

or send a Compuserve E-Mail message to **72356,556**.

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