

WeatherXpress 2000

Skin Help

The Skins Menu

When the skins menu appears you are presented with a list of skins that are currently installed on your computer in the "Local" tab. Three images used by the program are shown in a somewhat "compressed" form so they may not appear as nice as they will when you apply them as your skin selection. They are just used to give you a general picture of what the skin will look like when you use it. If this is your first visit to this menu, you will probably only have one skin listed... Default. This is the basic skin I decided to use as the baseline. Of course this is your chance to change all that and have a much larger selection of skins that may suit your tastes better than the default. The "Remote" tab can show you a list of all currently available skins on the web site. I will discuss that tab selection shortly.

The Local Tab

When you want to either change skins or modify the way a skin is displayed you use this tab. Your currently selected skin should be selected when the window comes up... if not, then you might have a small problem.

There should be a list of all your skins. Next is the "Title Caption" setting. A line should be pointing at the title area of the window and both the "square" and the "circle" at the end of the line should be the same color as the caption it is pointing to.

To change the color, left-click the colored box. Now, select any color you would like the title to be and press "Ok" to finish. The box, circle, and title should change to your new selection. Use this same procedure to change the color of any of the other items.

The "Sites" selection has the most flexible settings. You can change the foreground and background colors, and you can change the sites to **bold** if they show up better that way. You can have the rectangular borders drawn or not, and you can have the background a solid color of your choosing instead of using the image that is used as the background. At this time, other than the color, none of this information is used by any window except the All-Weather window.

Once you have made all your selections you can hit the "Apply This Skin" button and all of your changes will be applied throughout the program windows. You do not need to save this selection as the "Default" settings unless you plan on switching skins a lot and don't want to bother doing this again. This is ok as it only requires a couple of minutes to re-download a skin and overwrite the old skin if you ever decide to go back to the original settings.

If you decide you don't want a skin on your system anymore, select the skin you want to delete and press the "Delete Selected Skin" button. **Do not try and remove the Default skin as the program always tries to revert back to this skin if it encounters severe errors.** Also, you can not delete a skin that is currently in use. Select a different skin first, then delete the skin you don't want anymore.

The Remote Tab

When you want to add skins to your skin collection select the "Remote" tab. The program assumes you are currently connected to the internet. Press the "Refresh List" button to get the latest complete list of available skins from the web site. Once the list is displayed (shouldn't take too long even if the list becomes large) the list box will fill up with all the skins you can choose from. This list will grow larger as time goes by. I currently have over a dozen skins in development and as they are finished I will add them to the list. As others create skins and submit them for posting, this will also add to the list.

Once the list of skins is displayed, select one by left-clicking it. If you would like a preview of the skin, press the

"Preview Skin" button. Only 4 files are downloaded to a temporary directory, then they are displayed... usually takes from 10 to 25 seconds depending on your connection. Once the preview is downloaded, the Skins Menu will take on the new skin look... If you like it, hit the "Download Skin" button and all the files for the skin will be downloaded to a new skin folder. That skin will be displayed and you will be asked if you want to apply it now. You don't have to, but that is your choice at this point.

Preview and download as many skins as you like. That's about all there is to that.

The two text boxes should have the name of the skin author displayed as you select each skin, and the web site of the designer if he/she has one. Just a little perk for the hard work.