

FastDial for Windows

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TO REGISTER FASTDIAL FOR WINDOWS:

This software product and manual are being distributed under the USER SUPPORTED SOFTWARE concept (SHAREWARE). The software and manual are not in the public domain. Shareware means you are permitted to try the program for a limited period of time (usually 30 days), after that period of time you are required to register the software.

Registration of FastDial will provide you with:

- Registered version of FastDial for Windows
- Low-cost upgrades to future versions
- Shipping and handling
- Shareware versions of other software written by the author

To register this software, select Help/About... from the FastDial menu. Then select the Register button, fill out the registration form, and select the Print button. Send the printed registration form and fee (make checks payable to DAN NIENHUIS) to:

FastDial Registration
Attn: Dan Nienhuis
16744 James St.
Holland MI 49424

ABOUT FASTDIAL:

FastDial is a Microsoft Windows 3.+ program which allows the user to maintain a list of names and corresponding telephone numbers. With a press of a button, FastDial uses most any modem to quickly dial a selected phone number.

The main goal for FastDial is ease of use. It requires very little setup, and in many cases, the user won't have to look at these instructions, so I'll try to be brief. However, it may be worth your while to look over these instructions because there are some features of FastDial which may not be apparent.

Let me explain why I wrote FastDial. The company where I work has several hundred people with phone extensions, and I deal with maybe a hundred or so outside contacts. I found it very tedious to use the company phone directory to look up phone numbers. I had to remember the spelling, find the right page, and then dial the phone. If I needed to call one of my outside contacts, I would sort through my stack of business cards, or flip through my file, then dial the 7 to 16 digits (it really isn't that tough, but I'm not very patient). Well, I had this computer in front of me all day, and it had a modem. So, I started looking for an auto-dialer. But, what I found didn't suit my situation. That's when I decided to write my own auto-dial program.

Now, if you are still reading this far, I'll tell you how I use FastDial and maybe it will save you some time. I load FastDial when Windows starts up, in Windows Version 3.1, I simply placed it in the Startup group of the Program Manager. Also, I have assigned FastDial a hot key of Ctrl Alt F. When I need to call one of the over 1600 people in my default listing I hit the hot key combination to bring up FastDial. Then I type the first letter of the persons name I want to call. The list box instantly scrolls to the first name starting with that letter. Usually, one or two presses of the Page Down key will display the name I'm looking for, a few presses of the Down key and I have the name highlighted. I simply press the Enter key to dial the number using the modem. While the modem is dialing, I pick up the telephone handset. In most cases, after dialing, the modem will hang up, and I just wait for the other party to answer the phone. That's all there is to it! I can usually dial any number in just a few seconds. Obviously, I think FastDial is very useful and I hope you will too. Now let's get on with the helpful stuff.

INSTALLING FASTDIAL:

Registered Version

Place the disk in the appropriate disk drive. Run SETUP.EXE from the Program Manager's File/Run menu option.

Unregistered Version

Follow the steps below:

1. Copy MSCOMM.VBX, CMDIALOG.VBX, COMMDLG.DLL, and VBRUN300.DLL to the WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. If any of the files already exist, replace them only if these files are newer.

2. Decide in which directory you would like to place FastDial. If the directory does not exist, create a new directory with the MD command from DOS, or the File/Create Directory.. option from the Windows File Manager's menu.
3. Copy FDIAL15U.EXE, FDIAL.HLP, and FASTDIAL.WRI into the desired directory.
4. From the Windows Program Manager, select a program group for the FastDial icon (I suggest the Startup group).
5. Select File/New... from the Program Manager's menu.
6. Select Program Item, then OK.
7. Enter "FastDial 1.5" for Description
8. Enter the drive, directory, and FDIAL15U.EXE for Command Line (i.e., "C:\FASTDIAL\FDIAL15U.EXE").
9. Enter the same directory for Working Directory as used for Command Line (i.e., "C:\FASTDIAL").
10. If you want to use a hot key to run FastDial (highly recommend Ctrl + Alt + F) just type the key combination desired for Shortcut Key.
11. If you are running FastDial from the Startup group, it is a good idea to check the Run Minimized box.
12. Click the Ok button. The FastDial icon should appear in the selected program group.

USING FASTDIAL:

Configuring Fastdial

The first time you run FastDial you will need to set the configuration for FastDial to use with your modem. Follow the steps below:

1. The default listing file may be changed by selecting the Change Default Listing button. If you have just run FastDial for the first time, the only listing file will be the one created when FastDial starts for the first time (FDIAL15.DIL). If you want to use another listing file as a default you will need to create it first by selecting File/New... option from the main window menu.
2. If you have a modem, make sure the box before the "Yes, I have a modem" statment is checked. This will allow you to configure FastDial for your modem. If you don't have a modem, make sure the box is unchecked, you will not be able to set any of the modem options, proceed to step 8.
3. Select the COM port for your modem.
4. Set the dialing method, this is usually Tone, some older systems will require Pulse dialing.
5. Select the baud rate next, you may use a baud rate less than the capacity of your modem, but not higher. In other words, if you have a 2400 baud modem, don't select 9600, but it is likely your modem would support 1200.

6. Hopefully, setting the Initialization String is unnecessary for your system. I suggest you try the default setting without making any changes. If your system doesn't work, then see the AT Commands section.

7. Like the Initialization String, it shouldn't be necessary to alter the Hangup String.

8. When everything is set the way you want it, select the Done button.

Adding/Editing Records

1. Select the Add or Edit button to bring up the FastDial Record window.

2. In the "Name:" text box, you may enter up to 50 characters. This box may contain more than a name, you may want to include a job title, type of phone number (home or work, day or eve, etc.), or any other info for the record being entered.

3. In the "Number:" text box, you may enter up to 32 characters. But, not just any characters, FastDial will dial characters in this set: [1234567890*#-,.]. The comma will typically cause the modem to pause for two seconds before dialing any remaining numbers. The asterisk (*) and pound symbol (#) are standard telephone characters. And the dash (-) is not dialed, but may be used for formatting numbers (1-800-555-1212). Also, any alphabetic characters which are found on your phone's dial pad will be converted to the appropriate number. In other words, a toll free number like 1-800-CALL-NOW, will be converted to 1-800-2255-669.

4. The next text box is for Extension numbers, the same rules apply here as for the "Number:" text box. To dial the Extension after the Number is dialed you must check the "Show Dial Pad" check box.

5. The "Show Dial Pad" check box enables the dialing pad. The dialing pad allows additional numbers to be dialed after the number in the "Number:" text box has been dialed. If you have entered an extension or need to dial numbers after the number has been dialed, check this box. Otherwise, leave it unchecked.

6. Select the Done button.

Locating Records

A fast way to locate the record you are looking for is to simply type the first letters of the record. As you type letters they will display in the "Locate:" text box and any matching record in the listing will be highlighted. When the desired record is highlighted, it may be dialed by any of the methods explained in the Dialing section.

Deleting Records

1. Highlight the record you wish to delete.

2. Select the Delete button.

3. Respond Yes to the message box.

Dialing

There are several ways to make a call, the first and most apparent is to use the arrow keys until the desired name is highlighted in the list box and then select the Call button. If you use the Call button, you will have to select the Dial button from the FastDial Record window.

A number can be dialed more quickly by using one of two "Call Now" methods. The first method is done by pressing the Enter key when the name is highlighted in the list box. Double-clicking a name is the second method. The "Call Now" mode essentially presses the Dial button in the FastDial record window for you. The "Call Now" methods are the fastest methods, use the Call button in case you want to view or change the number to be dialed before actually dialing.

Re-Dialing

Once a number has been dialed by any method, it may be re-dialed by selecting the Redial button. The number in the box to the right of the Redial button will be dialed using the "Call Now" method.

After Dialing

After the number is dialed, FastDial will do one of two different things based on the "Show Dial Pad" setting. If the "Show Dial Pad" box is unchecked, the modem will hangup and the main window will return.

Using the Dial Pad

If the "Show Dial Pad" box is checked, the Dial Pad will be shown and made active after the number in the "Number:" text box has been dialed. The Dial button is changed to read "HangUp", and the modem stays online. The Dial Pad consist of the digits 0-9, the * and # symbols, and a button labeled "Dial Ext." While the modem is still online, you can use your keyboard to dial numbers, or dial the number in the "Extension:" text box.

What is the Dial Pad for? If you call or work where there is a voice mail system, you will find this very useful. For example, after a number is dialed, you may need to dial 1 then enter the extension of the person you are trying to call. With FastDial, just type 1 then select the "Dial Ext" button. With the keyboard, you may press the plus (+) symbol on the numeric keypad instead of the pound symbol (Shift + 3).

MENU COMMANDS:

File/New...

This menu selection allows you to create a new listing file. Simply supply a filename in the dialog box and select OK, a new file will be created with a file extension of DIL. To use the new file, use the File/Open... menu selection.

File/Open...

Use this Menu selection to open an existing listing file. Listing files have an extension of DIL. Just select a file from the dialog box and the file will be loaded into FastDial.

File/Exit (Alt + F4)

When you are finished with FastDial, you can use the File/Exit menu selection to quit the program.

File/1

If you use the File/Open... or File/New... menu options, this option will appear in the File menu. This is very useful if you "toggle" between two listing files frequently. To retrieve the last listing file, simply press Alt + F, then press 1, and the last file will be loaded.

Search/Find... (Ctrl + F)

If you have a large listing file, you can use the Search/Find.. menu selection to locate a record. If you are looking for a particular name, be sure to check the "Name Search Only" box. If you want to find a number or extension, uncheck the "Name Search Only" box. Name searches are much faster, and should be used when possible. When FastDial has found a match, the record will be highlighted in the list box.

Search/Find Next (F3)

If the first Find did not locate the desired record and you wish to continue searching, select Search/Find Next. This will continue searching from the current listing record.

Config/Defaults...

Selecting the Config/Defaults... menu item will allow you to make changes to your configuration. See Configuring FastDial.

Config/Minimize After Use

If this option is checked, FastDial will be minimized after a number is dialed. This allows you to return to whatever program you were using before FastDial was brought up.

Help/Contents... (F1)

This will bring up the FastDial Help system.

Help/About...

Use Help/About... to display the version of FastDial.

AT COMMANDS:

Although you should consult your manual for the AT commands used for your modem, the list below should work for most modems.

The default initialization string is ATQ0V1X0. The AT is a prefix for all modem commands, it is the ATtention command for the modem. The Q0 means that return codes from the modem will be sent to the computer after a command is executed. V1 sets the modem so it returns codes as words, not numbers. Q0 and V1 are VERY important. FastDial waits for the word OK to be returned from the modem before it continues any other operations. If you are experiencing an apparent lockup with FastDial, this may be the cause. If your modem cannot return words for result codes, FastDial will not work with your system. The X0 command sets the modem to blind dialing mode, which means it will not detect a dialtone or a busy signal. Some voice mail systems indicate a waiting message by changing the dialtone, which some modems detect as a busy signal. To avoid this, the modem should be set to blind dialing mode (the X0 command).

Some other commands you may want to try:

Z Modem reset. This will reset the modem to the default values. This will also cause the modem to hangup. If the default HangUp String doesn't work try ATZ.

Ln Sets the modem speaker loudness. If n=0 or 1, low volume, n=2 medium volume, n=3 high volume.

Mn Speaker control. If n=0 then speaker off, n=1 then speaker on when modem online and turns off when carrier detected, n=2 then speaker always on, or n=3 then speaker on after dialing until carrier detected. Suggest n=0 or n=2.

TO GET HELP:

Help is available in the following forms:

Mail questions to:

FastDial Help
Attn: Dan Nienhuis
16744 James St.
Holland MI 49424

OR

CompuServe members may leave mail for 72421,1072.

GEnie members may leave mail for DJN.

Thank you for using FastDial for Windows. Please feel free to offer suggestions for improving this product. Especially, for those people who have tried this product and decided not to register. I am interested in knowing what could be done to make this product worth registering.