Add-Ins 2.0

Windows Menu Enhancer

Click the Help menu on your Windows programs for access to Add-Ins menu enhancement!

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For Windows 95 and Windows 3.X

Description

Welcome to Add-Ins 2.0

Add-Ins is a powerful utility that adds custom menu items to your Windows 95 and Windows 3.X applications by enhancing the main Help menu that appears on most programs.   The enhanced menu can be configured to launch your favorite programs or files.   When Add-Ins is loaded its icon (Windows 3.X) or taskbar button (Windows 95) is briefly displayed, providing a visual cue that Add-Ins is running in the background, enhancing your menus with additional choices.

Add-Ins Features

- Systemwide operation enhances main Help menus on most Windows 95 or Windows 3.X   applications .

- User-configured menu enhancement with maximum of 40 entries.

- Control panel handles Add-Ins options, including menu editing, help, adjustments, termination, and registration.

- Unregistered version limited to 40 evaluation launches.

- Registered version permits tartgeting a specific application for help menu enhancement.

- Fast, "silent" running, notifies you of its presence briefly on loading and then runs in background.

System Requirements - Use 8.3 File Names!

When referring to file names in Add-Ins, always use the DOS 8.3 equivalent name and NOT the long file names recognized by Windows 95.   Add-Ins requires an IBM-compatible 386/33+ with Windows 3.1 (or WFWG) or a 486/50+ with Windows 95, and a VGA or better color monitor, a hard disk and a mouse.

Installation

Essential Add-Ins Files

- ADDINS.EXE - The main executable for Add-Ins
- ADDINS.HLP - This help file
- ADDINS.MNU - Required menu configuration file
- ADDINS.VAL - Required registration validation file
- ADDINS.ADJ - Adjustments file for compability corrections
- ADDINS.TXT - Text file containing installation information
- ADDINSED.EXE - Add-Ins Editor for menu and adjustments files
- CMDIALOG.VBX - A required support file used by dialogs
- SBC.VBX - A required support file used by menus
- SBCHOOK.VBX - A required support file used by menus
- VBCTL3D.VBX - A required support file used for 3-D dialogs
- DWSPYDLL.DLL - A required library used by SBC.VBX and SBCHOOK.VBX

Installing Download Version

First unzip the compressed archive.   All files ending in VBX and DLL should be placed in your Windows system subdirectory.   All other files should be copied to a single directory or subdirectory reserved for Add-Ins, e.g., C:\ADDINS.   You must have the Visual Basic 3.0 run-time module, VBRUN300.DLL, in your Windows system subdirectory.   VBRUN300.DLL is available from CompuServe and most BBSs.

Installing From CD-ROM

Because CD-ROM disks are read-only, and Add-Ins writes information to its home directory, you cannot run Add-Ins directly from a CD-ROM.   Instead, you should copy the Add-Ins files to your hard drive and remove the read-only attributes of all the uncompressed files.   Use Windows File Manager to remove the read-only attribute of a particular file by clicking on File, Properties while the desired file is selected.

Operation

Launching Add-Ins

Add-Ins is launched by running ADDINS.EXE or its shortcut.   You can automate this process by placing Add-Ins in your Windows 3.1 Startup Group or a shortcut to Add-Ins in your Windows 95 Startup Menu.   On loading, the Add-Ins icon (Windows 3.X) or taskbar button (Windows 95) appears briefly and then disappears from the screen, although the program can be accessed and terminated via its control panel by clicking the "Add-Ins Options" item on each enhanced Help menu.

The Help Menu

When Add-Ins is running, most Windows main Help menus will change to menus containing enhanced menu choices, including "Add-Ins Options" and "Run", and under Windows 3.X, each Help menu will be retitled "Help!".   When Add-Ins is loaded, a menu file ADDINS.MNU is used to define menu enhancement.

The Control Panel

Once Add-Ins is loaded, you can call its control panel by clicking the "Add-Ins Options" item on any enhanced Help menu.   From this control panel, you can terminate the program, obtain help, edit the enhanced menu entries, make compatibility adjustments, and enter the Add-Ins registration code.

Terminating Add-Ins

Add-Ins can be terminated by (a) using Task Manager in Windows 3.X, which appears when double-clicking the desktop with the left mouse button, (b) clicking "Add-Ins Options" on any enhanced Help menu and clicking the Terminate button on the control panel, (c) running ADDINS.EXE again, which will display the control panel, and clicking the Terminate button, or (d) in Windows 95, pressing Ctl-Alt-Del and clicking on End Task after selecting Add-Ins.

Configuration

Menu Editing & Format - No Long File & Path Names!

Click the "Add-Ins Options" item on any enhanced Help menu to call the Add-Ins control panel and click the Edit Menu button to view the menu configuration file ADDINS.MNU.   You can edit and save this file to change the default menu entries for Add-Ins.

- The menu format begins with (1) a text string describing the entry (2) followed by a comma and then (3) the command line or file that should be launched using DOS 8.3 path and file names.

- Each menu line must end with a carriage return (hit the Enter key), and the number of lines (i.e., active entries) is limited to 40.

- If you wish a separator bar to appear in the enhanced menu, use the menu line: -,SEPARATOR (This is a hyphen followed by a comma, which is followed by the word SEPARATOR and then a carriage return.)

- You may include an ampersand (&) in the text string to underscore the letter following it, setting the entry for quick keyboard access.

- If you are launching an executable program, always include the complete DOS 8.3 path unless the program is on your system path.   If you launch a data file that has an extension registered with Windows, you need not specify the program but you must provide the complete path to the data file.

- Comment lines begin with a semicolon.   They can provide information and are disregarded by Add-Ins.   You can insert a semicolon at the beginning of a menu line to disable the entry without deleting it.

- Use of the Add-Ins Editor to edit the configuration file is recommended.   If the Editor (ADDINSED.EXE) is present on the Add-Ins directory, it will be launched whenever an edit button on the Add-Ins control panel is clicked.   If the Editor is not found, Notepad will automatically be started.

- Changes to the menu configuration file take effect when Add-Ins is terminated and restarted.

Adjustments & Troubleshooting

Introduction

Add-Ins is a 16-bit utility that runs in both Windows 95 and Window 3.1.   This means that you can not use Windows 95's long file names and paths when configuring Add-Ins.   Instead, you should always use the DOS 8.3 equivalent name, which can be obtained from the Windows 95 File Manager, a 16-bit accessory provided with Windows 95.   For example, if you want to launch a program with the long file name of Speed Dial.Exe located in the folder c:\Program Files, your menu entry might be C:\PROGRA~1\SPEED~1.EXE using the DOS 8.3 equivalent path and program name.   To maintain performance, Add-Ins scans your operating system for newly launched programs less frequently in Windows 95 than in Windows 3.1.   Menus are enhanced every second or so in 3.1 and at 5-second intervals in 95.

Adjustments

You can skip this topic if Add-Ins is working correctly, converting your Help menus to ones with added entries.   Add-Ins uses approved programming techniques and thus is inherently well-behaved.   However, some applications use non-standard menu programming or dynamically change menus.   Add-Ins adjustments option may fix compatibility problems that occur.

Click the Adjust button on the Add-Ins control panel, and you can edit and save the adjustments file ADDINS.ADJ.   The first section of the adjustments file permits you to exclude problem programs from menu enhancement.   Exclusions override any application targeted for enhancement by the registered version of Add-Ins.   The second section of the file controls the base value of the menu ID commands.

Excluding Programs

You exclude misbehaving applications from menu enhancement by inserting the DOS 8.3 program name with extension (no drive or directory path) in the first section of the adjustments file.   Each excluded program ends with a carriage return, and the maximum number of exclusions is 25.   By default, Add-Ins excludes PW.EXE (ProComm for Windows).

Menu ID Value

If an application's Help menu has not been correctly enhanced or some of the new menu additions appear greyed out, the problem may arise from menu ID commands being used by both Add-Ins and one or more applications.   Duplication of menu ID commands can cause other incompatibilties as well.   Setting a new base value for Add-Ins menu ID commands may resolve the problem.   Any non-zero integer between -32000 and 32000 is valid, although lower positive values are often used by commercial programs and should be avoided.   The default value of -3350 is usually fine, but you can replace it by inserting a new value in the second section of the file.   If you edit the value with Notepad instead of using the supplied Add-Ins Editor, you must put the new value in brackets and end with a carriage return.

Developer

Add-Ins Version 2.0

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- Copyright (c) 1994-97 Spaeder Technologies Inc., All Rights Reserved

More Troubleshooting Tips...

Add-Ins 2.0 is a 16-bit application that is compatible with Windows 95 because it relies on current versions of its VBXs and DLLs designed for this purpose.   Do not attempt to use Add-Ins with versions of its VBXs or DLL except those actually suppied with the program.   Older versions will not function under Windows 95.   Always use DOS 8.3 (16-bit) file names and paths when configuring Add-Ins.

Be sure that Windows Notepad (Notepad.Exe) is in your Windows directory or on your system path, since Add-Ins will use Notepad if it cannot find the Add-Ins Editor.   Remember that Add-Ins files ending in EXE, HLP, MNU, VAL, ADJ and TXT belong in the Add-Ins directory, while files ending in VBX and DLL are moved to the windows system subdirectory.   Unless you put the Add-Ins directory on your system path, you must always supply the DOS 8.3 drive and directory path to ADDINS.EXE when typing the Add-Ins command line.   In addition to the supplied files and VBRUN300.DLL, Add-Ins requires COMMDLG.DLL which is provided with Windows.

Comments and Suggestions

Add-Ins is shareware.   Registered users with suggestions for improvements, questions, or bug reports   should contact the developer by mail, CompuServe or Internet   at the addresses above.

Targeting (Registered Version)

Application Targeting

Most users will want to run Add-Ins on a systemwide basis, enhancing all Help menus with the same additions.   Some users may prefer menu enhancement on only a single application, as for example, an enhanced Help menu on File Manager or Explorer, providing several added launch selections.   Registered users have the capability of targeting a specific application for menu enhancement.

Setting a Target

On registered versions of Add-Ins, the program recognizes the command line parameter as a switch to activate targeting of the specific application named in the parameter.   The parameter must consist of the complete DOS 8.3 program (module) name with extension but without a drive and directory path.   For example, the command line C:\ADDINS\ADDINS.EXE PROGMAN.EXE will launch Add-Ins and inform the program to limit its enhancement to Windows Program Manager (PROGMAN.EXE).   All other running applications will be unaffected.   Note that a space must separate the Add-Ins command line and the parameter containing the target program, and that no front-slashes, back-slashes or paths are permitted in the target parameter!   Regardless of the directory from which the target program is launched, its help menu will be enhanced.   A target parameter can be added to a Windows 95 shortcut, allowing the launch of targeted Add-Ins with a shortcut.

Targeting Example

The command line ADDINS.EXE WINFILE.EXE will launch Add-Ins (assuming it's on your system PATH) and target Windows File Manager (WINFILE.EXE) for help menu enhancement.   It's best to assign a program item and icon to targeted use of Add-Ins, using the Properties setting on Program Manager to define the command line and target parameter.   Targeted use of Add-Ins is an ideal addition to your Windows Startup Group.

Notices

ASP Ombudsman

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- In no event will licensor be liable for damages, including any loss of profits, lost savings, lost time, replacement costs, technical assistance, computer hardware or software damage, personal injury, or any other incidental or consequential damages arising from your use or inability to use this software.

- Add-Ins uses licensed custom controls and a dynamic link library copyrighted by Desaware and Beekes & Simms, respectively, All Rights Reserved.

Add-Ins 2.0 Registration

Register Add-Ins for only $25!   Read the file Register.Hlp for information on more registration options, including rapid credit card registration by toll-free telephone number, Compuserve, or the Internet.   Use ID 14096 when registering on-line via Compuserve (GO SWREG).   Register by mail a get a $3 discount.

Registration Fee - $25

The registration fee for Add-Ins is $25.00.   Registration licenses your use of Add-Ins, enables targeting of a specific application, and disables the 40-launch limitation applicable to unregistered users.   Register by mail using the form below and save $3.

Registration Form (Mail Discount - No Credit Cards)

To print this form, click on this help window's Print button. You may also hit Alt-F, P for printing.   You can skip printing and write the requested information on paper if you wish.

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

DATE _____

Discount mail registration requires payment enclosed by a check drawn on a US bank, a US Postal money order, or an American Express money order (foreign orders).   Make your check or money order for the discounted fee of $22.00 payable to Spaeder Technologies Inc. and mail to:

Spaeder Technologies Inc.
7624 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22102
Attn: Shareware Order

If you would like to be notified of your registration code by CompuServe or Internet mail (at no extra charge) rather than by US Mail, please provide your electronic address below:

COMPUSERVE ADDRESS_____
                    or
INTERNET MAIL ADDRESS_____

Your registration code will appear on the line below when this form is processed and returned to you by mail, if you elect this option.   The registration code is input to Add-Ins in response to prompts you receive when you click the Registration button on the control panel.

REGISTRATION CODE _____