

Task Manager for Windows 3.0

A replacement for the default Windows 3.0 task manager, this program provides the same functionality plus a user-defined application menu and a much nicer look.

What is a task manager? Try double-clicking the wallpaper or select the "Switch to..." option in the system menu. The little popup window that appears is the default task manager shipped with Windows.

To use this replacement, simply copy **RTASKMAN.EXE** to your Windows directory using the name **TASKMAN.EXE**. For example, assuming your Windows directory to be **C:\WINDOWS**, type:

copy RTASKMAN.EXE C:\WINDOWS\TASKMAN.EXE

You *must* use the name **TASKMAN.EXE** and the program *must* be in the Windows directory in order to work as the old task manager did. Once in place, double-clicking the wallpaper or selecting "Switch to..." will run the new task manager.

The program displays all running applications (excluding itself) in a listbox. You may double-click on an application to switch to or select (highlight) a program and press the "Switch" button. In addition, after selecting an application, you may end the program, minimize or maximize the selected application and, if already an icon or full screen, restore it's previous size. Simply click on the desired button or press **ALT** and the underlined letter of the button to use. Cancel exits the task manager.

When an application is made active, restored or maximized, the task manager removes itself from the screen. If an application is minimized, it remains on-screen.

The bottom of the window contains some current information about your Windows environment including the CPU in your system, free memory, Windows mode ('386 enhanced, Standard, etc.) and the current time in 24 hour format.

Execute is a menu item which may be defined by the user to launch applications. Initially, there is only one item on the menu which pops up a dialog box. The box may be used to add other items to the menu. A second, more flexible way to add items is to directly alter the file **TASKMAN.INI** in the Windows directory. First, the dialog box method...

To add an application to the menu using the dialog box, select

TASKMAN... in the Execute menu. The first field, **Menu name**, is what you want to appear on the menu. As you enter a name, placing an ampersand (&) before a letter underlines that letter and makes it a "hotkey" for accessing the application from the menu. **Path name** is the filename of the application. **Working directory** is the directory you want the application to start in. To illustrate, I want to add Word for Windows. The program name is WINWORD.EXE and I want it to start using the directory C:\LETTERS. To do this, the fields would be filled in as follows:

Menu name: &Word for Windows
Path name: C:\winword\winword.exe
Working directory: c:\letters

The next time the task manager is started, the title "Word for Windows" will appear on the menu. Click on the item or press **ALT-W** to start the application. You may add any number of applications to the menu using this method.

While the dialog box is fine for adding a few applications, a more flexible method is to directly alter a file created by the task manager. Run the task manager once to create **TASKMAN.INI** and load the file into a text editor such as Notepad. As above, **TASKMAN...** should be the only item in the file. To add more items to the menu, they must be entered using the following format:

PROG#=Menu name,Path name,Working directory

TASKMAN... is always PROG1. Programs added to the menu must have the same line, excepting the numbers go up. For example, to add Word for Windows as described above, you might add this line:

PROG2=&Word for Windows,c:\winword\winword.exe,c:\letters

The next program would use the line **PROG3=...** and so on. **Never** use the same number for more than one application or the second one will not appear on the menu.

In addition to adding applications, you may add sub-menus to the main menu. You may also add sub-menus to sub-menus up to 16 levels deep. Defining a sub-menu is the same as defining an application except there is no pathname or working directory. Instead, a sub-menu is started by using the ">" character and ended by using the "<" character. For example, let's add Excel and Word for Windows to the menu using a sub-menu:

```
PROG2=&MS-Apps >  
PROG3=&Word for Windows,c:\winword\winword.exe,c:\letters  
PROG4=&Excel,c:\excel\excel.exe,c:\excel  
PROG5=<
```

Using this example, only "MS-Apps" will appear on the main menu with an arrow on the right side of the menu. Selecting this menu item will cause the sub-menu to appear, displaying the applications on the sub-menu.

Note that if you alter the **TASKMAN.INI** file from within Windows, the task manager will not recognize the changes until you exit Windows and restart the system. Using the dialog box method causes the changes to appear the next time the task manager is called upon.

This program was created as an answer to third party task management and menuing programs for Windows, the authors of which believe in the concept of crippling their software or added so many "nag boxes" that it's practically unusable until you register the software. I don't believe in crippling the software or yanking your chain every time you need the program. I also don't believe I'll ever see a dime from this software as experience with shareware has shown before. **However**, here it is and it is user-supported. All I ask is that you send a \$5 (five dollar) fee if you like and use this software. You only need pay up once. All upgrades are free (well, the cost of a stamp).

So, if you like the program and you want to be odd or daring, please send a check or M.O. for \$5.00 to:

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Seeing how I'm the author...