DiskTrak for Windows
Version 2.80

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Introduction

DiskTrak for Windows was designed to provide a quick and easy method for keeping track of diskette collections. DiskTrak for Windows will allow you to easily create a database that contains a list of all your diskettes and the files and free space available on each one. Optionally, you can include a comment or description for each file on each diskette. Also, you can have DiskTrak for Windows extract the names of files stored inside ZIP, PAK, ARC, ZOO, and LZH archive files (and you can create comments for these files as well.) Then, anytime you want to locate the disk containing a particular file, simply enter the filename into DiskTrak for Windows and it will tell you the disk (or disks, if there are more than one) that holds the file you're looking for. If you don't know the complete name of the file, key in as much of it as you do know and DiskTrak for Windows will search its database for all disks containing any file that has the partial name you entered embedded in it.   DiskTrak for Windows supports this same database search capability for disk names and file comments as well, so if you enter descriptive comments for your file names, DiskTrak for Windows allows you to find the file based on its comment.

DiskTrak for Windows also has other useful disk and file related capabilities: it can label and re-label diskettes, identify duplicate files, delete and/or restore files, and produce 5 types of hard and/or soft copy reports of its database contents. Finally, DiskTrak for Windows supports several usability functions such as screen color customization, database maintenance, and DOS Shell functionality.

Creating and maintaining DiskTrak for Windows databases is easy. After creating a database (see the Make a Database section below for details), use the File Open function to open it and then simply enter your diskettes into DiskTrak for Windows. The program will read the directories and subdirectories on each diskette, extract all filenames (including hidden and system files) and the amount of free space, and automatically update its database. If you add or delete files on a diskette, simply re-enter it into DiskTrak for Windows; the database will be automatically updated.

DiskTrak for Windows employs standard Windows interfaces, thus allowing easy, intuitive use. Hopefully you will find DiskTrak for Windows not only easy to use, but also useful. DiskTrak for Windows 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 DiskTrak for Windows 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. Note that Peninsula Software will also accept Visa and MasterCard orders.

Upon receipt of your registration fee, Peninsula Software will mail you a 3.5" 720K diskette containing a copy of the most current version of DiskTrak for Windows that is registerted to you exlusively. Registered versions of DiskTrak for Windows 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 DiskTrak for Windows (many features in the current version were suggested by registered users) and to develop other low cost software products.

The following sections describe how to install DiskTrak for Windows and how to use the program. After that is a description of each menu selection. Finally, there is a brief discussion of the DiskTrak for Windows database and a summary of the changes made to DiskTrak for Windows since version 1.0.

Installation

The procedure for installing DiskTrak for Windows depends on whether you are installing the shareware version or a registered version. The following paragraphs describe each procedure:

Shareware Version

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1. Copy these files to your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory:
   INSTSCRL.VBX   VBADDONS.DLL   THREED.VBX

2. Copy all other files to whichever directory you want to hold DiskTrak for Windows

3. Ensure you have the file VBRUN300.DLL in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. You must obtain VBRUN300.DLL separately.

Registered Version

1. Run the SETUP program according to the instructions instructions on the label of the diskette you receive. SETUP is a Windows program that uncompresses the files needed by DiskTrak for Windows 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.

2. Following the installation, start DISKTRKW like any standard Windows application.

DiskTrak for Windows will use the file SAMPLE.DTW as a demonstration database. You can use this database to try out all of the DiskTrak for Windows functions, including making updates and deletes, before you create your own database. Later, when you're familiar with how DiskTrak for Windows works, create your own database, verify that it works properly, and delete SAMPLE.DTW. (Note -- when you do this BE SURE to first create a DiskTrak for Windows configuration file identifying your database as the one DiskTrak for Windows should use. See the section "Config. Save" below for details on how to do this.)

For Users of the DOS DiskTrak Version 8.xx Program

DiskTrak for Windows uses the same database format as that used by the DOS version 8.xx DISKTRKD.EXE program. Consequently, these databases are usable as-is by DiskTrak for Windows.

System Requirements, Compatibility, and Limitations

DiskTrak for Windows is a standard Windows application and should operate on any computer system capable of running Windows. Because it is a Windows application, DiskTrak for Windows is subject to any and all of the limitations in Windows. One of these is the Windows requirement that the total amount of data displayed in a list box must be 64K bytes (characters) or less in size. This limit presents a problem to DiskTrak for Windows because it uses list boxes for the Disk Name Window, File Name Window , and Screen Report Window.

Some users use DiskTrak for Windows to catalog large capacity hard and/or removable disks, as well as CD-ROMs. Others have very large diskette collections with literally tens of thousands of filenames. In these cases DiskTrak for Windows may not be able to show in the Disk Name Window all the filenames for a selected disk, or display a screen report containing the entire data base contents. DiskTrak for Windows issues an explanatory message in these instances, and then proceeds to display as much data as it can. In all cases, however, a complete report can be printed or directed to a disk file for subsequent online viewing.

Beginning with Version 2.10 of DiskTrak for Windows, a mouse or other pointing device is required to select several of the on-screen "push buttons" that invoke key program functions. These "push buttons" cannot be selected with the keyboard. For users without a pointing device the push button functions remain accessible via

menu bar pull-downs that are keyboard selectable.

DiskTrak for Windows' Help file was created using the Microsoft Windows Version 3.1 Help compiler. Consequently, Help will not work under Windows 3.0.

Using the Program

When DiskTrak for Windows starts, several things happen automatically:

(1) If you are using an unregistered version of the program, a **Registration Motivator** dialog box is displayed requiring you to enter the word "register". This step does not occur with a registered copy of the program.

(2) The program looks for its configuration file (named DISKTRKW.CFG) and reads from it the name of the startup database and various other program values (e. g., the color specifications, data disk drive, ZIP option, etc.) If the file DISKTRKW.CFG is not accessible, the default database name SAMPLE.DTW is assumed, along with default values for all other items.

 Note: use the Configuration -- Configuration Save option described below to create DISKTRKW.CFG.

(3) The program opens the startup database, reads the data in it, and displays the main menu screen reflecting the data in the database and the current program values. If it is unable to open the startup database, the problem may be that it is a database from an earlier version of DiskTrak that requires conversion to the current format. In this case the program displays a dialog box asking if you want to convert. If yes is selected, the database is converted to the new format, and the old database is saved in a file whose name is <name>.DTZ. If no is selected, the program opens the Main Menu, but with no database selected.

The DiskTrak for Windows Database

The distribution DiskTrak for Windows files contain a "sample" database called SAMPLE.DTW.   This database contains information from a small set of disks and includes comments containing helpful information about using DiskTrak for Windows. When DiskTrak for Windows starts, it first checks to see if a configuration file exists. (See above section CONFIGURATION -- Configuration Save for more information on creating the configuration file.) If there is a configuration file, DiskTrak for Windows attempts to use the database defined in it. If there is no configuration file, DiskTrak for Windows attempts to use a database called SAMPLE.DTW. In either case, if DiskTrak for Windows cannot open or read the database file, it returns to the main menu with an error message stating it was unable to access the selected database and requests you to select a different one.

The DiskTrak for Windows database contains the names of all the diskettes you have entered, the amount of free space on each, all of the file names on all diskettes, and all of the comments you enter. Beginning with Version 2.00, the database was enhanced to also contain date and time stamp data for each file, and the name of the diskette directory containing each file. There are pointers in the database that connect a diskette to its files, and files to their comments (if present). Finally, there are counters holding the total number of diskettes in the database, the number of free file names, and the number of free comment characters. Free filenames result from files being deleted from diskettes, or from diskettes being deleted from the database. Free comment bytes result from files with comments being deleted from the database, or by creating new (edited) comments that are longer than the original comment.

The latter two numbers are what determine the free space in the data base. Free space results from deleting a

diskette from the database, or from refreshing a diskette already existing in the database. In either of these two cases, the filenames previously used are flagged as free and are no longer usable. (Comments are maintained intact, however, if the filename with the comment is still on the updated disk.) All updates and/or additions to the database are made at the end of the database. Consequently, as time goes on, unwanted "free space" will build up inside the database. This "free space" is reported in the DiskTrak for Windows program information window in terms of a percentage of the size of the entire database. This "free space" is literally unusable, wasted space and should be eliminated when it becomes excessive.

The "Compress Data" option under the Utilities selection will eliminate all free space from your database. See the section describing that option for more detail.

Version History

Version 1.00

Initial release. This version was a "straight" conversion from the DOS (non-Windows) program DISKTRAK.EXE, Version 7.30. The only new functionality added was the ability to create comments longer than 73 characters. Thanks are gratefully extended to Jean-Robert Bornand (who called from France to download an early version of DiskTrak for Windows) and to Michael Stewart (who also provided some critically needed C language subroutines) for help in testing Version 1.00 prior to general release.

Version 1.10

Improved the speed with which the program (1) restores files from diskettes to hard disks and (2) clears and refills the file name and disk name windows.

Improved the functionality of the Restore Files dialog box by (1) disabling text entry in the restore path text box (it was ignored anyway) and (2) ensuring the selected restore path is always displayed in the restore path text box.

Added two enhancements to the Label Disk function based on suggestions sent from Zurich, Switzerland by Daniel Wiggen: (1) instead of simply returning to the main menu command line when encountering a write protected diskette having no label, DiskTrak for Windows now notifies you that the diskette is write protected, allows you to remove the write protect, and try again; (2) when labeling diskettes, DiskTrak for Windows now checks to see if the label you entered duplicates the label of a disk in the current database -- if so, you are asked if you really want to use this same label again, or enter a different one. Thanks, Daniel, for these helpful suggestions.

Added code to the ZIP function enabling DiskTrak to properly extract filenames that are stored in ZIP files following their respective pathnames. (Pathnames precede the filename only when the ZIP file is created with the "-P" option.)

Corrected a bug with path support that prevented databases from being compressed or expanded after selecting a database from a path different from the path of the initial database. (If this sounds obscure, it is!)

Added a digital readout to the Restore Files dialog box that shows the file restore operation's percent complete.

Added support for a simplified (compared to standard Windows Help) online Help function.

Added the Duplicate Files function, which finds all duplicate file names in the current database. Thanks to Ken L. Walker for suggesting this enhancement.

Improved the functionality of the Restore Files dialog box so it always reflects the file name selected in the file name box.

Changed the main program window, its text and list boxes, and most other dialog boxes to display a 3D border effect. Added a 3D border around the DiskTrak icon.

Version 1.20

Corrected bug that caused comments to be lost when updating a disk containng files for which comments were already entered. Thanks to Ken L. Walker for reporting this problem.

Version 1.30

Corrected bug that prevented internal file names from being extracted from certain (usually very large) ZIP files.

Version 1.31

Corrected bug that caused program failure when attempting to extract filenames stored inside PAK archive files. Thanks to Henry A. Dulak for reporting this bug.

Version 1.32

Changed the font used in the disk name, file name, and screen report windows to a fixed pitch version of the Windows System font. This was necessary because the "plain" System font was changed by Microsoft from fixed pitch (in Windows 3.0) to proportional pitch (in Windows 3.1.) Without the font change, data displayed in the disk name, file name, and screen report windows does not line up properly when running under Windows 3.1.

Version 2.00

Changed the database design to include date and time stamp information and directory information for each file in the database, except those extracted from archive files. Added two text boxes to the main menu screen to display this data for each file as it is selected in the file name window.

When an error occurs opening a database, added a query asking if the failed database should be converted to the new format. If yes is selected, a new database convert routine automatically converts the failed (presumed old format) database to the format required by this version of DiskTrak for Windows. The old database is saved with its DTW extension changed to DTZ.

Enabled deletion of comments by removing the comment indicator when the length of the updated comment text string is zero (i. e., when all characters from the previous comment have been deleted.)

Shortened the name of the main program window to "DiskTrak." (This improves screen readability when DiskTrak is iconized.)

Added logic to the disk name display window so disks with more than 10,000K free bytes display xxxM, where M = 1,000,000 bytes.

Changed the naming scheme for report files that are directed to disk files. These reports are now named <name>.RPT, where <name> is the name of the current DiskTrak for Windows database. (In prior versions, all

report files were called DISKTRAK.RPT.) Thanks to Henry A. Dulak for making this suggestion.

Added date and time stamp information to the Screen Report window.

Added shortcut keys for various program functions. Thanks to Henry A. Dulak for providing the idea leading to this neat-o usability enhancement.

For the unregistered version of the program, caused the Registration Motivator dialog box to appear when exiting the program, as well as when beginning. (This dialog box does not appear in the registered version.)

Version 2.01

Corrected bug which allowed the Compress and Expand Database functions to corrupt database comment and file pointers under certain circumstances.

Added code that clears the file name window after invoking the Compress or Expand Database functions. This eliminates a possible program abort by preventing the user from selecting a file from the file name that would point to data in the database that has been moved because of the Compress or Expand function. (This is an obscure, but potential, bug that no longer exists.)

Version 2.10

Added a new dialog window for the Create Database function that replaced two unimaginative Windows input boxes. Also, added a new dialog window containing all of the Configuration options, thus allowing elimination of all the sub-functions of the main menu Configuration option. Thanks to Michael Stewart for suggesting these improvements way back when DiskTrak was in its initial beta testing pahse. (It took a while, Mike, but I made it!)

Improved the Restore File dialog windows to use a graphical completion bar that shows status of the file restore process. Also, added code to make all of the elements in the Restore FIle dialog window display the proper foreground and background colors.

Eliminated the Maximize button from the main menu window since DiskTrak's main window has only two useful sizes: full sized (not full screen) and iconized. Also, added code to automatically resize the main window to full size in the event it is resized to any other size. (Making it larger serves no purpose and making it smaller makes parts of the window unviewable.)

Added code to the Delete Disks function that keeps the disk name highlight bar in the same area of the list as the deleted disk, instead of returning it to the top of the list. Thanks to Carmen Knowles for this suggestion.

Redesigned the Colors window to include 3-D style controls and to reflect the redesigned main program window.

Replaced the Program Information text box with a "button box" that provides the same information but also incorporates command buttons that enable key program functions to be selected directly from the buttons. Selection of these functions via menu pull-downs is still supported, but button selection is more expedient. This is true especially when using the mouse.

Version 2.20

Added code to prevent a program failure when processing very large databases (greater than 900 diskettes.) Thanks to Robert Loper for reporting this problem.

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Added code to overcome a Visual Basic bug that caused DiskTrak to leave a ghost task active when the application is closed by double clicking its window control box.

Version 2.30

Replaced the simplified online Help function introduced in Version 1.10 with a real Windows Help file.

Version 2.40

Compiled the program using Microsoft's Visual Basic Version 2.00 programming system for Windows. Visual Basic Version 2.00 produces EXE modules that area about 30% smaller and that run about 30% faster than those produced by Visual Basic Version 1.00 (which is what produced all prior versions of DiskTrak for Windows.)

Changed the format of the file and print reports that show file and disk names (Report Types 1 and 2) to include the file date stamp. This additional data reduced the report page format from 3-up to 2-up.

Added file date stamp data to the file and print report that lists filename, disk name, and file comment (Report Type 3.)

Employed the virtual memory data storage capabilities of Visual Basic Version 2.00 to enable file and print reports to handle arbitrarily large databases. Note that Windows must be running in Enhanced Mode for the virtual memory capability to function.

Employed the transparent character attribute of Visual Basic Version 2.00 to enable the main menu's heading text to display properly when a dithered background color is specified.

Enabled the Help function to be invoked from any active window (by pressing the F1 key), rather than from only the main menu window.

Developed a Windows installation program using the Setup Kit from the Microsoft Visual Basic Version 2.00 Professional Edition programming system. This installation program is available only with the registered version.

Added code to prevent new databases from being created in the root directory, and to prevent the over-writing of an existing database with a new one of the same name.

Made several editorial and content enhancements to this documentation file.

Version 2.41

Added code to allow the Database Compress function to operate properly when Search Mode is enabled, and to ensure Search Mode is not enabled when editing comments. Thanks to John Rich for suggesting these changes.

Version 2.50

Corrected bug that caused 11 character disk names and 12 character file names to have their last character truncated on disk and file reports. Thanks to Tom Melton for reporting this bug.

Added the ability to select one or more disks from the Disk Name window, and also to specify whether all disks or only selected disks should be the target of search and report operations. Thanks to Tom DePew for suggesting this valuable functionality enhancement.

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Added code to display **(Search Mode)** , **(Delete Disks Mode)**, and **(Delete Files Mode)** in the main window title bar when DiskTrak is placed in the respective operation modes. Thanks to Tom DePew for suggesting this improvement.

Added the ability to sort filenames by extension first and then by name for screen, disk, and print reports. Thanks to W. Seth Carus and Tom DePew for suggesting this improvement.

Added code to prevent the Windows cursor from changing to an I-beam when it is positioned over the main screen Date/Time and Directory windows. Thanks to Tom DePew for suggesting this improvement.

Fixed bug that caused the last page of file and print reports to be double spaced.

Added code to allow comment editing while DiskTrak is in Search Mode (thus reversing the major change in Ver. 2.41). Thanks to Tom Rich for suggesting this valuable usability improvement.

Fixed bug that caused the comment Edit button to show as disabled when restarting the program after having performed a Configuration Save operation with Comment Edit mode enabled. Thanks to Tom DePew for reporting this problem.

Added code to the Search Diskname function to ensure disk volume lables containing lower case characters are handled as though they were all upper case. (Lower case characters are not supposed to be used for disk or file names.)

Changed the way the Disk Name window works: disk names are now selected using the arrow keys or single clicking on them; this action also now clears the File Name window. To cause the files for a particular disk to appear in the FIle Name window, either select the disk name and then press the Enter key, or simply double click its name. (This change facilitates making multiple selections from the Disk Name window for subsequent search or report operations.)

Fixed bug that caused diskettes with less than 1K free space to be listed as having ?K free; they now show 0 (zero) K.

Made various editorial and content changes to this documentation file and the online Help file.

Added code to correct for "Illegal function call" error encountered during Add/Update function when running in countries that use date separators other than / and time separators other than :.

Version 2.60

Changed the code that detects date and time separator characters so that it works more reliably.

Changed the format for showing filenames in screen displays and output reports. Filenames and their extensions are now aligned in vertical columns instead of being shown as a contiguous string of characters.

Added code to cause filenames having no extension to sort properly when Sort by File Extension is selected.

Version 2.70

Added the ability to select multiple file names from the File Name window, thus enabling the Restore Files, Delete Files, and Add/Edit Comments functions to handle multiple files in a single operation. Thanks to Tom DePew for suggesting reinstating this capability which first originated in one of the early DOS versions of DiskTrak.

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Removed blank spaces separating file name from file extension in program messages that display file names. (These spaces were inadvertently included in the Version 2.60 enhancements. Sigh!)

Added the capability to use the right mouse button to toggle the Disk Name and File Name windows between normal size and triple size. Triple size enables the window to display three times as much data as normal size.

Corrected bug that caused the comment to be deleted from the last file in the database (if it had one) following a Delete File operation. Thanks to Kevin Burfitt for reporting this problem.

Added code to allow making DiskTrak's main window smaller, and to automatically adjust it to full size if the user tries to make it larger than full size.

Removed the limitation of a maximum of 900 file names per directory. Thanks to Ken Thompson for reporting this as a problem and for sending a diskette with 1220 files on it.

Version 2.80

Changed the Button Box to a Button Bar, so DiskTrak's user interface is more similar to other applications that employ tool bars.

Added the capability to display the function of each Button Bar button in DIskTrak's Message window by clicking a button with the **right** mouse button.

In the Configuration window's Color dialog, simplified the way screen elements are selected for color changing.

Revised the structure of DiskTrak's Help system to make it more modular and easier to use. Added the ability to print a Registration Form directly from the Help system.

Removed the instructional text from this DISKTRKW.WRI file that was also duplicated in the Help system.

DiskTrak for Windows Ver. 3.x

DiskTrak for Windows Ver. 3.x is now in distribution. This version uses a different database format that is, in fact, the same format used by the Microsoft Access relational database system. As a result, the following capabilities exist in DiskTrak Ver. 3.x that are not in this Ver. 2.8:

> *	The ability to have comments for disks as well as for files

> *	The ability to print lables for 3 1/2" and 5 1/4" disks on standard Avery label laser printer stock

> *	The ability to support disks with no volume labels (such as some CD ROMs), or with duplicate volume labels (although this is not recommended)

> *	The ability to export information from a DiskTrak database to other programs, such as a database processor or spreadsheet

> *	A utility function that automatically converts existing databases to the new format.

The new relational database capability requires about 1 MB of additional software to support it, so DiskTrak for

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Windows Version 3.x ships on two diskettes. Registered copies include a Setup program that handles the complete installation automatically.

Due to the complex processing associated with relational databases, DiskTrak for Windows Version 3.x will run slower than earlier versions, and its databases will be larger than earlier ones. Because of the wide variety of system configurations, it is impossible to predict performance differences on a general basis. However, overall processing speed should be comparable to any other application that uses a Microsoft Access database.

Suggestions and Enhancements

If you have comments or suggestions about these (or other) enhancements to DiskTrak for Windows, please send them to:

> Peninsula Software
> 28510 Blythewood Drive
> Palos Verdes CA 90274

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

Un-Planned Enhancements

(In other words, these are suggestions I have received but have no plans to implement.)

"Automatic" import of comments stored in a file by some other piece of software.

Removing the Registration Motivator, or changing it to require less user interaction.

Disclaimer

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