

Thank you for trying version 3.1 of

Hunter

for Microsoft Windows 3.0 and 3.1

(Windows 3.0 users see compatibility note below)

Perhaps the best utility of its kind, perhaps not. You be the judge.

by

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What Is Hunter?

Hunter is a Microsoft Windows utility that allows you to search multiple disk drives for file names that match a given file specification, like '*.doc' (all document files) or multiple file specifications (like '*.doc *.txt *.wri'). You can also search based on the age or size of a file. One way in which Hunter distinguishes itself from other Windows file finding utilities is that it doesn't require you to wait for a search to complete for you to continue with your work. Hunter works in the background while you get your work done.

Hunter Is More Than A File Finder

How useful is a file finder if you can't remember the name of the file? Hunter can search the contents of the files that it finds for a key word or pattern of characters. When you find the name of the file or the text you're looking for, simply double-click on the line you're interested in. Hunter will load the file and the application that created it.

The technology Hunter uses to find text is called *Grep*. For those of you not familiar with *grep*, it is a tool borrowed from Unix that has powerful pattern matching capabilities. For example, if you want to find all references to the word 'color' or 'colour' you could use the Grep string 'colou-r'. The hyphen indicates that the letter u is optional. To find 'gray' or 'grey' use the Grep string 'gr[ae]y'. Characters enclosed in brackets form a list of possible matches.

Grep also understands numbers. If you'd like to locate all references to a month and day in no particular year, you could use the Grep string '1/4/:d:d'. The :d's indicate that any two digits will be acceptable. Finding the same date in 1991 is only a little more involved, use '1/4/:d*91'. This finds 1/4/91 as well as 1/4/1991. Using '1/4/91' would find only an exact match.

The Grep expression can be as simple or complex as you wish. Remember, you may always simply type in the word you wish to find and forget about Grep's special characters. For more information on using *grep*, refer to Hunter's on-line help.

Updates

Version 3.0b

A bug was fixed in version 3.0a in which a memory object was being deleted in a manner incompatible with Windows 3.1. The symptom was that the GDI heap became exhausted when altering the color settings. In other words, Windows was left with no memory to draw. This did not seem to be a problem with Windows 3.0.

International Character Support. New for people who use the extended character set. Hunter now supports the extended PC character set used by DOS applications and some Windows applications like Notepad and Write. Unfortunately, most Windows applications, like MS Word for Windows, store their characters in the ANSI format which has a different extended character set than DOS. I'm currently evaluating methods for supporting both ANSI and DOS character sets. My thanks to Per N Döhler of Hamburg, Germany for alerting me to this problem.

Version 3.1

Binary file search capabilities. Steven Friedman, of the Sacramento PC Users Group, pointed out that Hunter had a problem with binary files. It should now reliably search files created by word processors, spreadsheets, the Windows Cardfile and Calendar programs as well as database files.

File Save Capability. Hunter can now save the results of any search to a text file. There are two options for saving your data. The first gives you text formatted just like it is in Hunter's window. By selecting **Tabbed Text (*.TXT)** from the **Save File As Type:** combo box you may save your data with tab delimiters. This second method makes reading the file into a spreadsheet simple.

New Font. The font used by Hunter in previous versions was a telltale sign of Hunter's age. The new font is easier to read. Future versions of Hunter will probably allow user selection of fonts.

International Character Support Bug Fix. The file launch capability was incompatible with the extended character set. This is now fixed.

Windows 3.0 and 3.1 Compatibility Note!

Because Hunter uses the common dialog support supplied with Windows 3.1, I have included the standard Windows 3.1 file COMMDLG.DLL with Microsoft's permission. This file can reside in the same directory as hunter.exe and hunter.hlp or it may be placed in the Windows system directory (usually c:\windows\system). Users of Windows 3.1 should delete the COMMDLG.DLL file supplied with Hunter.

Pricing

It's not free, but it is inexpensive. I've decided to lower the asking price to \$15 per user. I enjoy updating and improving Hunter but it takes time and money. My new address is:

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Registration

If you've already registered Hunter, thank you very much, this upgrade is free. If you use Hunter in your work and you work at a public school or a non-profit organization, please accept Hunter with my compliments and well wishes.

Site licenses are available, please contact me for pricing.

Upgrades

Because of the low cost of Hunter and the high cost of mailing disks, I prefer to distribute updates through CompuServe (type GO WINADV or GO WINNEW). If you've acquired this application through other means and do not have a CompuServe account, call the Boston Computer Society BBS at 617-964-2546 (9600+, N81). If you don't have access to a modem, write me at the above address and include a disk (3.5 or 5.25 inch), a reusable mailer, and return postage. Let me know the version of Hunter you're using (it's in this file and in Hunter's About box). If you've got the current version I'll keep your disk until the next one is released, otherwise I'll send you the most current one. If you'd rather I just send you Hunter, I'll provide the disk, mailer and postage for \$5.

If you are a CompuServe or Internet user and would like to be notified of bug reports and upgrade announcements, please send me an e-mail stating so.

Bug Reporting

Please, if you find bugs or incompatibilities, notify me. Drop me a line, an e-mail (CompuServe or Internet) or send me a letter. Include a detailed description of your problem, the version of Hunter, the system you're running on, memory available to Windows, version of Windows, mode it's running in, display information, and any other information you think is relevant.

Comments and Suggestions

I always appreciate hearing comments and criticisms. If you've got an idea that you think would make Hunter a better application, let me know.