Tasker
Version 1.00

Requirements:
Windows 3.0 or later running in Standard or 386 Enhanced Mode
Visual BASIC runtime library VBRUN100.DLL *(* ***not included****)*
Control Handle runtime library CTLHWND.DLL *(included)*
Disk Statistics runtime library DISKSTAT.DLL *(included)*

* VBRUN100.DLL is most likely available from the BBS you downloaded this program from or you may download it from "*The Wizard*'*s Windows BBS*".

ShareWare:
This program is shareware and may be distributed freely, however it must be registered if you plan to use it. Registration costs $25.00 in U.S. currency.

I don't believe in "Nag-Ware" nor "Cripple-Ware", therefore I have elected not to have those annoying screens begging you to pay for this program and have provided full functionality of all features listed below.

By registering this program it will ensure future versions with greater speed and many more valuable features as well as notification of release dates. Also, it will allow feedback from users on features to be included in future versions that I myself have not yet dreamed up.

If I receive enough registrations for this program I will eventually re-write it in a fast language such a "C" or MASM, which will do away with the requirements of the Visual BASIC and other runtime libraries as well as speed up execution many times that of the current.

For a limited time, Wizzard Programming is offering a free one year registration for "*The Wizard*'*s Windows BBS*", valued at $25.00, upon receipt of full payment of the registration fee for this program.

Introduction:
This program can be used as a replacement for the *Windows Task Manager* which can be invoked by selecting "Switch To" from any application's control menu, by double-clicking on the background desktop, or by pressing Control-Escape. This program can also be run directly such as installed on the Program Manager menu or from the File Manager.

This program has many features that *Microsoft* didn't include with their version of the *Task Manager*;

1. Tasker has all the functions that the *Windows Task Manager* has in addition, it allows you to show and close hidden applications currently running (hidden applications are simply; applications that don't show an icon nor window on the desktop, however they can still be running in the background)

2. Tasker gives you six user configurable buttons to launch your most often used programs or invoke special Tasker functions such as the "Browser" and three others that give the same functionality of *Windows Task Manager* (cascade desktop windows, tile desktop windows, and arrange desktop icons)

3. Browser lets you navigate anywhere on your hard and floppy disks and gives you a drag-and-drop interface to run, search, copy, move, rename, and delete files and programs **(trash can included!***)*

4. Browser lets you turn off file delete prompting for those of you who find it annoying to keep saying yes to a delete file? prompt

5. Browser has user definable extension lists so you may never need to type your most often used file extensions inside the program ever again

6. Browser recognizes a special shift mode for file operations which entails holding down a keyboard shift key or the secondary mouse button (normally the right button unless you swap your mouse buttons) to bypass file delete prompting, even when turned on, and to launch multiple programs without leaving the Browser program

7. Browser can be invoked from the Program Manager via a command line switch to allow preload management of data files for your major application programs.

   syntax: tasker.exe /b [filespec]

   tasker.exe /b

or
  d:\directory\tasker.exe /b *.doc

where d:\directory is the location where your *.doc files are located.

you may also specify more than one filespec;

  d:\directory\tasker.exe /b *.pm4; *.pt4
or
  tasker.exe /b *.ini; *.txt

Note: this method to launch your application programs will only work if the correct file association is setup. Most application programs will do this for you when you install or run them, however, you should consult your Windows manual to set up such associations if they do not already exist. Hint: the File Manager is excellent to use for this purpose.

8. Both Tasker and Browser have additional features to;

  • Automatically arrange your desktop icons every time you invoke the program
  • Automatically save the window position to be used next time you invoke the program
  • Allow fast loading window mode (common with Visual BASIC programs and has an annoying side effect of holes where buttons go until the buttons are draw, however it seems to be a little faster than the method I prefer you use for my own programs - I give this ability for those of you who don't have a fast computer or video board)
  • Configure the appearance in an ever-so-popular 3 dimensional look
  • Set whether to end the program when you switch focus to another application running on the desktop (*Windows Task Manager* always ends when you switch focus)

Installation:
Simply run the tconfig.exe program and select the "Install" option button. The install option will copy the Tasker program files into your Windows directory, if they already aren't there, and if the option is checked, will setup the Tasker program as the *Windows Task Manager*.

Important: If the install option makes Tasker the *Windows Task Manager*, then it is very important for you to select the Restart option afterwards. Otherwise, Windows could and most likely will lock-up the first time you invoke the Tasker program!

Registration:

To register your copy of Tasker or to make any comments or suggestions regarding the program, simply send $25.00 U.S. in check or money order to:

  Wizzard Programming Computer Services
  3875-A Telegraph Rd., #357
  Ventura, CA   93003

  or call

  Dave Selfridge
  (805) 650-7364 - Voice

  The SysOp
  The Wizard's Windows BBS
  (805) 659-4760 - Data

Please include your full name, company name, address, phone number, version number, and any suggestions of features you would like to see in the next Tasker version.

Included Files:

  tasker.exe   main program
  tasker.wri   this documentation file
  tconfig.exe configuration program
  ctlhwnd.dll runtime- dynamic link library
  diskstat.dll runtime- dynamic link library (not required, however needed for time stamping with copy file procedures)
  w3tasker.exe   Windows 3.0 module loader (not needed with Windows 3.1 and you may also manually copy tasker.exe to taskman.exe to make Tasker your *Windows Task Manager*. (Note: this file is renamed to taskman.exe or deleted, depending upon your Windows version number.)
  ???x????.bmp   three dimensional background bitmaps you may install by using the Control Panel's desktop option after they are copied into your Windows directory. (Note:

these bitmaps are not required for Tasker to function and may be deleted from your hard disk if you wish.)

   640x480a.bmp   3d background bitmap for standard VGA and Windows 3.0

   640x480c.bmp   3d background bitmap for standard VGA and Windows 3.1

   800x600a.bmp   3d background bitmap for super VGA and Windows 3.0

   800x600c.bmp   3d background bitmap for super VGA and Windows 3.1

Created Files:

   tasker.ini   Tasker configuration file created by the tconfig program

   origtask.exe   Windows 3.0 only! - this is a backup copy of the original task manager which is created during the install process. To remove Tasker from being the *Windows Task Manager*, simply copy this file back to the name taskman.exe (Note: be sure to restart Windows afterwards!).

   oigtask.exe Windows 3.1 - it is not required to backup the taskman.exe file due to it never is modified. Instead, your system.ini file will include a setting in the [boot] section;

   taskman.exe=tasker.exe

         To remove Tasker from being the *Windows Task Manager*, simply delete this line using a text editor such as notepad or sysedit, then restart Windows.