

Simtel Database Viewer

Version 1.1

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July 18, 1992

This Windows 3.x program allows you to search the Simtel20 public domain and shareware database for filename, directory or description. In this document 'this software' refers to the WSIMTEL.EXE and OPENDLL.DLL files.

How to install it

Copy the files wsimtel.exe and opendll.dll to a directory of your choice. You can insert this program in a Program Manager group, including a specification of the database file.

How to use it

The startup syntax is
wsimtel <database file>

If the database file is omitted, no database is opened. By installing it in a Program Manager group with a database file included on the command line, the database will be opened.

The screen consists of two main areas: The search results and the search criteria. To initiate a search you type in the criteria you want to search for (filename, directory and description), then click on Go. The search will try to match what you typed as substring (DO NOT TYPE * WILDCHARACTERS). All searches are currently not case sensitive. If you type in more than one box at the same time, a logical AND will be done, resulting in a search that meets all the typed criteria. After the search is completed the descriptions are listed in a list box. Clicking on a description will show all the information of the selected file.

You can download (ftp) the latest simtel index (.idx) from the PD1:<MSDOS.FILEDOCS> directory with the name SIMIBM.ARC. To convert this file to a .dbf (yes 'real' DBase III), select File|Import new .idx file. You will then be prompted to select you .idx file and to name your new .dbf file. Converting can take a while, and Windows will seem to hang, but eventually everything will be back to normal. You will only have to do this when you download a new index file.

A DOS based tool cica2sim.exe is included to convert the cica windows index from ftp.cica.indiana.edu:pub/pc/win3/INDEX to a simtel-like .idx file. This file can then be imported to a .dbf file with File|Import new .idx file. Then it can be searched by the Simtel Database Viewer.

Popular mirror sites of the simtel archives include oak.oakland.edu and wuarchive.wustl.edu.

Changes

version 1.1:

= Fixed bug that caused UAE

- on quit
- in ALT-TAB (while searching)

= Fixed bug that caused descriptions containing a comma to be chopped off.

= Files > 1Mbyte now display 7 digits for the file size.

= Changed font in main window so it rescales properly in all resolutions.

= Changed AboutBox Popup time to 3 seconds on startup.

= Added the "Database Information" feature, so you can keep track of when you updated the index, and how many records there are. Note that if you use an older .dbf file there is a month difference between the file date and the database date. This is due to a bug in version 1.0 and has been fixed. On import the date of the index file will be stored in the data file as the date of the index.

= Included an updated cica2sim.exe converter program that works with the current format of the cica INDEX file.

= Updated the documentation.

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Registration

You can become a registered user by simply sending a picture postcard to :

Hans van Oostrom
1520 S.W. 16th PL
Gainesville, FL 32608
U.S.A.

If you include an E-mail address (any net will do) I will add you to my electronic mailing list and will keep you posted on updates. You will be able to get updates quicker than anybody else! You CANNOT register this program via E-mail. A little effort from your side (sending a card) is required for the effort from my side.

Liability

Under no circumstances will I be liable for damages that may occur by running this software. This is a free program that may contain bugs. By running this software you agree to take responsibility.

Bugs

There are no known bugs. There may be some unknown bugs and undesired features. I would like to hear about them and you can send them via Email to hans@pine.circa.ufl.edu (internet) or hans@ufpine (bitnet) or via Mail to the address above.

This software was developed on a 386/25 machine using Borland C++ 3.0. It was tested with Windows 3.0 and Windows 3.1.

What is next?

Future versions of this program are planned and will include selected print/save feature, Windows 3.1 features like standard file open box, even faster searches etc. If you are a registered user you can send your wishes to me to be included into the next release. Another reason to register!

Hope you enjoy using this program.

Hans van Oostrom.