Getting Started with Windows 3.1

for the IBM PC 3.5 inch Data Disk Sylvia Russakoff Babette Kronstadt David Sachs Consulting Editors

A Wiley PC Companion

Getting Started with Windows® 3.1

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PREFACE

Many experts feel that the advent of Windows, a product of Microsoft Corporation, is the most exciting development in software in recent years. Windows provides a graphical user interface, a platform for running both Windows and DOS applications, the opportunity to do multitask applications, a selection of convenient accessories, and much, much more. Millions of copies have been sold, and users in both office and home environments are enjoying its manifold advantages. Windows 3.1 represents the latest version of this program.

This book provides a step-by-step introduction to the terminology, concepts, and techniques needed in order to use Windows 3.1. Lessons 1 and 2 introduce you to the Windows environment. Lessons 3 through 5 introduce the Windows Program Manager, Help function, and word processor. Lessons 6 and 7 introduce the remaining Windows accessories. Lessons 8 through 11 and the Appendices introduce various advanced topics.

Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Hardware Needed

- ▶ IBM AT/PS2 or compatible microcomputer
- ▶ 640K conventional memory and at least 256K, preferably 1024K extended memory
- ▶ Hard drive with at least 6 MB, preferably 9 MB free
- ▶ At least one floppy disk drive

Software Needed

- ▶ IBM-DOS or MS-DOS 3.1 or later
- ▶ Windows 3.1
- Student Data disk (supplied with this book)

Windows 3.1

Windows 3.1 offers the user a new, multifeatured environment in which to operate a personal computer. With Windows, Microsoft Corporation has revolutionized the way people set up their PCs, organize their software, and run the programs they need. Windows 3.1 represents the latest and most advanced version of Windows. Some of its important features are listed below:

- 1. Windows employs a graphical user interface (GUI). In addition to placing commands and instructions onscreen as text, Windows contains small pictures called *icons*, which represent programs, devices, documents, and commands. To select an icon for use, you click on it with a device called a "mouse."
- 2. Windows uses the desktop metaphor. Each task you perform takes place in its own window, and all windows can be sized and arranged on the screen just as you would arrange the papers on your desk.

- 3. Windows comes with a complete set of accessories to help you organize your work: a calculator, cardfile, calendar, notepad, and more.
- 4. Windows allows you to run programs created especially for its environment (Windows applications), and also conventional programs created to run under DOS (non-Windows applications). It allows you to open more than one program from your hard disk at a time, and switch quickly and easily from one program to another. If you have sufficient memory, Windows lets you actually process data from two different applications at the same time. This is called multitasking.
- 5. All Windows applications share the same "look" and "feel."

 Because they have a common appearance and mode of operation, once you learn the basics—managing windows, saving, retrieving, and printing files—you can use the same techniques in all programs created for Windows.
- 6. All Windows applications share the same setup information. Once you have configured your mouse, printers, and other devices during the Windows setup, they are available for all Windows programs.
- 7. Windows permits easy transfer of data between applications. Besides copying and moving data, you can create special links between applications that let you update more than one file at a time.

Using This Book

The advantages of Windows are not enjoyed without effort. More than other software applications, learning Windows often leads to an initial period of confusion and frustration. The new Windows user is faced with a myriad of choices and screens (See Figure I-1). Using the mouse may prove a challenge. Often, it seems to the user that windows open and close on their own, sometimes disappearing without warning!

Our advice—press on! Typically, once the initial resistance and frustration are overcome, users appreciate the power and fun of Windows. Read each lesson carefully, more than once if necessary. Look back to earlier lessons if you forget a definition or an instruction. We think you will find the effort well worthwhile.

This book will introduce you to the basic information you need to understand and use Windows 3.1. There will be numerous exercises to help you practice what you are learning. Although Windows 3.1 can be used with many kinds of software—both Windows and non-Windows applications—the exercises will require only the applications that are

included with Windows 3.1 and files that you will find on the Student Data disk included with this book.

Each exercise consists of numbered instructions. Text you are expected to type will be printed in **bold** type. Most chapters will conclude with Review Exercises, which contain suggestions and hints rather than detailed instructions. At the end of the book you will find five Projects, which are designed to help you organize and assimilate the knowledge you have acquired.

You will be using the Control (CTRL), Alternate (ALT), and Function keys (F1 through F12) in combination with normal typing keys to carry out the instructions in this book.

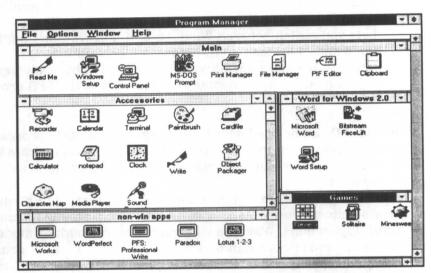


Figure I-1: Windows 3.1 (one of many possible screens)

Starting Windows

Windows is usually started either from the DOS prompt or by selecting it from a customized menu. Often a personal computer using Windows is set up so that Windows will open automatically as part of the startup routine (through a command in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.) If the Windows installation procedure has been followed, Windows can be loaded by typing: win. If this command does not work, check any menus that appear on your screen or ask your instructor for help.

To start Windows from the DOS prompt,

- Turn on your computer and monitor. 1.
- 2. At the C:\ prompt, type: win.
- Press ENTER. 3.

Modes of Operation

Windows 3.1 can operate on a wide range of personal computers. However, computer systems with less memory (RAM) and less powerful processors cannot take full advantage of Windows' capabilities. When

you start Windows, it looks at your hardware capacity, and depending on what it finds, operates in either of two modes:

Standard Mode

- 1. The normal operating mode for running Windows.
- 2. Requires an 80286 processor (or higher), 640K conventional memory, and 256K extended memory.
- 3. Lets you switch among Windows and non-Windows applications.
- 4. Provides access to extended memory.

386 Enhanced Mode

- 1. Requires an 80386 processor (or higher), 640K conventional memory, and 1024K extended memory.
- 2. Lets you switch between Windows and non-Windows applications and multi-task non-windows applications.
- 3. Lets you use more memory than is actually physically available (by using the "virtual memory" capabilities of the 386 processor).

Windows 3.0 can be used with computers with an 8086 processor and 640K memory. In that situation, Windows 3.0 will operate in Real Mode, which has more limited capabilities than either standard or enhanced mode.

Microsoft advises that a 386 machine with less than 4MB of memory may run Windows slowly. As long as you are not planning to run non-Windows applications, Windows will run faster in standard mode. To run Windows and specify standard mode, type:.....win /s. To run Windows and specify enhanced mode, type:.....win /e. We will learn more about standard and enhanced modes in a later lesson.

The Windows Environment Part I

The objectives of this lesson are to

- Define the Windows environment
- Understanding basic Windows terminology
- ▶ Identify the elements of the Program Manager window
- Use the mouse

Note: One of the difficulties in working with Windows is the number of different ways a screen can be displayed. Although a student may follow instructions correctly, the screen that appears may not resemble our illustration. In addition, Windows does not always return to the same default setting or screen arrangement, but instead may return to the way a screen was left at its last use. We have tried to give instructions to encompass these situations, but if you have trouble, ask your instructor for help.

The Windows Environment

The Windows environment includes the terminology and procedures you need to know in order to begin to use Windows. Windows is sometimes confusing to beginners because of the vast number of choices to make and the various, often unexpected screen transformations that occur. Lessons 1 and 2 teach you how to control and manage the Windows environment. You will find that once you have mastered the material in these lessons you will feel more confident and ready to explore further.

Basic Terms

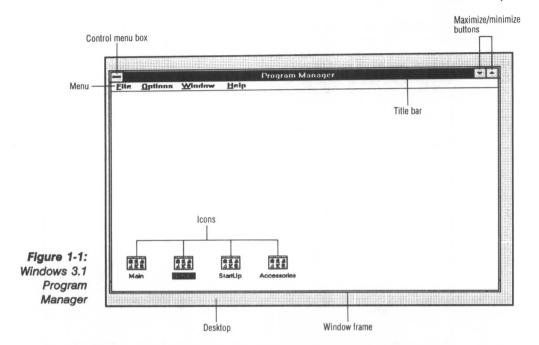
Windows has its own vocabulary. Here are some basic terms you need to know.

- 1. **Window.** An area enclosed within a frame where an application can run, or a document can be displayed. Every activity you carry out will take place within a window.
- 2. **Desktop.** Unenclosed background area behind a window.
- 3. **Applications.** A computer program which can run in the Windows environment. Applications designed to be used with Windows, like the Notepad and Cardfile, are called Windows Applications. Some applications, like WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3 are non-Windows Applications which can be used in the Windows environment.
- 4. **Menu.** A horizontal list of commands listed across the upper part of a window.
- 5. **Application Window**. A window which displays an application, for example Paintbrush or Windows Write. An application window always contains a menu.
- 6. **Document Window**. A window which does not contain a menu.
- 7. **Icon**. A picture symbol that can represent an application, document, file or drive. By manipulating the icon you can control the entity it represents.
- 8. **Control menu box**. A small gray box in the upper left corner of *every* window. It controls the size of the window, can be used to switch to another application, and can be used to close the window.
- 9. **Active.** When a window or icon is active, the bar across its top (the title bar) changes to a more vivid color. You cannot work with a window or its contents unless it is active.
- 10. **Mouse**. A small, hand-held device used to give commands within Windows. The mouse will make your work easier and faster. The mouse is represented on your screen by the *mouse pointer*. The pointer will change shape, depending on the kind of task you are engaged in.

We will begin our lesson by starting Windows 3.1 and making the initial screen resemble Figure 1-1.

To open Windows and see the Program Manager,

Open Windows 3.1, following the procedure used in the Introduction (hint: type win at the c:\ prompt and press ENTER).



When you start Windows, the application that opens immediately is called the Program Manager. The Program Manager is the application that organizes and runs the entire Windows environment. You will learn about it in more detail in Lesson 3. The Program Manager always appears on your screen when you open Windows; however it may not look like Figure 1-1 (above).

The appearance of The Program Manager depends on whether its own window and the windows it contains are open or closed, and on the software installed with Windows on your PC.

Sometimes the Program Manager appears as a small icon (picture) at the bottom of the screen. If your screen looks like Figure 1-2, follow these directions:

To open the Program Manager icon,

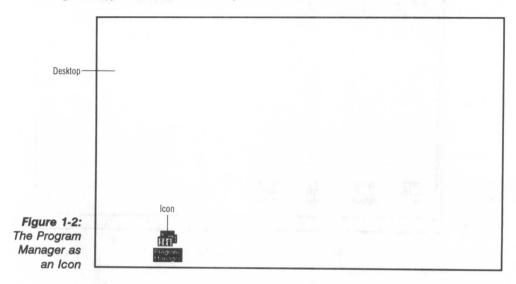
- 1. Hold down the ALT key and press the SPACEBAR.
- 2. Press ENTER.

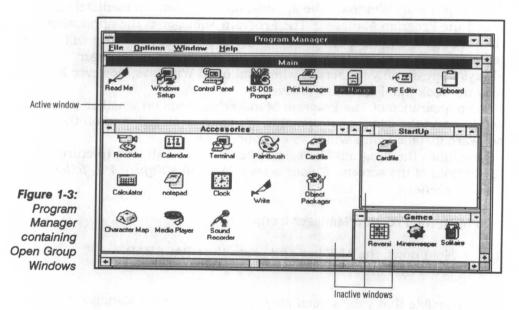
It is possible that your screen may show the Program Manager containing a number of open windows. For now, we want to close any open windows inside the Program Manager. If your screen resembles Figure 1-3, follow these directions:

To close open windows inside the Program Manager,

- 1. Press CTRL+F4 repeatedly until all windows have closed.
- You will now see a group of icons inside the Program Manager.

Note: If a window does not close, press CTRL+TAB until its top and frame turn color. The color change means that the window is active and it will close when you press CTRL+F4. If you still cannot close an open window inside the Program Manager, ask your instructor for help.





At this point your screen should look like Figure 1-1: the Program Manager window will be open and will contain a group of icons. The number of icons you see inside the Program Manager depends on the software you have available and the choices made during the Windows installation (for more information on installing Windows, see Appendix B).

The Parts of a Window

In Windows, every activity takes place in a window. Once you are familiar with the parts of a window and how each works, you can apply this knowledge throughout the Windows environment. The Program Manager window contains the basic window elements, as seen in Figure 1-1.

- 1. **Title Bar.** Shows the name of the application or document.
- 2. **Control Menu Box.** In the upper left corner of *every* window. It contains an icon that looks like a minus sign. When opened, you see the control menu, which contains commands that affect the size and location of the window and allow you to close the window.
- 3. **Maximize/Minimize Restore Buttons.** Icons in the upper right corner of almost every window. The minimize button (*) is a triangle pointing down. It shrinks the window to an icon. The maximize button (*) is a triangle pointing up. It enlarges the window to fill the entire screen. When a window is maximized, the maximize button is replaced by the restore icon, which contains two triangles. The restore icon returns the window to its original size, which is neither maximized nor minimized.
- 4. **Menu Bar.** Appears only if the window belongs to an application. The menu bar displays the menus available for the application. Through the menus, you give the commands necessary to work in your application.
- 5. **Window Frame.** Every window is surrounded by a frame. The frame size can be changed with either the mouse or cursor keys.

Using the Mouse

Although you can use Windows without a mouse, using one will speed up your work. In addition, it is fun! We will mention shortcut keys occasionally, when they are easier or faster than the mouse. In Appendix D, you will find a complete list of shortcut key combinations.

Mouse Actions

There are four mouse actions to learn:

Pointing. Moving the mouse so that the pointer *touches* the text or icon of your choice.

Clicking. Lightly pressing and releasing the *left* mouse button (the right mouse button is rarely used in Windows).

- 1. Point to the word **Window** on the menu bar and click to open the menu.
- 2. Point to any empty spot on the screen outside the menu, and click to close the menu.
- 3. Point to the icon called **Main** in the Program Manager and click to make the icon active and open its control menu.
- 4. Point to empty space anywhere on the screen and click to close the menu. The icon will remain active.

Double-Clicking. Rapidly pressing and releasing the left mouse button twice without jiggling the mouse.

Dragging. Clicking and moving the mouse while the left button is kept down. When you have dragged the object to the location of your choice, release the button.

- 1. Point to the icon called **Games** in the Program Manager. Drag it to another spot in the Program Manager window.
- 2. Point to the word **Help** on the menu bar and click to open the menu.
- Click on How to Use Help. A window will open.
- 4. Double-click on the control menu box (icon that looks like a minus sign in the upper left corner of the Help screen). The window will close and you will return to the Program Manager.

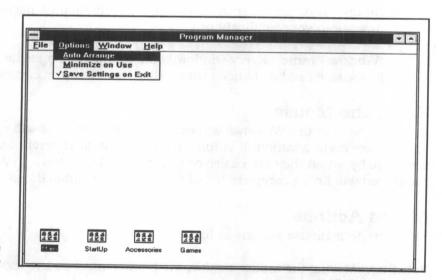


Figure 1-4: An Open Menu

Using the Menus

Now that we have begun to look at menus, you are likely to notice that some choices are listed in dark type and some in light type. Any menu item printed in light type is not available.