
1000 Best Windows Games

User's Guide

COSMI Corporation
2600 Homestead Place
Rancho Dominguez, California 90220
voice (310) 886-3510
fax (310) 886-3517

COSMI EUROPE, LTD.
Weir Bank, Bray on Thames
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2ED
United Kingdom
voice +44 (0) 1628 762686
fax +44 (0) 1628 762685



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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Operating System

☒ SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO READ THE "WHAT IS SHAREWARE" SECTION OF THIS MANUAL.

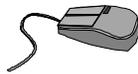
Your computer must have Microsoft Windows 3.x or Microsoft Windows 95.

☒ SPECIAL NOTICE: 1000 Best Windows Games includes games that operate ONLY under Windows 95. The program provides this information. The programs marked as Windows 95 only WILL NOT operate on Windows 3.x machines. Most, but not all Windows 3.x and Windows 95 programs will work on Windows NT.

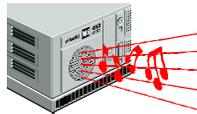
Disk Space

This program requires approximately 8 megabytes of space on your hard drive. Please note that the games are NOT copied onto your hard drive during installation. Additional hard drive space will be required to install games you select from the collection.

Hardware



A mouse or pointing device is required.



In order to hear sounds you must have a sound card and speakers.



To print out any items you create or save in this program, you must have a printer. Although the program will operate with dot matrix printers, we recommend ink jet or laser printers for the best results



To access our web site you must have a modem and a connection to the Internet.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

CD-ROM Installation

USING WINDOWS 3.1 OR, WINDOWS 3.11, OR WINDOWS NT 3.X

1. Place the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. In Program Manager click on FILE, then click on RUN.
3. Type in D:\CDSETUP and press Enter. (If your CD-ROM drive is not D, then change it to the letter associated with your CD-ROM drive.)
4. Follow any instructions that appear on the screen.

USING WINDOWS 95 OR WINDOWS NT 4.0

1. Place the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. In the start-up screen click on START, then click on RUN.
3. Type in D:\CDSETUP and press Enter. (If your CD-ROM drive is not D, then change it to the letter associated with your CD-ROM drive.)
4. Follow any instructions that appear on the screen.

NOTICE: All Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 users should run the program DX5ENG.EXE to update Direct X drivers which are required for many of the games in this collection. This program, released by Microsoft, will only update drivers as required. Many Windows 95 games require Direct X to be installed. To run the Direct X update program:

1. Type in D:\dx5eng.exe and press Enter. (If your CD-ROM drive is not D, then change it to the letter associated with your CD-ROM drive.)
2. Follow any instructions that appear on the screen.

WELCOME

The Largest All Windows Shareware Collection

1000 Best Windows Games has collected over 1,000 games for your entertainment. Many programs provide a good number, and in some cases, dozens of different games. We have reviewed over 8,000 programs and have selected 1,000 of the best for this collection.

All of the programs in this collection are excellent games. Some are superior! We have awarded fifty programs the 1000 Best Windows Games Top 5% award

for quality. Look for the top 5% award in the program descriptions. Of course, your mileage may vary, and these awards represent our opinions.

WHAT IS SHAREWARE?

A Brief Review of Shareware

All of the programs in this collection can be described as "shareware."

This means that the program's owners have authorized certain limited distribution of the programs to the public.

1000 Best Windows Games is not the author of the games. 1000 Best Windows Games has collected the games and has organized them and provided this manual.

THE PROGRAMS IN THIS COLLECTION ARE NOT PUBLIC DOMAIN OR COPYRIGHT FREE PROGRAMS. THE RETAIL PRICE YOU PAID FOR THIS CD IS FOR THE COMPILATION AND DUPLICATION. THE AUTHORS OF THE PROGRAMS ARE NOT PAID BY 1000 BEST WINDOWS GAMES.

THE REGISTRATION POLICY OF EACH PROGRAM IS EXPLAINED IN THE 1000 BEST WINDOWS GAMES PROGRAM AND IN INFORMATION FILES OR SCREENS CONTAINED IN THE PROGRAMS.

SHAREWARE PROGRAMS REQUIRE SEPARATE PAYMENT TO THE AUTHOR IF RETAINED BEYOND THE TRIAL PERIOD.

PLEASE ALLOW PROGRAMMERS TO PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY, LOW PRICED GAMES BY REGISTERING PROGRAMS THAT YOU USE.

SOME SHAREWARE PROGRAMS DO NOT REQUIRE PAYMENT. THESE PROGRAMS ARE SO DESCRIBED.

The story of shareware is fascinating. In the days of the IBM PC Jr. and early XT's, many of the best known programs were copy protected. This meant that you were only able to install the program a limited number of times. Because early computers frequently locked up without reason, many persons found that they were unable to install legitimate, legal copies of programs due to copy protection.

A few persons, among them Jim Button and Andrew Flugelman, decided that since every computer can make duplicates of disks rapidly, that copy protecting software wasn't going to work, and decided to profit from developer's paranoia.

They released programs that were as good as, and in some cases, better than commercial programs, and didn't copy protect them. Instead, they encouraged copying. And they tried a crazy idea, marketing on trust alone. The idea was so crazy that it worked. Copy protection is no longer common in commercial software and an entirely new distribution method, shareware, was born.

Programmers asked users to try their programs, and if they didn't like them, to at least pass the disk on to another person. Bulletin boards, online services and "disk vendors" distributed millions and millions of disks. Several programmers made real businesses out of shareware. Many others didn't earn a great deal, but found that releasing good shareware resulted in job offers, custom work, and recognition.

Shareware is alive and doing better than ever.

CONFUSING TERMS

There are many different terms used to describe software marketed as shareware. Even those in the industry use them in different ways. The accepted definitions are:

Shareware - Software that is copyright and is permitted to be distributed under certain conditions. Most shareware requires payment to the author if the program is used after a trial period.

Freeware - Sometimes used as a substitute for the term shareware.

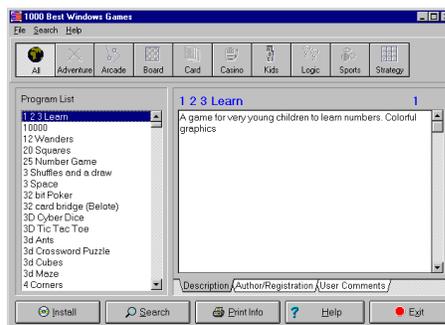
Public Domain - This software is NOT shareware. Public domain means use it, sell it, abuse it, and reuse it. This collection has shareware, not public domain programs.

No Cost Shareware (Bannerware) - Shareware in which the author does not charge and does not allow resale.

1000 BEST WINDOWS GAMES

Main Menu

When you begin using 1000 Best Windows Games, the following opening screen will appear:



To select games, click either the "ALL," or some or all of the categories.

The main screen provides a brief description of each program, as well as registration information and a place for you to enter comments about the games in the collection.

Function Buttons

The bottom of the main menu screen contains a series of buttons:



INSTALL

The install button prepares you to install the program that is presently described. After clicking install, you will see the following display:



You will then be prompted to select the folder (sub-directory) and drive where the game will be copied.



In most cases you can change the name of the drive and directory without affecting the program's operation. Please see "Using Programs After Installation" for information on running the games.

PRINT

To print out the information (which often includes a ready to use order form) while the author/registration tab is visible, click on print:



SEARCH

1000 Best Windows Games provides you with the ability to locate programs based on matching key phrases.



After activating the search, you will see the following:



You may search by:

- Keyword
- Name of author
- Description
- User Comments

The search is not case sensitive.

If you pick a term that has no matches, the following display will inform you of that fact:



If your search term is found, you will be automatically returned to the main menu. The main menu will contain JUST the items that match your search terms.

If you click any of the category buttons, the search will no longer be active.

HELP

Help activates this help file.

EXIT

Closes the program and returns to Windows.

Using Games

After you have installed a game from the collection, there are two possible scenarios. The first is that the game is ready to run. The second is that you will have to run an install program to complete installation.

In either case, take a moment and review the files installed by 1000 Best Windows Games. You can do so through the FILE MANAGER or WINDOWS EXPLORER.

If you see a file with any of the following names, before using the game, review the file:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| • readme | • manual.txt | • vendinfo.diz |
| • readme.lst | • manual.doc | • vendor.doc |
| • program.inf | • install.doc | • vendor.txt |
| • program.doc | • file_id.diz | • Sdn.id |

These files can be viewed by using NOTEPAD or WORDPAD (editors which are provided with Windows). NOTEPAD is provided with Windows 3.x and can be found in the Accessories Group. WORDPAD is provided with Windows 95, and can also be found in the Accessories Group. In addition, we provide a simple text viewer with 1000 Best Windows Games. GWEDIT can be used to open and review these files. Follow all instructions contained in the program documentation.

Examples

INSTALLED FILE CONTAINS A "SETUP.EXE"

Many games will show a directory listing similar to the following after installed by 1000 Best Windows Games. This is the display after installation of UFO 40000, one of the games in this collection:

Contents of 'F:\40000'			
Name	Size	Type	Modified
setup.bin	4KB	BIN File	3/15/96 2:11 AM
ufo40000.dat	847KB	DAT File	3/15/96 2:11 AM
setup.exe	32KB	Application	3/15/96 2:10 AM

As you can see, there is a setup.exe file. Either run this from Explorer (by double clicking) or from run. Windows 3.x users can follow the same procedure using the FILE MANAGER. Follow the instructions on screen to install the program.

INSTALLED PROGRAM CONTAINS JUST AN EXECUTABLE FILE

Many games, after installation, are a single file, such as "Color Attack" (one of the games in this collection). You will see a display in Explorer or File Manager as follows:

Contents of 'F:\color'			
Name	Size	Type	Modified
Coloratt.exe	1,852KB	Application	3/23/96 8:39 AM

In this case, run the executable program and follow any instructions that appear.

INSTALLED PROGRAM DOES NOT CONTAIN AN INSTALL.EXE OR SETUP.EXE PROGRAM

Some of the games do not have an install or setup program. One such example is the game entitled "Gold Pusher." After selecting this game from the collection, you will see the following files:

Contents of 'E:\gold'			
Name	Size	Type	Modified
Gpdocs.txt	1KB	Text Document	9/20/96 7:24 PM
Goldpush.exe	1,691KB	Application	9/20/96 7:10 PM
Rooms.dat	442KB	DAT File	9/20/96 6:53 PM
Newrooms.dat	73KB	DAT File	9/20/96 6:50 PM
Goldhelp.exe	564KB	Application	9/5/95 8:45 PM
Topsave.sav	2KB	BrainBreaker_Save...	3/24/96 2:52 PM

As you will notice, there is a "txt" file. You should review this FIRST. After reviewing any information files, you may find that installation is NOT required, and you may simply run the program from the run menu or by double clicking.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ Information

1. What is VBRUN100.DLL (VBRUN200, VBRUN300, VBRUN400)?

Answer: Many popular games are created with Microsoft's Visual Basic development system. Programs written with these systems WILL NOT work unless these files are present on your computer. These files are probably already present on your computer - even though you may not ever have been aware that they are there ☺. You may notice that the manuals for some games mention needing these files. These files are distributed with this program. Provided that you installed this program using our installation routine you have these files properly located on your system. Copying these files onto your system will not harm it.

2. Why can't I just run the games off the CD?

Answer: This is a great question. Most games create files as they are played (such as a high score list, player name list, etc.) and since a CD ROM is *read only* most games will crash without prior notice if you run them from a CD. In other cases, the developer requires supporting dll or other files, or system configuration changes, in which case, unless you install the program, the program will crash without prior notice! Therefore, the only responsible practice is to have users install the games to their hard drives and then install or play.

3. I've written shareware. How do I get it in future versions of this program?

Answer: Send a copy to:
COSMI's 1000 Best Windows Games
2600 Homestead Place
Rancho Dominguez CA 90220

Please include a very brief letter advising us that we have permission to distribute the program.

4. I've written a shareware program. Why isn't it in this collection?

Answer: First of all, we may not be aware of the program. See question 2 above for information on how to get included in this collection. Second, we could not include many fine programs in this collection because of license agreement questions. Too many authors who want their programs to be widely distributed fail to provide legal consent to do so. We include a short "Shareware Author's Guide" in the online manual that you may want to read.

5. Who wrote the descriptions of the programs?

Answer: If the author provided a description of the program, we copied it (or at least the basic points) word for word. On a few occasions we changed typographical (spelling) errors.

6. Can I make copies of the shareware programs in 1000 Best Windows Games to give to others?

Answer: Yes. ☒ SPECIAL NOTICE: You may NOT make copies of the entire CD or make copies of the manual. When making a copy of any individual program, read its documentation to be sure that you have the right to do so.

7. Where did you get these games?

Answer: Almost all games were obtained from the author, or, from uploads of the programs made by the authors to Internet or online sites.

8. The author only has a postal mailing address. Is there a faster way to get support?

Answer: Unfortunately no. Some authors are only available through postal correspondence. Almost every author is available on the Internet. That's almost always the best way to get assistance.

9. I have sent the registration fee, but my mail has been sent back. What should I do?

Answer: Authors sometimes move, and forwarding orders expire. We have tried to ensure that we have the latest version of each program. Since we get most programs directly from the author, in most cases as of the time that this collection was completed, we do have an accurate address. If mail is returned, you may consider seeing if the author has an Internet e-mail address and contacting them through that address. Please let us know so that we can take appropriate action.

10. Do I have to pay the requested registration fee?

Answer: Yes. These programs are permitted to be distributed without charge, but if you use the program beyond the author's free trial period you must pay the registration fee.

11. Isn't shareware crippled so I can't really try the program?

Answer: Most shareware authors do not cripple their programs. Many withhold some advanced features. On the other hand, many authors DO NOT cripple or limit their games in any material way. Some games limit the number of times that you can play them. In reviewing programs for inclusion in this program we rejected programs which had restrictions that we judged as excessive (such as allowing 15 seconds playing time). You should be able to give each of these programs a fair and complete review.

12. Isn't shareware worse than software I buy in a store?

Answer: No. Many programs that are best sellers at retail are also shareware. There are good and bad shareware programs and good and bad commercial

programs. This is one of the most common misconceptions among users of shareware.

13. Can my computer get a virus from shareware?

Answer: That is possible, but the files on this CD have been checked for viruses. We have used four different methods of verifying that the programs in this collection do not have viruses. In addition, we have a procedure in place that maintains integrity of our masters. Although we obviously don't want to reveal our procedures in detail, we use multiple scanning programs and other regimens to verify the integrity of each file, and repeat these processes on several different occasions before a CD is replicated. In reviewing well over 8,000 programs for this collection we did not find any viruses in shareware. You should adopt a procedure such as using a virus-scanning program to insure the integrity of your system. If you choose to use a virus-scanning program, be sure to follow the program's directions carefully in regard to obtaining updated virus data.

14. How did you pick the top 5% games?

Answer: This was subjective. Your mileage may vary!

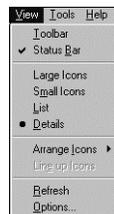
15. What testing did you do on the games in the collection?

Answer: All were installed, strictly in accordance with the author's instructions, and were reviewed for basic operational integrity. Due to the fact that games may be designed to require dozens or even hundreds of hours of play to go through all "levels" we did not complete use of all of the games. In addition, many games require great skill to win (particularly arcade games) and our reviewers may not have been fast enough at blasting aliens to "win" the game.

Therefore, it is possible that there may be some "bugs" we didn't catch. Our testing was done by professional programmers using properly set up machines (a 100mhz Pentium) typical of those used by our customers.

16. Why are the screen shots different on my computer?

Answer: The screen shots in this manual were made in Windows 95. A Windows 3.x display will be different. We have also selected small icons and file details. This screen shot shows this menu in explorer:



Although your screen may have a different display this does not affect use of the program.

SUPPORT

We encourage all our users to provide comments and suggestions about this program. This program is supported by voice, fax and Internet e-mail.

☒ Although we will provide support for 1000 Best Windows Games, we cannot provide information or support concerning the programs themselves. Please contact the program authors for more information.

Voice



(310) 886-3510

For telephone support, call COSMI's Customer Service during the hours below. (Note: All times are in the Pacific Standard Time zone.)

Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Friday, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon.

☒ COSMI is very proud to be one of the few remaining software publishers to provide no charge customer support!

E-Mail

Support questions may be addressed to: cos550@aol.com.

Fax



You may fax us at (310) 886-3517.

Internet

Be sure to visit COSMI's Internet Web site: <http://www.cosmi.com>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Team Members

Team COSMI, the only fully integrated software developer and publisher in the budget software industry, wishes to give special thanks to team members who made special contributions to this program:

Executive Producer and Librarian: Herb Kraft
Art: Susan Randle, David Serrano
Documentation Management: Kathryn Berlfein

Programming: Ron Paludan
Quality Control/Beta: John Passo

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1000 Best Windows Games is the ultimate game collection, containing 1,000 games - all for Windows. Everyone will find dozens of games for them in this collection, featuring the best of the best. Over 8,000 Windows games were reviewed to bring users this outstanding collection of shareware games. Your whole family, from children to grandparents, will find dozens of games just right for them.

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COSMI CORPORATION
2600 Homestead Place
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220
voice (310) 886-3510
fax (310) 886-3517

COSMI EUROPE, LTD.
Weir Bank, Bray on Thames
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2ED
United Kingdom
voice +44(0) 1628 762686
fax +44 (0) 1628 762685

E-mail: cos550@aol.com

Internet Web site: <http://www.cosmi.com>

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