

What were the MS-DOS programs that Windows used the progman.exe stock icons for?



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Last time, [we learned the history of moricons.dll](#), and along the way learned about legacy icons in `progman.exe`. But what are the icons?

Today, we'll look at the bonus icons in `progman.exe`. Some of them were auto-assigned by Windows to some programs. Others were just fun icons that you could use for your own Program Manager items.

	<div>[MS-DOS word processor]</div> <div>Brief 2.1/3.0 Brief 3.1 DisplayWrite 3 DisplayWrite 4 DisplayWrite 5 DisplayWrite Assistant Formtool GW BASIC IBM Personal Editor IBM Professional Editor</div> <div>IBM Writing Assistant 2.0 Microsoft Macro Assembler Microsoft Quick Pascal RightWriter Soft Kicker Volkswriter 3.0 WordStar 2000 WordStar Professional WordStar Professional 5.5 Writer Rabbit XY Write</div>
	<div>[MS-DOS spreadsheet]</div> <div>Lotus 1-2-3 Lotus Access System</div> <div>Supercalc 4.0 Supercalc 5.0</div>

	<p>[MS-DOS database]</p> <p>Ashton Tate dBase III Ashton Tate dBase IV IBM Filing Assistant Insight Microrim R:Base 3.0</p> <p>Microrim R:Base 5000 Microrim R:Base Clout Microrim R:Base System V Paradox Q & A Report Writer Quick Verse 2.0</p>
	<p>[MS-DOS communications]</p> <p>Microsoft Online 1.0 PC3270 PFS: Access Procomm</p> <p>Prodigy QModem Smartcom II TeleMate</p>
	<p>[MS-DOS generic program]</p> <p>Managing Your Money Microsoft Advanced Basic Microsoft Basic Microsoft Fortran Compiler 5.1 Microsoft Macro Assembler Microsoft Make Utility</p> <p>Microsoft Pascal Compiler Microsoft Spell PFS: Plan PFS: Professional Plan Ready! Turbo Tax</p>
	<p>[paint]</p> <p>PFS: First Graphics</p>
	<p>[bar chart]</p>
	<p>[camera]</p>
	<p>[CD-based program]</p> <p>Microsoft Bookshelf</p>
	<p>[chart or file system]</p> <p>Norton File Find PFS: First Choice 3.0</p> <p>PFS: First Choice 3.1 PFS: Professional Network XTree Gold</p>

	[clipboard]
	[drafting] Autocad Autosketch 3.0 Autosketch 2.0 Generic CADD
	[desktop publishing] PFS: First Publisher Soft Kicker Ventura Publisher
	[filmstrip]
	[graphing] Microsoft Chart GraphWriter
	[handshake]
	[utilities] Norton Utilities 4.5 Sidekick 1.0 Norton Utilities 5/6.0 Sidekick Plus
	[mail] Lotus Express
	[fine art]
	[newspaper]
	[telephone]

	[plain document]
	[spreadsheet]
	[sticky note]
	[cassette tape]
	[typewriter] Norton Line Printer
	[briefcase]
	[door]
	[large envelope]
	[mailbox]
	[safe] CP Anti-Virus
	[help] Norton Time Mark

It appears that at the start, the visual language was that MS-DOS programs were represented as a program running inside a frame, the frame representing the GUI frame around the MS-DOS session. (Also known informally as the MS-DOS “box”.)

Windows used the information in the `APPS.INF` file to identify these executables and associate them with icons and PIF file configurations.

Next time, we'll look at the icons in `moricons.dll`.