



Compact AutoRunner v2+ Help

by Carroll Dearstone

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Compact AutoRunner v2+

End User License Agreement	1
Introduction	2
Benefits	2
Command Line Arguments	3
Macros	3
Tips and Hints	3
Icon	4
Main Window (Form)	4
Main Window (Form) - Continued	5
Display Photo	6
Display Photo - Continued	7
Launch Button's	8
Launch Button's - Continued	9
Launch Button's - Continued	10
Exit Button (ButtonExit)	10
Text Boxes	11
Dynamic Positioning System	12
Contact the Author	12

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Compact AutoRunner v2.1.0 build 2 - January 5th, 2022
Compact AutoRunner Configuration Builder v2.1.0 build 2 - January 5th, 2022

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Introduction

For Windows XP/VISTA/7/8/10/11

Version 2+ only tested lately on Windows 10, but I think it should work on the other versions listed above.

Fun Fact: I originally wrote this program for my own use all the way back in 2008, but later decided to release it on my website.

Benefits

- Allows you to have a simple, compact, and no frills auto run menu on your CD.
- The main executable file size is small therefore it does not take up much space on your CD.
- No need for any programming run times to be installed on the computer running the program.

Command Line Arguments

- /p [configuration file] → Launch another configuration in a new window unlike page type.
- /s [style file] → Use in conjunction with above to set the style of the menu.
- For example if you wanted to launch another menu window with a different configuration you could do so in a button inside the current menu window with properties that might look like the below.

Type: Filename

Filename: <APP_PATH>\menu.exe

Arguments: /p "<APP_PATH>\AnotherConfig.xml" /s "<APP_PATH>\styles\Carbon.vsf"

Macros

Please note that the following should work with the application icon, photo, launch files, launch folder, launch pages, and launch arguments.

<APP_PATH>	Replaced with the app path of the application upon clicking the button.
<APP_DRIVE>	Replaced with the drive path the application on upon clicking the button.

Tips and Hints

- You can test your menu settings by running the program it **should not** have to be on a CD to make sure it works. Once you get it working you can burn the CD and make sure it works on it too. As long as you got everything including the main autorun.inf file correctly written, then it should work as long as auto run is enabled for the computer the CD is used on.
- A page type button will attempt to load another configuration directly into the already running Compact AutoRunner instance that it is launched from. This gives you the ability to link back and forth between 2 or more configuration files within the one program instance by creating buttons with launch type of page and putting the other configuration file as the launch filename.
- You should be able to use \n for new lines with the popup button type for the message.
- The configuration file should be named the same as the executable being used for the menu with the primary difference being that the configuration file should always use file extension of xml instead.

1. For example menu.exe would need the configuration file named menu.xml

Icon

Filename

Default: No value. (Uses default icon if no value.)

Description: Case sensitive path and filename of the icon including .ico extension.

More Information:

1. Use <APP_PATH> to dynamically get the path to Compact AutoRunner when it is needed.
2. Icon should also be inside the Compact AutoRunner directory or in a directory below it.

Example: <APP_PATH>\path\filename.ico

Main Window (Form)

Caption

Default: No value which when ran defaults to “Compact AutoRunner...”.

Description: This will be the caption of the window when displayed.

More Information: Alphanumeric value that is 255 or less characters.

Width

Default: 630

Description: This will be the width of the window when displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels between 100 and 10000.

Height

Default: 375

Description: This will be the height of the window when displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels between 100 and 10000.

Main Window (Form) - Continued

Back Color

Default: No value.

Description: This will be the background color of the window is when displayed.

More Information: HTML Hex format and it will be overrode by a style file if one is used.

Exit Confirmation - Enable/Disable Checkbox

Default: false (unchecked)

Description: Do you want to show a YES/NO box asking if you want to exit?

Exit Confirmation - Title

Default: No value.

Description: The title for exiting to ask if the exit confirmation checkbox is checked.

More Information: Alphanumeric and 32 or less characters.

Exit Confirmation - Message

Default: No value.

Description: This will be the background color of the window is when displayed.

More Information: Alphanumeric and 355 or less characters.

1. You may use <MAINCAPTION> to show the value of the window caption where you want it.

Display Photo

Filename

Default: No value.

Description: The case sensitive path and filename of the photo including the extension.

Extensions: .bmp, .jpg, .png

More Information:

1. Use <APP_PATH> to dynamically get the path to Compact AutoRunner when it is needed.
2. Icon should also be inside the Compact AutoRunner directory or in a directory below it.

Example: <APP_PATH>\path\filename.extension

3. If you use a .png it will include any transparency in the png file when displayed.
4. Leave blank to disable the display of any photo.
5. Use <USE_PREVIOUS_IMAGE> to use the last loaded image. This is useful for sub pages so if you are using same image as main page the sub page will not have to reload the image again.

ToolTip

Default: No value.

Description: This is shown when hovering over the photo.

More Information: Alphanumeric value that is 255 or less characters.

1. Disabled if blank.

Display Photo - Continued

Top

Default: 10

Description: Position of the photo from the top of window after the caption when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Left

Default: 10.

Description: Position of the photo from the left side of window when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Width

Default: 610.

Description: This will be the width of the photo when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Height

Default: 310.

Description: This will be the height of the photo when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Launch Button's

Show Button - Checkbox

Default: true (checked)

Description: This will be the caption of the window when displayed.

More Information: Alphanumeric value that is 255 or less characters.

Caption

Default: No value.

Description: The text shown on the button.

More Information: Alphanumeric value. Use \n for new line.

ToolTip

Default: No value.

Description: Shown when hovering over the button.

More Information: Alphanumeric value that is 355 or less characters. Use \n for new line.

1. Disabled if blank.

Top

Default: 0

Description: Position of the button from the top of window after the caption when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Left

Default: 0

Description: Position of the button from the left side of window when it is displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels.

Launch Button's - Continued

Width

Default: 145

Description: This will be the width of the button when displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels between 75 and 1000.

Height

Default: 35

Description: This will be the height of the button when displayed.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels between 25 and 1000.

Font Size

Default: 12

Description: The font size of the button text.

More Information: Numeric value in pixels between 8 and 24.

Type

Default: 1 (Filename)

Description: The type of button it is to tell what to launch.

More Information: 1 is filename, 2 is website, 3 is folder, 4 is another set of buttons, and 5 is a popup.

Exit After Launch - Checkbox

Default: false (unchecked)

Description: If enabled this will exit after the launch once you click the button.

Launch Button's - Continued

Launch Filename/Website/Folder/Page/Popup - Title

Default: No value.

Description: Case sensitive path and filename, website url, folder, page or simply a popup title.

More Information: If file/folder then it should also be inside the Compact AutoRunner directory or in a directory below it.

1. Use <APP_PATH> to dynamically get the path to Compact AutoRunner when it is needed.

Launch Arguments/Popup - Message

Default: No value.

Description: Disabled if not filename or popup launch type.

More Information: May use the macro's if type launch arguments and \n for new line if type popup.

Exit Button (ButtonExit)

Note: You can use the same information as the launch button's help without the launch portion. So no need to re display it all here.

Text Boxes

Note: You can use the same information as the launch button's help without the launch portion. So only the changes will be displayed below as no need to re display it all here.

Reference Name

Default: Initialized text box value.

Description: This value is helpful to you in the configuration builder only and will be ignored by the main executable. The max length of this field is 32 characters.

Type

Default: Filename.

Description: Case sensitive path and filename or simply a short text value.

More Information: If file/folder then it should also be inside the Compact AutoRunner directory or in a directory below it.

1. Use <APP_PATH> to dynamically get the path to Compact AutoRunner when it is needed.

Word Wrap

Default: Disabled.

Description: Dictates that the text box wraps the contents or not to text box size.

More Information: Enabled it will prevent horizontal scroll bars from appearing if they would need to do so to display the content and disabled it would show the horizontal scroll bars if needed.

Filename/Text

Default: No value.

Description: Case sensitive path and filename or simply a text value.

More Information: If file/folder then it should also be inside the Compact AutoRunner directory or in a directory below it. You can choose to load a .txt or .rtf file if filename type.

1. Use <APP_PATH> to dynamically get the path to Compact AutoRunner when it is needed.
2. Use \n for new lines if using type Text.

Dynamic Positioning System

Grid Size

The offset of each dot of the grid.

Snap to Grid

Enables/disables snap to the grid size.

Lock/Unlock Photo

Locks photo if checked and unlocks if unchecked.

Note: Useful for positioning the buttons over the image. It will also show the image when you lock it if the image location was parsed correctly to load it.

Grid Color

This is the color of the dotted grid.

Handle Color

This is the handle color of the selected objects.

Contact the Author

If you have any bug reports/suggestions/feedback feel free to contact us at either of the following websites listed below.

<https://www.hamradiousa.net/>

<https://www.lunarious.com/>