30K Text Conversion Program - Readme

For Shareware & Full-Version

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This program was designed as a simple utility for converting Commodore ASCII (PETASCII) files to standard ASCII and back. As time went on, I did some more changes to improve and add more features.

If you have the shareware version, there are some limitations placed on how much text you can convert. So far, this shareware version will convert only PETASCII and Word Writer 5 files. The full version will handle files up to 32 kilobytes.

To use this program you will need to make a directory and copy the files from the .zip files to it. The CBM.ttf file is a True-Type Font that you will need to copy to the proper place (see description of "Panes" below). The TCSW.exe file is the program file. Simply double-click to start.

If you have already tried to convert files, you may have noticed the checkboxes for other Commodore wordprocessor filetypes. This has been included as a possible future upgrade.

It is recommended that you use this program in concert with DirMaster (you can use this program to pull SEQ files from a .D64 "disk" and copy it to your desired destination), WordPad/ Notepad or a Windows-based word processor of your choice - especially if the file is larger than 32K.

When the program starts, you are presented with the Main Screen containing two boxes (I call them Panes) a few buttons, and a checkbox for word processor files. The two panes are labeled. The left one ASCII and the right one PETASCII. If for some reason the right pane label is jumbled, you don't have the CBM font installed. This font has been included and must be copied to the appropriate place.

Buttons...

The Main Screen has 11

buttons. Here is a description of what each button does:

Open ASCII/TXT

This button is for loading a text (.txt) file to the Left Pane (labeled ASCII). By pressing this button, you are presented with a window allowing you to access the file you want (see Loading/Saving files below).

Save ASCII/TXT

Pressing this button will give you the option to save any text presented in the Left Pane (see Loading/Saving files below).

Clear Left Pane

Pressing this button will clear all text from the Left Pane.

Clear All Text

Pressing this button will clear ALL text in BOTH panes.

Clear Right Pane

Pressing this button will clear all text in the right pane.

Open PETASCII/SEQ

Pressing this button allows you to load a Commodore file into the right pane (see Loaing/Saving files below).

Exit Program

Does just what it says.

# of characters

Pressing this button will print the number of characters in each pane above the respective pane.

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Convert text in Left Pane to PETASCII and place in Right Pane (straight ASCII). This is a great feature that will make available quick conversion to save and share with Commodore users. If you have text (32K or less) from another source, such as a word processor, you can simply copy from your word processor and paste to the LEFT pane. Click this button and watch it go!

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Convert text in RIGHT pane from PETASCII to ASCII. If you opened a SEQ file in a word processor (wordpad will open an SEQ file) and cannot read it, simply copy from the word processor and paste to the RIGHT pane and click this button. Text in PETASCII format will be converted and placed in the LEFT pane.

Converting Commodore Word Processor Files

To convert a file created by a word processor on a Commodore, the checkbox at the bottom right (below the RIGHT Pane) must be checked. Check the box and click OPEN PETASCII/SEQ and proceed to the open/save window (See Loading/Saving files below for more details).

Loading/Saving Files

If you click on a button with "open" or "save", you will be presented with the Open window with lots of stuff on it. Here is a description of how to use it...

Opening a PETASCII/SEQ File

To open a PETASCII/SEQ file you will need to follow a few steps:

Select the source (drive, CD, floppy, etc.)
Find the directory where the file resides
Select (highlight) the file from the list
        "files" (box on the left)
Click "Done"

If the file you are looking for does not display, notice the filetype drop-down (defaults to .SEQ setting). You can select from specific extensions, or *.* to show all files in the directory. I prefer to save all documents created by Word Writer5 with the .ww5 extension, so I included it to display only these documents. If your file does not have an extension, you can add one in windows explorer and the next time you try to open it, it will be displayed (unless you chose *.* and all will show regardless).

Opening a Word Processor File

To open a file created with a word processor, you will need to have checked the "Convert a Word Processor file" checkbox on the Main Screen. Once you have done this and clicked the "Open PETASCII/SEQ" button, then this screen will appear. Follow the same process for opening a PETASCII/SEQ file and then check the box next to the name of the word processor that created the file (Note: this version will only convert files created by the Timeworks Word Writer5 word processor). So if you have a Word Writer5 document, click the checkbox next to it. This tells the program that the file is from Word Writer5 and must deal with it appropriately.

Opening an ASCII/TXT File

To open a text file (.txt), follow these steps...

On the Main Screen, press the "Open ASCII/TXT" button and the Open ASCII/TXT window pops up.
Select the source (e.g. drive, floppy, etc)

Select the directory where the file resides
Select (highlight) the file from the left window

Saving Files

Saving files is similar to opening them. Give the new file a name and click "Done". The file will be saved to the destination you provide.

Settings

You can change fonts, font sizes and colors. On the Main Screen, click "File", select "Preferences" and what you want to change. For colors, the checkboxes indicate what you can change (Pane color, text color). Use the bars to create the color combination you like, make sure the "Background button and then press "Ok".

Explanation of Each Step

Step 1

There are two boxes to select from...Panel Background and Panel Text. If you only want to apply changes to Panel background colors, then only check Panel Background.

Step 2

If you wish to apply changes to one or both Panes, check the boxes to apply – If you want to change the colors only in the Left Pane, then you would only select the box for that Pane.

Step 3

There are two radial buttons. Select Background to view color adjustments for that, or select Text to view the color adjustments for text color.

Fonts

There are three fonts available: Arial, Courier New, and MS Sans Serif. To select one of these fonts, click on File, Preferences, Font and select the Pane you want the new font to have. To change the size of the font, follow the same path and make the appropriate selection.

Purchase Full Version

If you like the shareware version, but would like more freedom, you can find the information to purchase a Full-version by clicking File, Purchase from the Main Screen.

Notes:
This program is not fool-proof. It is likely that it could crash as I have not fully implemented error-trapping. Errors are likely to occur if you select a drive or file that does not exist, or the program does not recognize. On my Windows98 machines I simply restart the program and continue on.

If you are using this program with newer versions of Windows (e.g. XP, Vista, etc.) I would copy the files you want to work with to the same folder where this program is...I've had some unpredictable results by simply trying to open a file stored elsewhere.

If you have a file larger than 32K, you can open it with WordPad (or equivalent), copy sections and paste to the Right Pane and convert. This converted text can be copy/pasted back to WordPad. Then simply proceed with the next segments until you're done (perhaps later on I will have a new version that will handle files larger than 32K).

I find this a nice utility to use in conjunction with the DirMaster program (by Wiz - Thanks!!), WordPad, and VICE (I use all three - of course, with Word Writer5 on a .D64 "disk").

This program is AS-IS with no warranties or guarantees. Those using this software accept anything that might happen and take all responsibility. Software copyright 2012 - Commodoreman.