

**Central control
Users guide**

by

PassMark™ Software

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Overview

Central control is a software utility that provides a configurable menu from which other software can be executed. It allows all of the products from PassMark software and external tools to be brought together for easier access.

Audience

This document will be useful for companies that have purchased several products from PassMark software and would like to integrate these products to have them accessible from a single interface. The person reading this document is expected to be a technician with a reasonable level of confidence using a PC.

Interface

Central Control displays a series of buttons that allow other applications to be launched. Up to fifty applications can be present in the Central Control window. The window will resize itself to display all the available applications. Clicking on the button that represents that application starts it up. After an application has been started Central Control remains opens so additional applications can be started.



The main window of Central Control, with 9 applications configured

Configuration

The applications that appear in the Central Control window can be changed and configured by the user. A text file called "centralcontrol.cfg" controls the configuration. This file **must be** in the same directory as the Central Control executable file.

For each button that is to appear in the Central Control, there **must be 5 lines** of text in the centralcontrol.cfg configuration file.

- Line1: A comment line that must start with a semicolon, ';'. Any text can appear after the semicolon. This comment line is not optional.
- Line2: This is the name of the icon image that will appear on the face of the button. There are a number of built in images to choose from or central can attempt to extract an icon from the executable file. (see below)
- Line3: The full path to the executable file of the application. (the relative path from the Central Control executable directory can also be used)
- Line4: Any parameters that need to be passed to the application. If there are no parameters then the words NO PARAMETERS should be entered.
- Line5: The text caption that will appear under the button.

Any button for which there is no configuration will be hidden. The text entered into the configuration file must **exactly** match this format. There must be no extra lines, no missing lines and no extra characters.

Example configuration file

```
;===== Button 1 =====
PerformanceTest
c:\program files\performancetest\pt.exe
/ah c:\temp\results.htm
PerformanceTest
;===== Button 2 =====
BurnInTest
c:\program files\burnintest\bit.exe
/r
BurnInTest
;===== Button 3 =====
BatteryMon
E:\Program Files\BatteryMon\BatteryMon.exe
NO PARAMETERS
Battery Monitoring
;===== Button 4 =====
EXTRACT
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\EXCEL.EXE
C:\logfiles\testlog.xls
Excel Log files
```

Icons

The following icons can be selected by using these key words in the configuration file.

OSCHECK	KEYBOARDTEST
BURNINTEST	PERFORMANCETEST
DOCUMENT	BATTERYMON
MODEMTEST	MONITORTTEST
SOUNDCHECK	REBOOTER
CDMAKER	GIRL
DEFAULT	COMMAND
DISKCHECKUP	SLEEPER
TESTLOG	WIRELESSMON
USB2TEST	<i>EXTRACT</i>

The DEFAULT icon appears as a question mark. The COMMAND icon can be used with 3rd party tools. If the *EXTRACT* icon is specified, then Central Control will attempt to extract an icon from the executable file (this extracted icon may not necessarily be the same size as the built in icons).

Making your own integrated package

Using Central Control it is possible to create a package of software that can be installed in a single operation from a network drive or CD. The steps required to do this are as follows

1. *Install purchased software*

Install the PassMark software that has been purchased using the standard installation method. Enter your user name and license key when prompted. Do this for each product. After the user name and license key has been entered the software will become the full version.

2. *Make a package*

Copy all of the installed software to a central location, with each package in its own sub-directory. For example if BurnInTest, BatteryMon and ModemTest have been purchased and installed to their default directories, copy the following files.

All files in

```
c:\program files\burnintest\
```

Should be copied to

```
C:\newpackage\burnintest\
```

All files in

```
c:\program files\batterymon\
```

Should be copied to

```
C:\newpackage\batterymon\
```

All files in

```
c:\program files\modemtest\
```

Should be copied to

C:\newpackage\modemtest\

3. Configure Central Control

Copy the Central Control executable file CenCtrl.exe to the package directory. (c:\newpackge\ in this example). Edit the Central Control configuration file to reference the packages copied into the sub-directories. Continuing with the example above would result in a configuration file like the following. Note the use of relative path names.

```
;===== Button 1 =====  
BurnInTest  
.\burnintest\bit.exe  
NO PARAMETERS  
BurnInTest  
;===== Button 2 =====  
BatteryMon  
.\BatteryMon\BatteryMon.exe  
NO PARAMETERS  
BatteryMon  
;===== Button 3 =====  
ModemTest  
.\ModemTest\ModemTest.exe  
NO PARAMETERS  
ModemTest
```

4. Finalize the package

Check that all the files are present. See appendix 1 for an example file listing. The actual files present will vary depending on the products installed and the version of each product. All the contents of the package directory (and sub-directories) can now be burnt to CD or copied to a network drive.

5. Use the package

To use the package

- Copy the entire package from the network drive to the local drive of the machine to be tested
- Start Central Control by double clicking on the "CenCtrl.exe" file. For the above example, the screen should look like that in appendix 2.
- Run any required tests
- Delete the entire directory from the local drive once testing is complete.

The same could be done from a CD.

Additional information

The same icon and application can be used several times on several different buttons. This could be used to start the same application with a variety of different command line parameters.

Open points

Files copied from a CD to a hard disk will have their Read Only attribute set by Windows. This may cause warning messages to appear when various tools try to write to their log files and individual configuration files. Files attributes can easily be changed from the properties window for each file and / or directory but this adds an extra step to the procedure. One solution would be to write a script that changes the permissions upon installation. Another solution would be to get the various applications to attempt to remove the Read Only attribute when access is required.

Feedback

We appreciate your feedback on this document, so if you find any mistakes or oversights please let us know.

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Appendix 1 – Example file listing

Note that new versions of the various software packages will have a different set of files from what is presented below.

```
C:\Newpackage>dir /s
```

```
Directory of C:\Newpackage
```

```
22/09/2001  10:20p    <DIR>      .
22/09/2001  10:20p    <DIR>      ..
22/09/2001  06:37p                964 centralcontrol.cfg
22/09/2001  07:24p            176,128 CenCtrl.exe
22/09/2001  10:21p    <DIR>      BurnInTest
22/09/2001  10:21p    <DIR>      ModemTest
22/09/2001  10:21p    <DIR>      BatteryMon
                2 File(s)      177,092 bytes
```

```
Directory of C:\Newpackage\BurnInTest
```

```
22/09/2001  10:21p    <DIR>      .
22/09/2001  10:21p    <DIR>      ..
20/09/2001  11:18p            512,000 bit.exe
22/06/2001  08:31p            2,219 bithelp.cnt
21/09/2001  10:22a            129,647 bithelp.hlp
22/09/2001  04:53p                66 BurnInTest.url
21/09/2001  10:28a            2,484 currentbit.cfg
22/09/2001  04:54p            200 ErrorLog.txt
22/09/2001  04:54p            152 key.dat
20/09/2001  11:24p            9,988 Readme.txt
22/09/2001  04:53p            6,559 unins000.dat
22/09/2001  04:53p            72,130 unins000.exe
03/07/2000  11:28p            4,596 WinIo.sys
24/08/2000  09:52a            2,708 winio_readme.txt
15/01/2000  12:31p            196,653 world3.ppm
15/01/2000  12:32p            196,653 world4.ppm
                18 File(s)      1,147,347 bytes
```

```
Directory of C:\Newpackage\ModemTest
```

```
19/08/2001  08:17a            140 key.dat
19/08/2001  08:11a            56 ModemTest.cfg
19/08/2001  08:10a            502 ModemTest.cnt
18/08/2001  05:49p           208,896 ModemTest.exe
19/08/2001  08:09a           127,210 ModemTest.HLP
19/08/2001  08:16a            49 ModemTest.url
18/08/2001  06:31p            2,558 ReadMe.txt
19/08/2001  08:16a            2,024 unins000.dat
```

SOFTWARE

19/08/2001	08:16a	72,164	unins000.exe
	9 File(s)	413,599	bytes

Directory of C:\Newpackage\BatteryMon

19/09/2001	08:37a	446	BatteryMon.cnt
19/09/2001	02:37p	221,184	BatteryMon.exe
19/09/2001	08:37a	41,993	BATTERYMON.HLP
19/09/2001	03:35p	69	BatteryMon.url
20/09/2001	12:50p	140	key.dat
19/09/2001	03:35p	8,010	unins000.dat
19/09/2001	03:35p	72,164	unins000.exe
	7 File(s)	344,006	bytes

Appendix 2 – Example screen shot

