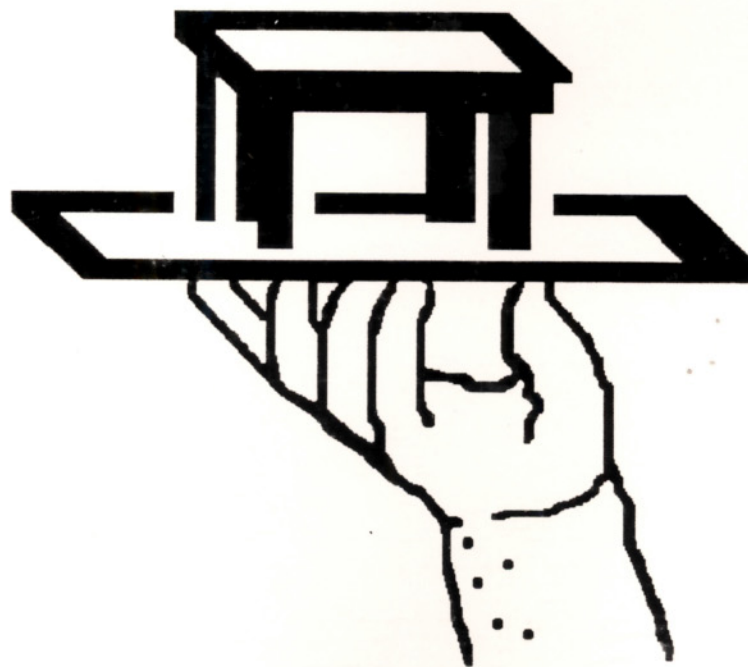


# Aporia<sup>TM</sup>

## User Manual



NewTools

# **Aporia<sup>tm</sup> User Manual**

**Version 1.1**

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**NewTools**

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# LICENSE

Aporia is a SHAREWARE program. It is NOT Public Domain software nor is it Free software. Aporia requires the user to register the program if he or she intends to use it except for the purpose of limited evaluation described below. Registration grants the user a licence to use Aporia on a single computer at any one time.

Non-registered users are granted a limited licence to use Aporia on a trial basis for the purpose of evaluation and determining if Aporia is suitable for their needs. Use of Aporia, except for this limited purpose, requires the user to register the product.

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Registered users are granted a license to use this software. You may use this software on only one computer at any given time. If you wish to use Aporia in on multiple computers concurrently, you should register one copy for each location.

As a registered user, you will be notified of future Aporia upgrades and revisions and be offered the opportunity to acquire them at a preferred rate and also, for a limited time, you will be provided with minor upgrades and bug-fixes free of charge.

# REGISTRATION

If you decide to use Aporia you must register it. The basic registration fee is \$30. For a \$50 registration you will be sent a disk containing the latest version of the software and a printed, fully illustrated manual.

When ordering, please use the order form included with the Aporia distribution files. The form is named ORDER.TXT. You can print it by changing to the directory where the file is located and typing:

**COPY ORDER.TXT PRN <ENTER>**

# SUPPORT

Support is available in a variety of ways. If you use either CompuServe or BIX you can leave an electronic mail message for one of the following IDs:

CompuServe 73157,461  
BIX mikedavis

Or call (718) 789-5980 from 10am to 5pm Eastern time.

# DISTRIBUTION

You may distribute Aporia freely provided you distribute all files unaltered and do not charge a distribution fee that exceeds \$7.

Aporia version 1.10 is distributed with the following files:

APORIA.EXE	Aporia executable.
APLIB.EXE	Aporia dynamic link library.
APORIA.MAN	This manual in ASCII text format.
APORIA.INT	This is Chapter 3 (the tutorial) of this manual in Windows Write format. It is intended to be read online using the Help tool.
NOTES.TXT	Default Aporia note file.
CHANGES.TXT	A list of changes in this release.
AP_READ.ME	Important information. You should read this file first.
ORDER.TXT	Order form for Aporia. Please use this form when you order.

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## The Concepts Behind Aporia



Aporia is a program which provides you with a more convenient, flexible interface for Microsoft Windows. It makes Windows easier to use by adding a fully graphical, object-oriented user interface which lets you customize your working environment. It gives you a better way to organize your work by allowing you to display graphically your programs and data files. Aporia also has the ability to *train* your programs to run the same way each time for a given situation; thus, allowing you to work more efficiently.



The heart of Aporia is the concept of **tools**. A tool in Aporia refers to both the icon that represents the tool and the **object** that you attach to the tool. That object can be any file on your disk drives, including programs and data files. You can arrange tools on the screen as you like, so your commonly used programs and files are always immediately available. Programs can be run by pointing the mouse cursor over a program's tool and double clicking the mouse button or by using the mouse to *drag* a tool for a data file onto the program's tool.



One of the goals of the tools concept is to make the programs and files you work with on your computer easier to find and identify. This is done by letting you give a tool both an icon and a name. Aporia comes with a large number of icon styles from which you can choose; and tool names can be up to 30 characters long. You no longer have to struggle with the cryptic eight character file names that DOS forces you to use. Another goal of the tool concept is to allow you to set up your programs and files so that you can work with them in exactly the way you like. A tool can store information about the way in which a program is to run such as the size of its window, the directory where it runs, and the file it should initially load.



Aporia comes with a number of **basic tools** to manage your work environment. The basic tools work together to allow you to create, configure, store and even combine the tools that you create. You use the **Desk Tool** to store groups of related tools together. The **Directory Tool** opens into a directory window that displays a list of the files in a

directory which can be copied, moved, renamed, and sorted. The **Tree Tool** displays a graphic representation of your hard disk's directory structure. Several other tools are used to create, copy, and customize tools, as well as configure the way they behave.

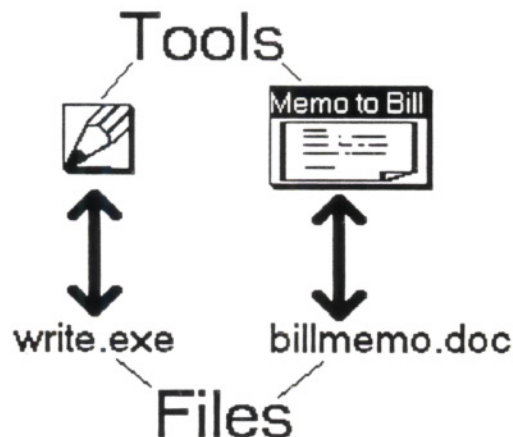


Because of the flexibility and power of the tools concept, Aporia has features that satisfy both the power user and the computer novice. Novices can create tools for their programs with one click of the mouse in the directory window. File management with Aporia is easy and intuitive. Power users are provided with everything they need to create a fully customized work environment. Aporia can be used in the creation of integrated applications on stand alone systems or on local area networks.

---

## User Created Tools

- *Tools are Attached to Files*



When you create a tool in Aporia you attach it to a particular file existing on one of your disk drives. In fact in most cases Aporia attaches the tool to the file for you. This tool then becomes a graphic representation of the file. As long as the tool is visible on your display you have easy access to the file. User tools can be *run*, no matter what kind of file they represent. If the file is a program, then running the tool runs that program. You can also run a tool by selecting the tool of a data file you want to work with (such as a document file) and dragging it onto the tool of a program (such as a word processor).

Since you can see the tools you work with on your desk top you do not have to worry about remembering short file names contained in endless directories each containing many files. Your work becomes much more identifiable. You can personalize your file, with long names and icons of your choice. Also, since data files can be run, you don't need to worry about the programs so much anymore. Just click on your tool and get to work.



- ***You Design Your Own Tools***



You can design the tools you create with names that can be up to 30 characters long and an icon that can be chosen from over 50 provided with Aporia. This ability to customize tools appearance can help you to better organize your work. For example you can give all the files for a project the same icon. Aporia was designed to help you get real work done, but we also hope it will help people to personalize their computing environment. Many people put works of art or posters on their walls to personalize their office. Aporia lets you do the same thing with your electronic office.

## Overview of the Basic Tools

The following is a general overview of each of the basic tools provided by Aporia:

- ***Desk Tool - Storage***



The **Desk Tool** is a storage place for other tools. Think of the entire Aporia environment as an office and each Desk Tool as a desk. In an office there is a desk for the secretary, a desk for the book keeper, and a desk for the order entry clerk. Likewise in Aporia you can have a desk for word processing, a desk for spreadsheets, and a desk for database management. Since programs, data files, and even other desks can be placed in Desk Tools, they provide a powerful tool for organizing your work. Desks can also be run which means you can run a group of programs with one click of the mouse.

- ***Directory Tool - File and Tool Management***



The **Directory Tool** has a look and a set of menus similar to the MS-DOS Executive. While it performs similar functions it is both more powerful and easier to use. You can have up to 16 Directory Tools open on screen at a time, each showing a different directory. Files can be copied and moved between directories using only the mouse. The Directory Tool also gives you powerful options for customizing how your files are displayed. You can create permanent subsets of the files in a directory to create "virtual" directories.



- ***Tree Tool - Directory Management***



The **Tree Tool** works in close conjunction with the Directory Tool to help manage your hard disk. It displays a graphical representation of your disk drives' directory structure. You use it to move quickly from one directory to another, viewing the files in each directory with a special Directory Tool that changes as you select a different directory in the tree. You use the tree to create multiple directory windows which you can save as Directory Tools. You also use the Tree Tool to create, remove and rename directories.

- ***Options Tool - Customizing Tools***



The **Options Tool** lets you set various options for tools such the icon and name it will have. Aporia comes with over 50 different icons from which you can choose. You can set how and where you want the tool to run. The Options Tool also lets you set general options for Aporia such as the size of tool icons and the color, size and, typeface of tool text.

- ***Copy Tool - Duplicating Tools and Files***



The **Copy Tool's** primary function is to make copies of tools. You can also use it to copy files, though in most cases you will want to use Directory Tools for this.

- ***Trash Tool - Removing Tools and Files***



The **Trash Tool** is used to remove other tools. It also provides a powerful **Trash Management** feature which lets you restore files that you delete accidentally.

- **Size Tool - Sizing Windows and Tools**



The **Size Tool** allows you to set the size of any tool's window. This is a very powerful utility for customizing your screen so that each time you run a program it will be displayed in the same place with the same size.

- **Hide Tool - Showing and Hiding Tools**



The **Hide Tool** is used to hide any of the tools on your screen. This is helpful in avoiding a cluttered display. You also use it to "open" and "close" the drawers of a desk so that the tools contained in a desk can be put away when not in use.

- **Help Tool - Getting Help**



The **Help Tool** provides general help on using Aporia as well as specific help in using each basic tool. You can customize the Help Tool to provide help for any tool that you create.

- **Notes Tool - Keeping Notes**



The **Notes Tool** lets you keep notes for a tool to which you always have quick and easy access. This is very useful when you have files, such as graphics files, to which there is no easy way to add textual information.

# Chapter 2: Installation

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## System Requirements

Aporia will run on any system set up to use Microsoft Windows 286 or 386 versions 2.0 or later. When running it only uses only about 40 kilobytes of memory.

Aporia requires a mouse or some other type of pointing device. The graphical, object-oriented nature of Aporia would make it very awkward to use without a pointing device. If you don not have space next to your keyboard for a mouse then consider a track ball takes up less space.

---

## Installing Aporia On Your System

To install Aporia copy all of the file from the Aporia distribution disk into your **Windows** directory. This directory must be in your computer's DOS path variable (which it will be if you set up Windows properly). The first time Aporia runs it will make a directory named **APORIA** on your C drive. In this directory it will store special files that it uses. Once you have started Aporia you can change this to some other directory on any drive that you wish. Refer to Chapter 4, **Aporia Reference**, in the section on the **Options Tool**, for an explanation of how to do this.



## Chapter 3: Getting Started, a Tutorial

The following is a short tutorial to get you familiar with the basic operation of Aporia. It is assumed that you have at least a basic knowledge of how to use Windows including the use of the mouse, menus, scroll bars, and the manipulation of windows.

Using Aporia to its fullest capabilities requires that you acquire an understanding of the simple concepts behind it. This tutorial will attempt to teach you these concepts while showing you the basic operation of Aporia.

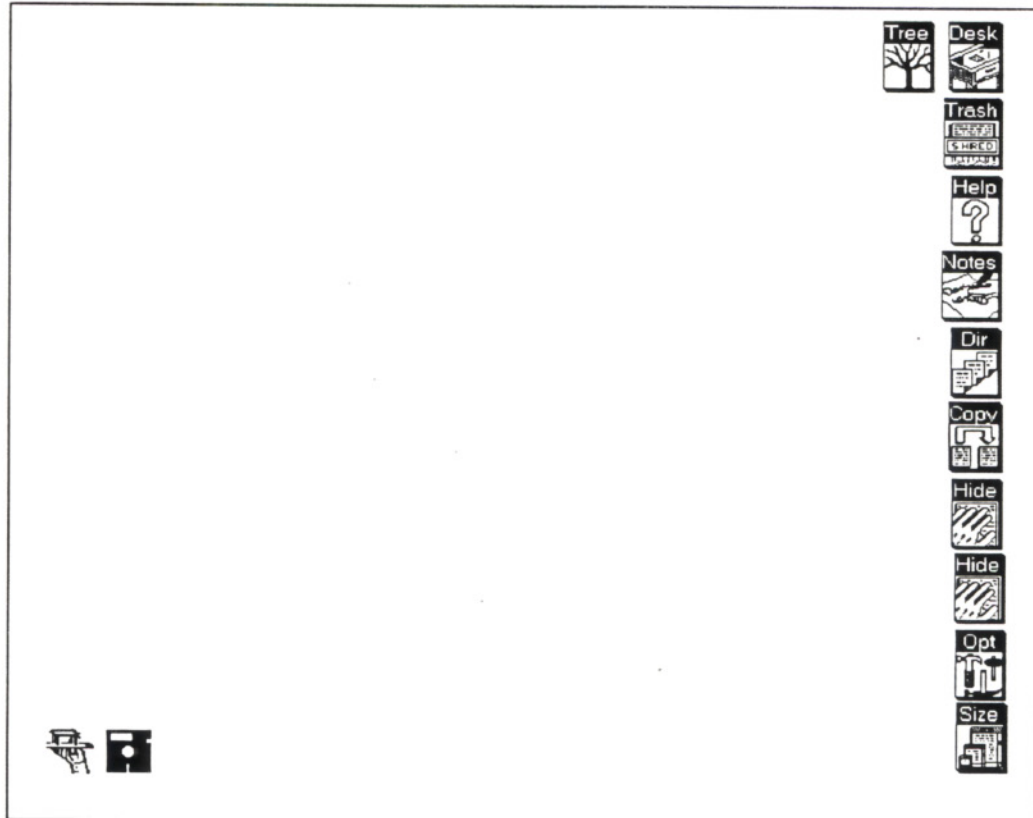
This tutorial assumes that you already have Aporia properly installed but have not yet set up any of your own tools. If you have already set up some tools it will not cause you any problems when using this tutorial, but your screen may appear differently than as described in this tutorial.

### Running Aporia

If you have Windows 286, at the DOS prompt type:  
**win aporia<enter>**

If you have Windows 386, at the DOS prompt type:  
**win386 aporia<enter>**

When Windows comes up on your screen you will see ten icons along the right side of your screen. These icons are the **basic** tools that make up Aporia.



Note: The way the tools appear on your display may differ from the illustrations in this manual depending upon the type of display adapter (such as EGA, VGA, etc) you have in your computer.

---

## Using Tools

Aporia tools are visually similar to the icons that Windows uses to represent programs. They can also be arranged on the screen using the mouse in much the same way as Windows icons.

- **Moving Tools**

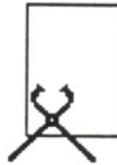
Moving a tool is done by **dragging** it with the left mouse button.

Move the mouse cursor over the **Tree Tool**.



Notice that the cursor changes to look like a hammer. It does this whenever it is over a tool.

Press and hold down the left mouse button.



The cursor will change to look like a pair of pliers. It does this whenever you move a tool.

With the left button held down, move the mouse to drag the tool to another area of the screen.

As you move a tool its image is replaced by an outline. Once you "put the tool down" by releasing the left button, the image will return.

Release the left mouse button. The tool will reappear at the place you dragged it to.

- **Running Tools**

Running a tool is a simple matter of placing the mouse cursor over the tool and double-clicking the left mouse button.

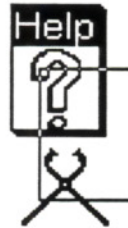
Move the mouse cursor over the **Tree Tool** and double click the **left** button.

The **Tree Tool** will open up to a window displaying the directories on your hard drive. In the next section you will learn how to use this tool.

- **Getting Help On Using Tools**

You can get quick help on how to use any of the basic tools using the **Help Tool**.

Use the mouse to move the **Tree Tool** over the **Help Tool**, making sure that the upper left corner of the Tree Tool is over the Help Tool, and release the mouse button.

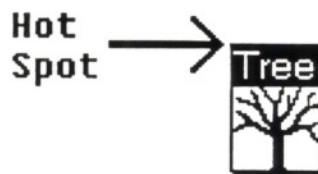


A dialog box appears explaining the basic information you need to know to use the Tree Tool.

When you are done reading the help text, click the mouse button on the OK button in the dialog box to remove it from the screen.

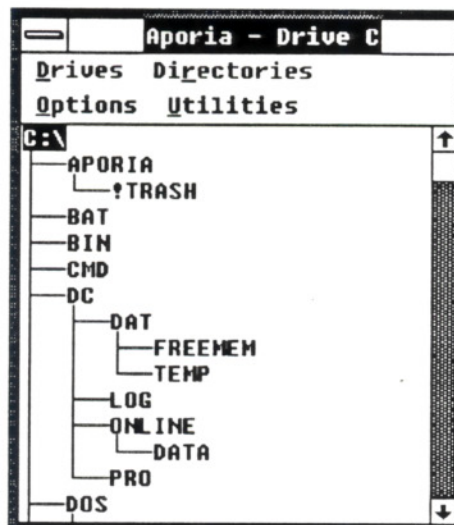
Help is available for all of the basic tools in this way.

**Important:** The upper left corner of a tool is its "hot spot". This means that whenever you move one tool over another to perform some action, you should make sure that its upper left corner is over the tool below.



## Creating Tools

- *The Tree Tool*



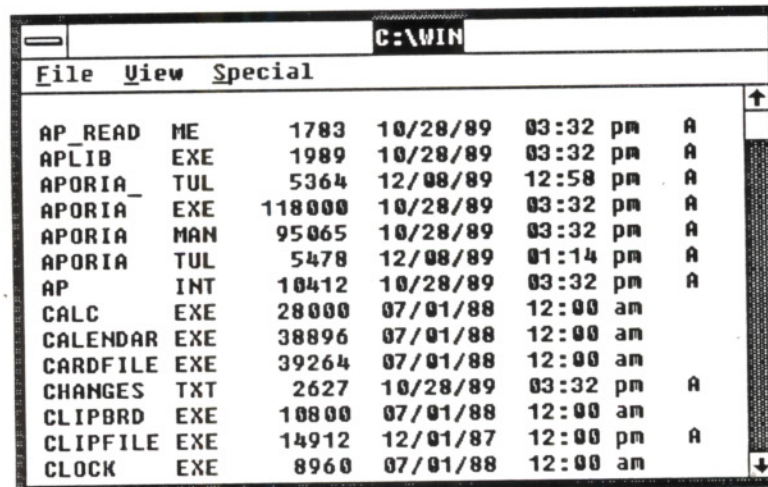
The **Tree Tool**, which should already be open on your screen, displays a graphical representation of the directory structure of a disk drive. You use it in conjunction with **Directory Windows** to quickly get at your files. Think of the Tree Tool as a map for your disk drives. With the Tree Tool you can quickly find a directory and then open a window



into that directory to get to the directory's files. You also use the Tree Tool to create, delete, and rename directories.

Click on the **down arrow** in the Tree Tool scroll bars until the directory where your Windows program files are located comes into view. If your Windows directory is on a drive other than the one currently loaded into the tree, you will first have to use the **Drives** menu to change to that drive.

Double click on your Windows directory with the **left** mouse button.



C:\WIN						
File View Special						
AP_READ	ME	1783	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
APLIB	EXE	1989	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
APORIA	TUL	5364	12/08/89	12:58	pm	A
APORIA	EXE	118000	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
APORIA	MAN	95065	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
APORIA	TUL	5478	12/08/89	01:14	pm	A
AP	INT	10412	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
CALC	EXE	28000	07/01/88	12:00	am	
CALENDAR	EXE	38896	07/01/88	12:00	am	
CARDFILE	EXE	39264	07/01/88	12:00	am	
CHANGES	TXT	2627	10/28/89	03:32	pm	A
CLIPBRD	EXE	10800	07/01/88	12:00	am	
CLIPFILE	EXE	14912	12/01/87	12:00	pm	A
CLOCK	EXE	8960	07/01/88	12:00	am	

*A Directory Window*

A **Directory Window** will appear on your screen. The Aporia Directory Window is similar in appearance and function to the MS-DOS Executive. It displays a listing of all the files located in one directory.

## • Creating User Tools

One of the most important uses of Directory Windows is to allow you to create your own tools. These tools you create are called **user** tools. When you create a user, Aporia creates a new tool which is *attached* to a file on your disk drive. This file can be either a program or a data file (such as a text file).

Using the scroll bars in the Directory Window, find the listing for the file named **NOTEPAD.EXE**. You can use the Directory Window **View** menu commands just as you do for the MS-DOS Executive to help you find the file if you like.

The **NOTEPAD.EXE** file is the executable file for the Windows **Notepad** program. If you have for some reason deleted this from your drive you can use any program that will read a plain text file.

Double click with the **right** mouse button on the **NOTEPAD.EXE** file listing.



A new tool named **"notepad.exe"** will appear in the upper right corner of your screen.

Using the mouse, move the tool you just created to an open area of your screen.

## • Creating Directory Tools

Aporia **Directory Windows** can be created in a number of different ways, each of which has its own advantages. The way you just did it is useful when you want to quickly open multiple Directory Windows in different directories. Another way is to use the **Tree Tool Options** menu to create a Directory Window that is "attached" to the tree. This window always displays the directory that is currently highlighted in the tree.

The third, and possibly most powerful way to create a Directory Window is with a **Directory Tool**. The advantage of using Directory Tools is that they save any settings you make in their Directory Windows, thus allowing you to store "views" of the files you work with that match the way you work.

Make sure that the Directory Window for your Windows directory is still open on your screen. Using the mouse, open the **Special** menu in the Directory Window and choose the **Make Directory Tool** command.



A new Directory Tool will appear in the upper right corner of your screen. From now on each time you double click the **left** mouse button on this tool a Directory Window will appear displaying your Windows directory.

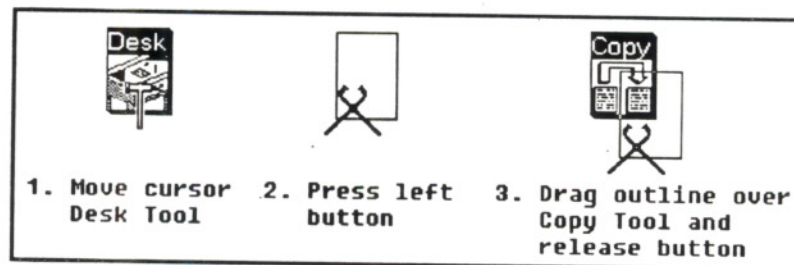
With the Directory Window for your Windows directory still open, find the file named **AP\_READ.ME** and double click the **right** button on over it.

A tool named "AP\_READ.ME" will appear on your screen.

## • Using the Copy Tool

Another way to create a new tool is with the **Copy Tool**. You will now use the Copy Tool to create a new **Desk Tool** which later on you will use to store all of the tools you are creating.

Using the mouse drag the **Desk Tool** (which by default is located at the upper right corner of your screen) onto the **Copy Tool** and release the mouse button.



A new Desk Tool will appear on the right side of your screen.

Move the newly created Desk Tool to an open area of your screen.

When a tool is copied it will have the same appearance as the tool from which it is was copied. Later on you will learn how to customize your tools so that each one has a unique look.



---

## Using Your Tools



You should now have four new tools on your screen. Pretty icons are nice but the real power of tools is in using them. All Aporia tools, whether basic tools such as the desk and Directory Tools you created, or user tools such as the Notepad program or text file, are run by double clicking on them with the **left** mouse button.

- **Running Programs**

Move the mouse cursor over the "notepad.exe" tool and double click the **left** mouse button.

The Notepad program will run, opening a window on your screen.

Close the Notepad program.

- **Running Files**

Files can be run by dragging their tools onto the tool of the program you want them to run in. This causes the program tool to run, and load the file associated with the tool to be loaded.

Move the mouse cursor over the "ap\_read.me" tool. Hold down the **left** mouse button, drag the tool over the "notepad.exe" tool, and release the button.

The Notepad program will run with the AP\_READ.ME file loaded.

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## Organizing Your Work

One of the most powerful features of Aporia is the ability it gives you to organize your work. The primary tool you use to do this is the **Desk Tool**.

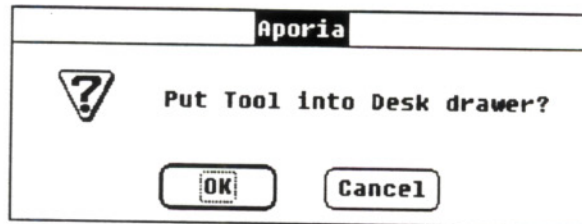
- **Using Desk Tools**



The Desk Tool acts as a container for other tools. All of the tools you create are stored in Desk Tool **drawers**. Desk drawers can be opened and closed, allowing you to display or hide the tools inside. By using desks you can group related programs and files together.

Using the mouse, drag the "ap\_read.me" tool onto the Desk Tool you created earlier.





Aporia prompts you to confirm that you want to place the tool into the desk's drawer.

Click on the **OK** button to confirm.

Now drag the **Directory Tool** you created onto this Desk Tool also.

Aporia will display the same prompt again.

Click on the **OK** button to confirm.

You now have two tools in this Desk Tool.

- **Hide a Desk's Contents**

When you are done using a desk you can close its drawer, that is hide what it contains, by double clicking on it with the left mouse button.

Double click over the desk you created with the **left** mouse button.

The directory and "**ap\_read.me**" tools disappear.

Double click over your Desk Tool again.

The directory and "**ap\_read.me**" tools reappear.

## Customizing Tools

Aporia provides a large number of ways for you to customize your tools. You change a tool's icon, its name, and tell the tool how you want it to run. Only a few of the most important options will be covered in this tutorial. To learn, more refer to **Chapter 4, Aporia Reference**.

- **Using the Options Tool**



### Changing Tool Names

Most of the customizing you will perform on tools will be done with the **Options Tool**. Let's use it now to customize the tools you just created.

Drag the Desk Tool you created onto the **Options Tool**.

## Chapter 5: Advice for Experts

The ideas here are intended to help you think through some of Aporia's uses, and to help those who no longer consider themselves novices. The subjects here are all independent of each other... Plunge in! Also, we welcome your suggestions and shortcuts to share with other users.

---

### Passing Arguments to Tools, or, Making a Print Tool

Aporia lets you pass replaceable parameters to tools. The following is a demonstration of this function's use in the creation of a tool which you can use to print text files.

To make a print tool, create or copy one of your own file tools, then drag the new tool onto the options tool and change the following fields:

Program/File: **command.com**  
Argument: **copy %1 prn**

To use the tool, drag the file you want printed onto your printer tool and voila.

*Explanation:* The program **command.com** will run the line "**copy %1 prn**", substituting the first dragged tool for the "**%1**", so that the program line of the tool will be copied to the printer. If there is no dragged tool **%1** will be null, empty. The **/c** tells DOS to execute the command and return automatically.

A fancier alternative is to use something like the Norton Utilities line printer, **lp**, which will format the pages and supplies form feeds at the end. Change the tools options to:

Program/File: **lp.pif**  
Argument: **%1 /w80**

*Explanation:* Run the **lp** program on the first dragged icon and set the line length to 80. You could not do this with a PIF file alone. Note: if you change the Argument line to

Argument: **%1 %1 %1 /w80**

you could print the file in triplicate.

Note: the pattern **%1** can be picked anywhere out of a line so that, for example, the following lines are each legal.

**hello%1world**  
**%1%1%1**

Note: the pattern **%0** is the filename of the bottom, base tool.

---

### Getting Rid of Trash Management

Trash management provides a way of preventing the accidental removal of files by users. This feature is intended for inexperienced users or for those with lots of disk space. Aporia will copy the file to its **!TRASH** directory under its default directory before it removes it. The file can be recovered by running the **Trash Tool**. This copying takes a time and disk space. If you want to prevent this copying, then run the **Options Tool** and turn off the **Enable Trash Management** check box.

---

### Getting Rid of Prompts When Trashing Tools

Aporia provides a way for inexperienced users to protect themselves from accidentally removing tools. The default mode for Aporia is to ask if you really want to remove a tool. If this is annoying for more expert users, it can be disabled by running the **Options Tool** and turning off of the **Ask Before Removing Tools** check box.



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## Desks: Organizing, Demonstrations, Repetitious Jobs.

- **Trees of Desks**

Desks are the main tools for organizing your work. Besides clarifying the types of work you do, the use of desks can make your screen less cluttered. We highly recommend their use. You might make a desk of "Spreadsheets" associated with your accounting, another for your "General Ledger" files, and another of for correspondence with your "Accountant". All these separate desks could be put into one desk called "Accounting". Hiding the "Accounting" desk will hide all the desks in it.

### Finding Tools

If you double-click right on any tool, you can see what desk that tool is in and what other tools are in that desk. This provides a way to find out what desk a given tool is in and what tools are in a given desk. This listing function shows not only what is in a desk, but what is in all desks in that desk. It also shows the order in which tools are stored in the desk.

- **Running Desks: Running Sets of Programs**

Desks can be set to either open/close or to run their contents. Running a desk, or running a desk's contents means that every item that is in the desk is run in the order that they are stored. A desk can be set to run its contents by dragging it onto the **Options Tool** and setting the **Run Desk's Contents** check box on. A desk will not run the desks it contains, so you cannot execute a tree of desks.

To actually run the desk you can double click on the desk. This feature is useful to start a collection of programs such as starting a set of related programs or running a demonstration. Since each tool of the desk can have a preset window position, you can arrange a screen and quickly bring it up reliably, over and over again. If you are doing graphic arts and are always running a drawing package and a typesetting program at the same time and switching between them, you can put them into a desk and simply run the desk to bring up your work.

If you want the tools to run in a particular order you simply store them in the desk in the order you want them to run. Any easy way to change the order is to make a copy of the original desk (using the **Copy Tool**), put each of the tools in the old desk into the new desk in the order you want them to run, and delete the old desk.

---

## Aporia Tool Files

The tools you create are stored in an ASCII format file, "APORIA.TUL" in the same directory that contains your "WIN.INI" file. A backup of the file is contained in the file, "APORIA\_.TUL". This latter file can be copied to "APORIA.TUL" to restore its contents.

- **Backing and Restoring Up Aporia**

The tool files can be saved by your usual backup techniques: backup programs, copying them to a floppy, etc. To restore these files, copy them to the same directory that contains the "win.ini" file.



## • Switching Tool Files

You can maintain different sets of tool files by saving and restoring different tools files. One way to do this is to have a batch file to run Windows, such as:

```
REM ** Run Aporia with a special set of tools
cd c:\windows
REM ** Save the previous Aporia tools and load in our
REM ** special set.
ren aporia.tul oaporias.tul
copy saved.tul aporia.tul
REM ** Run Aporia with our special setup
win aporia
REM ** Restore the original set of Aporia tools.
ren oaporias.tul aporia.tul
REM ** Fini!
```

The beauty of this is that pre-designed tool setups can be maintained and supplied to users, and users can come to rely on seeing the same tools in the same places.

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## About the WIN.INI File

The win.ini file stores all the general options about Aporia except for the tools themselves. There is nothing there that is changeable by human hands, it all must be done by Aporia.

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## Aporia on a Network

Aporia works with local area networks though it currently has no features that specifically support them. There are some issues involved with its use that you may want to be aware of.

## • Tools and Options

As is discussed earlier in this chapter, the Aporia tools file ("APORIA.TUL") and the Windows "WIN.INI" file both store information about Aporia's setup. On a network, where more than one person is using Aporia, the best option is for each user to have their own "APORIA.TUL" and "WIN.INI" files.

### Sharing Tools and Options

When users share these files they will be forced to use the same set of tools and the same general options for Aporia. Also problems may occur in the (unlikely) event that two users save their tools at the exact same time. In general the sharing of these files by users is not recommended.

### Giving Each User Their Own Tools and Options

By default both of these files are stored in the directory where you installed Windows. They can however be located in any directory in the computer's PATH. If you follow Microsoft's recommendation for non-identical workstations such that each user has a directory where all the WIN ("WIN.COM", "WIN.INI", "WIN200.BIN", etc) files specific to their installation, then Aporia will use this directory to store the tools file and everything will work fine. If all users share all Windows files in one directory then the best approach is to copy the "WIN.INI" and "APORIA.TUL" files for each user into a directory that is only used by them (such as on a local drive).

## • Where to Locate Your APORIA Directory

Where you chose to locate the **APORIA** directory can be an issue on networks. By default Aporia creates it in the root directory of the C drive with the name **APORIA** ("C:\APORIA"). Using the **Options Tools** you can locate on any drive with any name you wish. The three types of items store in this directory include **note** and **help** files, the **!TRASH** directory, and files which store information about your disk drives' directory structure for the **Tree Tool**.

The decision you need to make it whether all users should share one **APORIA** directory or if each one should have their own.

If users share the directory then all can have access to the same help and note files. This may or may not be a good thing depending upon the way they use these files. Conflicts may occur if two users attempt to create help files with the same name.

Sharing the directory also gives users access to the same **Tree Tool** files. This will cause problems for local drives since the directory structure for each user's drive will be different. When a user access his local drive using the **Tree Tool** he may see the directory structure for another users local drive. On network drives problems can also occur since different users will have different access rights for directories. If a user has no rights to a directory it will not appear in the **Tree Tool**. The effect is that even on network drives the directory structure can differ from user to user.

In general the safest approach is to give each user their own **APORIA** directory. In cases where users have local drives this is taken care of by Aporia automatically. Where a user has no local hard drive the **Options Tool** general options must be set to the directory to something other than "C:\APORIA".

## • Registration on Networks

Remember that each Aporia registration is for one user on one machine. Multiple users on a network are only allowed when a registration has been purchased for each person who will be using Aporia.

---

## Quick Menus

Directory tools can be used as a menuing system for your files. Just make a directory tool in the directory where the files are located, and set the **View Programs** option to show programs, or use the **View Partial** display to show a certain list of programs and/or files. Each time this directory tool is run it will show this list so that the programs listed can be quickly run. This is great for directories (such as your Windows directory) where you store a large number of programs that you run only once in a while. This can also be a way to run **DOS** applications since you can put a group of **PIF** files in one directory, set the **View Partial** option to "\*.PIF", and have easy and quick access to any of your **DOS** programs, no matter where they are located on your hard disk.

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## Using Other Screen Blankers

You can use any screen blanker you'd like with Aporia but first be sure to turn off Aporia's screen blanker by running the **Options Tool** and setting the time period to **zero**.

---

## Getting More Memory: Dumping MSDOS-EXEC

The **MSDOS-Exec** Window provided with Windows can be told not to run, thus freeing up memory. Since Aporia replaces and far exceeds the function of **MSDOS-Exec**, you might consider not using **MSDOS-Exec**. At the **DOS** prompt enter:

```
win :aporia
```



This will free up about 20-40k of conventional memory.

You should know that this is an undocumented feature of Windows that is **not** supported by Microsoft and may not be provided in future versions of Windows beyond the current version 2.1. If you use it you may find that some fonts, such as those used in DOS windows, may not display properly. Also some windows applications, Excel is one of them, may force an exit to DOS when then are closed.

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## Large Tools for The Visually Impaired

The tool images and fonts can be made very large in a way suitable for the visually impaired. Tools can be sized by double clicking left on the **Size Tool**. Similarly the text in a tool can be made large by selecting a large font, up to 72 points big, by double clicking left on the **Options Tool** and setting both the **Directory** and **Tools Fonts**.

We also recommend that directories be set to a different color than the other tools by dragging a directory tool onto the Options Tool and setting the **Dir Tool Dir Name** checkbox on.

---

## Shortcuts

You can quickly change the directory field of a tool by dragging it onto a **Directory Tool**. It will be set to the path of the Directory Tool. If the tool you drag is one of your own, its file will be copied into the directory and a new tool will be created to represent it.

Double click right in the Tree window to make a Directory Tool.

Double click right in the Directory window to make a user tool.

To hide all of your desks, close the top desk and everything will be hidden except for the Hide Tool and the top desk.

---

## Layouts

You are encouraged to experiment with placing the tools around the screen to visually organize your work.

*Suggestion:* We have found that making the desk display as text only and moving its contents near it has the effect of making a label for its contents. Using the text only display and image only display can be effective ways of making your work look clear and orderly.

*Suggestion:* Make a desk and put all the basic tools into it. Call the desk "Basic Tools" and set it to display text only. Arrange the tools into a 3x3 grid at the top right. This frees the rest of screen for other things. Hiding the "Basic Tools" hides all the tools.

*Suggestion:* Make multiple Hide Tools and put them at either side of the screen. Then if you want to hide an tool it you can do it quickly.