

RunExpert: Documentation

ConfigExpert: Launcher configuration

The configuration wizard makes it possible to configure the launcher according to your needs.

If you wish to launch a program in a particular resolution, you simply have to specify the name of the program, the desired resolution, then save your configuration. Please refer to the "ReadMe" file for quick configuration instructions.

ConfigExpert also proposes many advanced configuration options, with a view to commercial usage (see Annex: Distribution).

Each option in the configuration wizard has a description and comments. The objective of this documentation is to provide the full details of these options and to describe the "internal" functioning of RunExpert, for advanced usage.

Usage:

Launch "ConfigExpert".

Configure each option according to your needs. The default settings correspond to requirements for standard usage.

When you click on "Finish", the configuration will be saved in a ".dat" file of your choice (RunExpert.dat by default).

You should place this file in the same directory as the program "RunExpert.exe". The ".dat" file should have the same root name as the ".exe" file. Rename one or other of the files if necessary. E.g:

RunExpert.exe and RunExpert.dat
or MyName.exe and MyName.dat

Options, page by page:

Page 1: Introduction

Click on the button "Load configuration" to load a ".dat" file in order to modify it or to create a variant of it.

Page 2: Program configuration

Program name:

In general you should indicate the name of the program without specifying its directory.

E.g: program.exe

This supposes that RunExpert is in same directory as the program or that both are in the root directory of a disk (or CD-ROM).

Relative paths can be used, e.g: "directory1\directory2\program.exe"

In this example "directory1" must be located at the same place as RunExpert
For personal use, you can of course use the complete paths.
E.g: "d:\program.exe or \\server\directory\program.exe".
In this case, RunExpert, does not have to be located in the same place as the program.

Wildcard characters can be used within the name of the program. E.g: "prg*.exe" or "*
.exe". This allows for the possibility of dynamic program launching.

Command line:

Enter any parameters that should be passed to the program.
E.g: "file.dat/p"

Single instance:

If RunExpert is launched more than once, instead of launching a new instance of the program, the previously launched instance of the program is activated.
This option is useful for a game or for simply preventing multiple instances of your program due to simultaneous automatic execution of a CD-Rom and double-click by the user on the icon of the CD-Rom.

Disable Alt+Tab:

You can disable the Alt+Tab", "Ctrl+Esc" and "Windows" keys of your keyboard which allow switching to the desktop or another application whatever the operating system (Windows 95 to Windows XP). This option also masks the task bar to prevent activation of another application.

Page 3: Screen resolution configuration

Changing the size of the screen:

If you choose to modify the size of the screen, select one of the standard screen sizes or specify other values. Be careful however when choosing other values, as they may not be available in all systems.

Changing the colour depth:

If you choose "256 colours", RunExpert considers that the program functions only in this mode.

If you tick "true colour" RunExpert will choose the optimal colour depth amongst the modes available (16, 24 or 32 bits). If the current resolution already uses one of these modes, the mode will not be modified.

Finally, when you choose 16, 24 or 32 bits and that mode is unavailable, RunExpert will seek another "true colour" mode to use.

Obviously, if the launched program chooses another mode, then that mode will be applied. However, the original resolution will be restored even if the launched program terminates due to an error.

Note: You do not have to select any of these options, or you can select just one of them.

Page 4: Screen resolution configuration (continued)

Refresh frequency:

Screen resolution changes can often lead to problems regarding the monitor refresh frequency. Furthermore, not all the operating systems react in the same way (Windows 95, 98, ME does not manage refresh frequency in the same way as NT4, Windows 2000 and XP).

If "Optimal refresh frequency" is not ticked, RunExpert will leave the choice to the system. However, this can be problematic with 2000 or XP which often choose very low frequencies and which are not restored when the program ends.

If you tick this option, RunExpert will seek the closest frequency to the current configuration and will restore the original frequency when the program ends (even if due to an error).

Note: some graphics card drivers allow the user to choose a specific frequency for DirectX and OpenGL applications. Such choices are maintained.

If the selected resolution is not available:

RunExpert can be configured in three ways.

- Continue anyway - the program will be launched using the current resolution.
- Exit - RunExpert will not launch the program.
- Ask - the user will be asked to choose whether to launch or not.

By default RunExpert will continue or exit silently.

Tick the box "Display a message" in order to warn the user.

If you leave the message field empty, the following messages will be displayed (available in several languages according to the user's operating system language):

- This program is designed to function in (e.g: 800x600). This resolution is unavailable in this computer.
- This program is designed to function in (e.g: 800x600). This resolution is unavailable in this computer. The program cannot be launched.
- Attention, this program is designed to function in (e.g: 800x600). This resolution is unavailable in this computer. Do you wish to continue anyway?

You can enter your own message in the text entry box. It will be used instead of the default messages.

Page 5: Background window parameters

A background window masking the totality of the screen (including the task bar) is displayed behind the program if you tick "Display background window".

Click on the "colour" button to select the background window's colour.

You can choose to close this window as soon as your application has created its own by ticking "Close after initialisation".

Note: if the window of your program is smaller than the screen, a click on the background window will activate your program's window.

Page 6: Configuration summary

When you click on "Finish", the configuration wizard saves the settings in the dat file of your choice.

You can choose any file name as long as it has the same root name as the launcher.

Note: for a particular software range, you could create your own "standard" configuration

templates which could be used by reloading them into the introductory screen of the wizard. You could then, for example, change the name of the program to launch according to each particular software application in the range.

Annexes:

Distribution of RunExpert

You are permitted to distribute and rename the launcher "RunExpert.exe" and its accompanying configuration file "RunExpert.dat" as part of your personal or commercial applications.

However:

You are not permitted to modify the program "RunExpert.exe" in any way.

You are not permitted to distribute, lend or rent the configuration module "ConfigExpert.exe" and/or its documentation. Please refer to the accompanying licence for further details.

Improvements

If you find that any of the options are not configurable enough for your needs or if you think that a new option should be added, please let us have your suggestions by e-mail to support@g5tools.com.

Registered users will be entitled to preferential updates.

Dysfunctions

To date no dysfunction has been found by any of the distributors or users of RunExpert. RunExpert was originally designed for large scale commercial distribution of software and is currently used in the entire range of CD-ROMs published by Génération5.

<http://www.generation5.com>

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