PassMark™
SOFTWARE

Central control

Users guide

by

PassMark™ Software

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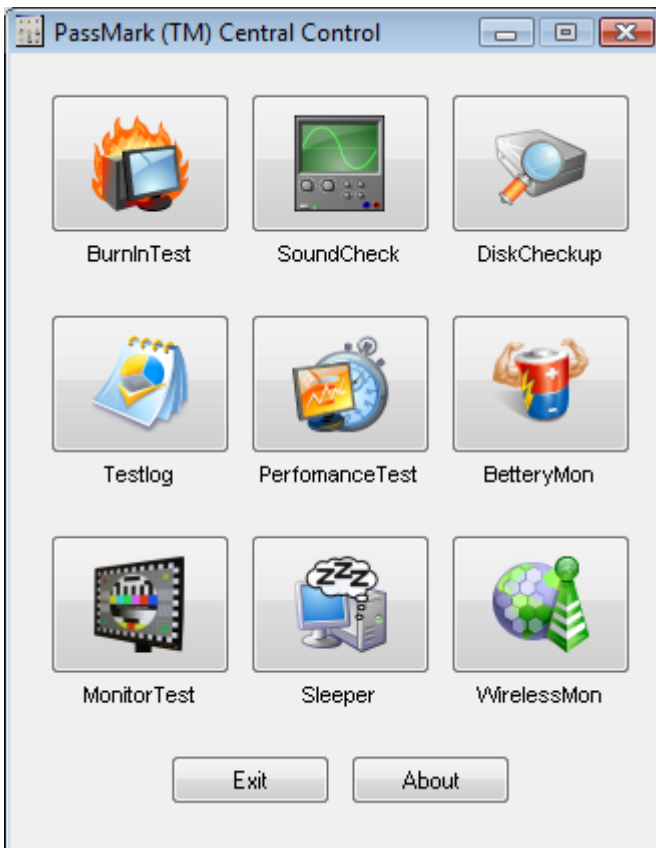**Date:** 2/November/2009

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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

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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.

There is one configuration item that defines the Window label. This is WINLABEL "My Label" and is limited to 30 characters. It must be on the first line (or not specified).

All other lines describe buttons. 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. If you do not want a button to be added to Central Control if it is 64-bit and Central Control is running on a 32-bit Operating System, then the optional parameter of "64BIT" can be specified after the executable file name.

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

```
WINLABEL "My Window Label"
;============= Button ===============
Document
".\README FIRST.pdf"
NO PARAMETERS
Introduction
;============= Button ===============
BurnInTest
.\Program Files\burnintestx86\bit.exe
NO PARAMETERS
BurnInTest Pro (32-bit)
;============= Button ===============
BurnInTest
.\Program Files\burnintestx64\bit.exe 64bit
NO PARAMETERS
BurnInTest Pro (64-bit)
;============= Button ===============
```

```
DiskCheckup
.\Program Files\DiskCheckup\diskcheckup.exe
NO PARAMETERS
DiskCheckup
;============= Button ================
PerformanceTest
.\Program Files\PerformanceTestx86\pt.exe
/p
PerformanceTest (32-bit)
;============= Button ================
PerformanceTest
.\Program Files\PerformanceTestx64\pt.exe 64bit
/p
PerformanceTest (64-bit)
;============= Button 4 ================
EXTRACT
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\EXCEL.EXE
C:\logfiles\testlog.xls
Excel Log files
;============= Button ================
Extract \images\PSU.ico
".\Documents\Power Supply Tester\guide.pdf"
NO PARAMETERS
Power Supply Tester guide
```

Icons

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

OSCHECK	KEYBOARDTEST
BURNINTEST	PERFORMANCETEST
DOCUMENT	BATTERYMON
MODEMTEST	MONITORTEST
SOUNDCHECK	REBOOTER
CDMAKER	GIRL
DEFAULT	COMMAND
DISKCHECKUP	SLEEPER
TESTLOG	WIRELESSMON
USB2TEST	*EXTRACT*
PST	POST-PRO

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). Also, EXTRACT has an optional parameter that allows a separate icon file to be specified to extract the icon from. E.g. EXTRACT \images\usb2.ico (Note: this icon will be slightly smaller).

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
```

```
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
```

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Appendix 2 – Example screen shot

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