

BBS on a stick! V1.0

Installing Image BBS 2.0 within WinVice and getting it to work with TCPSER can be a little daunting to some. In the past you had to use a special older version of WinVice and a special TCPSER, and then there was no guarantee it would work. Within an hour of playing with WinVice, TCPSER, and Image 2.0 I was able to get everything to work with each other and work pretty well. As of the writing of this documentation file, 19.2k is still broken on Image 2.0, so the program right now only works at 2400 baud.

The setup and installation of Image running on a USB stick is pretty simple, double click the runme.bat and you will come to a C64 screen, at that point just hit shift/esc at the same time and it will boot to a config screen. You then answer all the pertinent info about the BBS you are putting online. When it comes to the drive assignments, everything will be 9,0 with the exception of the plus drive that will be 8,0. The subs will be dev 10,0 and ud's will be 11,0. Finish saving the files. There is a bug on first boot up. You will get a Re-dimmed array error, and the border will turn red, hit escape a few times to "break" the program. Reboot and it will run automaint and come to a waiting for call screen. **(Side Note: TCPSER is setup to use port 6400)**

The following docs were written by Larry Hedman (X-Tec) who has been doing a ton of work on the BBS getting it to a stable point where both of us feel comfortable releasing it to a wide range of SysOp's. There is a couple of ways to run this setup, you can run it straight from a USB Stick, or you can create a directory on your hard drive named WinVice and copy the stick into that directory and run it from there. Either way, throughout my beta testing the only configuration you will need to do is the BBS itself. TCPSER, WINVICE will not have to be touched.

Image 2.0 Rev. 2 Installation Start Guide

Introduction

Image v2.0 was a project started in 1991 by New Image Software, Inc. as an upgrade to the popular Image v1.2a. The project was never fully completed but by 1994 it was far enough along to allow Alpha-Test/Development boards to run copies of it on dial-up, land line modems.

I received a copy of Image 2.0 in the summer of 2016 from the sysop of one of the Alpha-Test boards as a copy of his June, 1995 backup disks. Since 2016, the program has undergone hundreds of fixes,

modifications, enhancements and additions. In December of 2016, the first revision of Image 2.0 was posted on the Image BBS Facebook group. At that time it consisted of a single .d81 file containing 282 individual files. Revision 2 now consists of two .d81 files holding 222 files on disk 1 and 85 files on disk 2. Rev. 1 was only capable of creating a new Image 2.0 system from scratch but I'm happy to say that now, Rev. 2 will also convert a 1.2 Turbo/Rel BBS to Image 2.0.

Although we are working on a Swiftlink 19.2Kb version, Image 2.0 R2 currently only runs at 2400 baud from the C= 64 User port. It has been successfully tested while linked to a PC running BBS Server using the following RS232 interfaces:

1. GGLABS GLINK-LT
2. Omnitronix DELUXE RS-232 INTERFACE
3. Commodore VIC-1011A RS232C TERMINAL TYPE

Preparation

Image 2.0 follows the same "Image Drive" assignments as Image 1.2:

- 1 - System drives. n. files
- 2 - Email drive m. nm. files
- 3 - Etcetra drive e. files
- 4 - Directory drive d. files
- 5 - Program drive +. +/ ++ im. files
- 6 - User drive u. files

Boot drive - This revision of Image 2.0 requires the boot drive to be the "Image Drive 5", (Program drive) which is the same drive as the plus files. Take that into consideration when making your drive assignments. I recommend using the default partition upon power up if running on a hard drive.

Note: Procedures for installing a New Board and Converting from a 1.2 System are different and will be explained separately.

Installing a New System

1. Configure your hard drive and/or other system hardware for your Image drive assignments. I recommend separate partitions or drives for Image drives 1 (System), 2 (Mail), 5 (Boot/Program) and combining 3 (Etcetera), 4 (Directory) and 6 (User) drives to a different drive or partition. You'll probably want another drive or partition for the message boards and another for Uploads and Downloads.
- 2, Either convert the two .d81 files to floppy disk or use some other method of getting the files onto your Image drives.
3. Use fcopy+ included on disk 2 for copying all the files from disk 1 to your boot/program file drive.
4. I recommend using COPY-ALL.64L, also included on disk 2 for copying all the e. files from disk 2 to your .etc drive.
5. Use fcopy+ to copy all the s.files to your system drive and the two nm.files to your mail drive. The utility programs at the bottom of the directory on disk 2 can be copied to your Image system if you desire or some other location as seen fit.
6. The file "+/modem" is customized for use with the above tested RS232 devices at 2400 baud interfaced with BBS Server. Line 4006 contains the initialization string. You may need to edit line 4006 to suit your RS232 interface.

Installation

1. Type: load"boot 2.0",x,1 (x= device # of your boot drive)
2. When prompted to select between Configure a New Board or Convert From 1.2/1.2a, enter 1 to Configure a new board.
3. Image will begin collecting information needed to configure 2.0.
4. Part I: Sysop Information - Enter the information asked for.
5. Part II: Device, Drive Configuration

Clock setting: - You will be asked to select a method of setting Image Time automatically during boot up. If you have any CMD device with a Real Time Clock option installed, select either option 1 or option 4. Otherwise, select option 3 to set the clock from the last auto maintenance timestamp. (Option 3 still requires setting the clock upon boot up). If you select option 4, Image will ask for the device number of your external CMD device. Option 2 (Lt.Kernal Port) is untested and probably doesn't work at this time.

Continue with setting your Device and Drive settings for your "Image Drives Assignments"

6. Part III: BBS Information - Enter the customized information asked for pertaining to YOUR BBS.
7. At this point, Image will create several files needed for it's own operation. When finished, Image will self-boot to the call waiting screen and initiate automaintenance. Wait for automaintenance to finish and then shut down and reboot Image. You MUST reboot to prevent a REDIM'D ARRAY error from occurring during your first log on.

Configuration

1. At the System Idle screen, hit the number 1 key to set the time if not already set by the CMD boot device. Image may or may not perform automaintenance again and return to the Idle screen.
2. Press the f7 key to log on and enter RETURN to use NORMAL Logon mode the first time you enter the BBS.
3. Enter your password and security information.
4. Select your time zone (7=EST, 6=CST, 5=MST, 4=PST)
5. The BBS should already have your lines per screen set to 23 but if not, enter the number of lines per screen (suggest 23)
6. At the main prompt, enter EP to Edit your Parameters.

Select Parameters

Set your Computer Type and any other Terminal Parameters you want.

Set Cursor Menu Mode On

Hit RETURN to exit.
7. At this point, it is suggested you log off using the O command which will save your new parameters to your user file. You can then log back on in Instant mode.
8. At the main prompt, enter IM - You will be taken to the Image BBS Configuration Editor
9. You can use cursor controls or just enter E for Access Groups. The Group 9 flags should already be set for full sysop access. Edit any access group Name and Flags per your preference. Enter RETURN to exit, saving changes. You will be returned to the Configuration Editor.
10. Enter I for Misc. Features - At minimum, you will need to set the Time Zone and the System ID. Edit any other parameter you wish to set. When finished, enter M to Quit back to the Configuration Editor.

12. The remaining Configuration options are custom setting for your BBS and will not be discussed as part of the installation process. Select N to exit back to the Main prompt..
 13. Enter SM to go to the Sysop Menu Program.
 14. Cursor to or enter G for Editor Utils.
 15. Enter A to Run Reledit. Here you will define your Subs, U/D's, U/X's and SIG's the same way it is done in Image 1.2a. You MUST define at least one SIG and add your SB, UD and UX assignments. When finished with Reledit, exit out using the RETURN key until you end up back at the Sysop Menu.
 16. Enter G again to go to the Editor Programs menu and select B to Convert Sigs. This is a self-running program which will convert all the definitions you created in Reledit to 2.0 SIG format. Just sit back and watch. When it finishes, you will be back at the Editor Programs menu.
 17. Select C to Run Sigedit. Image will display all the SIGs you defined in Reledit. You must edit each SIG by selecting its number and editing items 4, 5, and 6. (Subs, U/Ds, U/Xs). For any item having a number other than (0) answer Yes when asked if the SIG has them. The BBS will display a list of numbers corresponding to the board number in that category. If the number in parenthesis is (0), answer No to the question for that option. To exit the Sig Editor, hit RETURN and answer Yes to save changes. You will be returned to the Editor Programs menu.
- NOTE: Any time you make changes in Reledit, all you need to do is scratch all the e.siglist* files and do steps 16 and 17 above.**
18. Select H to exit the menu back to the Main prompt.

From here, you're on your own. Explore and become familiar with the new features.

Much has changed since Image 1.2 and the best way to learn is to experiment. You'll probably be confused and make mistakes along the way but the learning experience is necessary for a system that has no operating instructions.

As in previous versions of Image BBS software, menus are displayed with the ? mark and a Local Command menu is displayed to level 9 users with zz access by entering ??.

I will answer questions and provide tech support for this software as needed.

Contact X-TEC at node 1 of the NISSA Network

REVISION 3.1 Documentation

1. Log on Instant to the newly created BBS and follow the following steps to configure it.
2. At the main prompt hit the MX command to create the e.macs file. Also you must use the SF command to enter the "Sysop Files" utility and use the option to create the e.sysop file. The reason is because both files are written to when filing a new user application.
3. I have attached the revision 2 installation instructions to the bottom of this document which can be used to guide you through the installation process.

RELEASE 3.1 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. New format for setting the Image time with the 1 key at idle.
2. Setting your Reserved System Password to One will automatically reset to None after the first reserved login has been made.
3. New format for viewing logs by entering the 8 key at the idle screen. You can select either Activity log or Idle log and then you will be given the option of selecting which day of the week for the chosen log.
4. Border colors - Whenever an error is written to the e.errlog, it turns red. New user attempts will be green. When someone leaves feedback, blue and when someone fails security check medium gray. Entering VF to view the logs returns the border to black.
5. Entering IM to go to the Image Configurator, puts you in full screen mode so the menu doesn't scroll off the top of the screen. Exiting IM returns to split screen mode.
6. A new ml.rs232 file that works with both the user port and the cartridge port.
7. A new Modem Config option for setting the modem speed from 300 to 38400 baud and a single +/modem file that will work with any baud rate selected to match the BBS Server baud rate.
8. Several modifications to the Image Term program to remove not needed functions and reduce memory usage.
9. Added routine to nightly automaintenance to scratch last week's e.idle file and start a new one for today.
10. New Board Activity screen when entering BA while online. (Courtesy of Bucko)
11. Modifications to the GF maintenance and other options to make is more sysop friendly.
12. New option for setting the callers "calls per day" to a multiple of 10.
13. Misc. fixes to +/lo.varlist and +.reader

14. Automatic creation of the e.Siglist files from the Sysop Menus.
15. Several other minor fixes and "eye candy" mods.
16. Removed 2nd Security check in +.lo.
17. Revised the new user application program to require an email address instead of a phone number. Also fixed several issues in the program for proper operation. The new user will now be able to edit the default timezone of the location of the BBS to his preferred timezone as part of the new user application. He also has the option of not leaving a comment to the sysop without deleting his application.
18. There is a new logon LMP module (+/lo-email) which upon login, checks to see if the callers record contains a phone number and if so, prompts the caller to replace his phone number with his email address.
19. Changes have been made to the ECS commands to remove commands not supported and add commands for common functions. The new commands are included in s.menu 1 and s.menu 4.

Comments:

That's it! BBS on a stick. It will run from any computer that has a USB stick... So, in other words if you want to modify your BBS you can make a copy of your USB stick and carry it to any computer to modify or for that matter run it. You still need a DNS server to direct users to your BBS but if you have gotten this far you already have that.

LEGAL MATTERS

Included in the .rar file is WinVice 3.2, I do NOT take any credit for this software, it is a free program and if the writers want me to remove it from the package I will. Along the same lines I have also included TCPSEER another freely distributable program but if the writers want me to remove it, I will remove it also. If they have to be removed, I will provide links to where to get them.

I take no credit for anything other than the configuration and .bat file writing aspect of this .rar, it is being released with no warranties or support. If you have questions, I will be more than happy to answer them but I will not be able to help you with questions about the freely distributable programs WinVice and TCPSEER.

Just a side note, it has been just about 25 years since I released something in the NISSA Name, and doing this reminding me of what NISSA was all about when it was re-formed from the CNSSA (CNet SysOp Support Association) I believe that was the name of it that was formed by John Moore and GearJammer to help Lt Kernal owners of CNet 12 run their BBS' on the Lt Kernal. When I and a few others took over NISSA in I believe 1989 or 1990, I had the most fun writing files, supporting Image and running a BBS in a Support capacity. This file is a culmination of all the hard work I did back in the 90's for Image BBS. There

is still a lot more to come and I look forward to the challenges to make Image BBS v2.0 and beyond a stable and well-rounded BBS program. Thank you and if you need help with this file you can reach out to me on my BBS'.

The Wrong Number][BBS – wn2.duckdns.org:23 (Mystic BBS for the PC)

The Wrong Number][BBS – wn2.duckdns.org:6400 (CNet Amiga for the Amiga)

The Wrong Number V BBS – wn2.duckdns.org:6408 (Image BBS v2.0)

Bucko's Den – wn2.duckdns.org:6407 (Image 1.2b)

Thanks again!

Al DeRosa (Bucko)