

Running MMICAD Under Windows 3.1™

by Dennis Mitchell

The engineer who already uses other popular programs that require Windows can remain in a familiar environment by running MMICAD under Microsoft Windows 3.1™.

Historically, the RF and microwave engineer has gone from slide rules for analytical work, with support staff supplying the word processing functions, to "doing it all". Timesharing on 'mainframe' computers came in right after slide rules. To those engineers progressive enough to use the latest technology, mainframes were the only game in town. But timesharing was both expensive and slow, usually available only to large companies.

Mainframes gave way to 'minis', which were often located in their respective engineering departments because of engineering's frustrations over having to wait for delayed results. Multiplexing into the mainframe with the accounting department was no fun!

Eventually, the costs of PCs came down and their capabilities increased to the point where they could compete and offer greater versatility. MS-DOS™ offered the user access to every modern software program imaginable, and the standard was set for future software development platforms, including ones the RF and microwave engineers wanted.

Workstations came into the picture before the limitations of MS-DOS and the PC were updated offering more power than a PC but with desktop size. At the same time, IBM created a new operating system, OS/1 & 2™, which addressed some of the complaints that the users of MS-DOS™ on PC platforms were voicing. Moving the newer and more sophisticated software to the high memory compensated for the limitations of earlier MS-DOS™ versions. Now computers are running MS-DOS on 386 and 486 machines at 33 and 50 MHz and addressing lots of RAM. The power of an MS-DOS™ PC is comparable to the workstation, the cost is less, and the software is affordable, available and state of the art.

Today's engineer has an MS-DOS/PC computer on his desk loaded with his most productive software to efficiently get the job done. MMICAD runs on a PC under MS-DOS™ and also integrates well within Windows 3.1™.

To run MMICAD with Windows 3.1™ an icon in the image of the MMICAD logo is available in the \MMICAD directory. It is called MICON.ICO. To set up MMICAD so that it can be launched from Windows, do the following:

1. Open the group window where you want to add MMICAD.
2. Choose New from the File menu.
3. Select Program Item and choose OK.
4. Type "MMICAD" in the Description text box.
5. Type the complete pathname where MMICAD resides in the Command Line text box.

Example: C:\MMICAD\MMICAD.EXE
6. Choose Change Icon to select MMICAD.ICO from the \MMICAD directory.
7. Choose OK.

Now when you view the Windows Program Manager, the MMICAD ICON will appear for launching MMICAD.

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