

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.0

Table of Contents

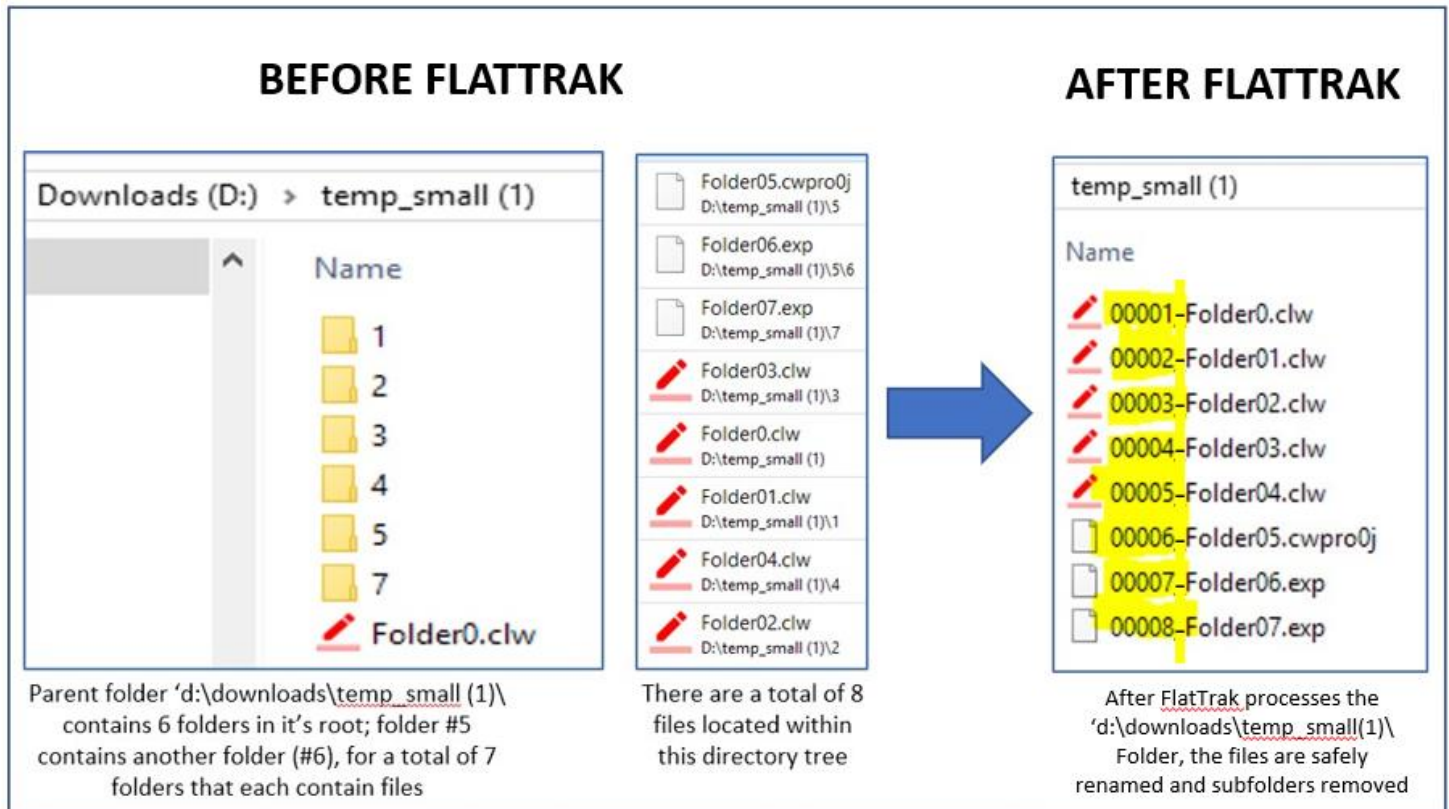
Purpose	2
Safeguards	2
FlatTrak Files	3
Configuring FlatTrak.....	3
FlatTrak Operation.....	3
File Manager Integration	5
Payment.....	14
History.....	14
End-User License Agreement (EULA).....	14
Development Tools.....	15
Copyright Acknowledgements.....	15
Contact Information	15

FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.0

Purpose

FlatRak safely merges files contained within nested subfolders into the parent folder. A graphical representation of FlatTrak's purpose is depicted below:



Safeguards

FlatTrak, unlike the handful of command line utilities/Powershell scripts that are floating on the Internet to merge (or 'collapse') subfolder content into the parent folder, has internal 'safety' features to protect users from making a folder merge operation that they will later regret:

- Configuration option to display a Yes/No popup window to confirm that FlatTrak should move forward with the merge process
- Each file in the parent folder and subfolder(s) are renamed with a standardized prefix of a six-digit number (starting at 000001) and a hyphen character that is added to each file to ensure every filename is unique before being moved to the parent folder
- If a file cannot be moved into the parent folder it is left in its original location and its subfolder is not deleted (e.g. a file contained within a subfolder is open by another application/network computer)

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.0

FlatTrak Files

FlatTrak is a lean Windows 32-bit application. These files comprise the total installation of FlatTrak:

1. FlatTrak.Exe (Application file)
2. WBDYA64I.dll (Runtime library)

These files can be installed anywhere on your computer. The currently logged on Windows user must have **WRITE** security permissions to the installation folder make changes to the FlatTrak.ini file. FlatTrak requires about 1.6MB of disc space.

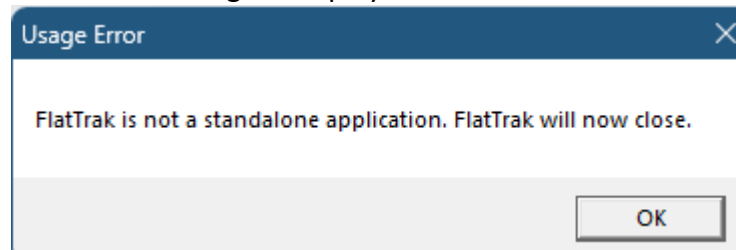
Configuring FlatTrak

FlatTrak is NOT a standalone operation – it is purposely designed to be integrated within a Windows file management application (e.g. Double Commander, Total Commander, FreeCommander). Please reference this user manual (see below) to learn how to integrate FlatTrak for your favorite Windows file management software tool.

FlatTrak Operation

When FlatTrak is started via a file manager program (e.g. Total Commander), the following actions occur:

1. FlatTrak checks if a folder was passed as a parameter from the calling file manager. If no parameter was passed to FlatTrak an error message is displayed and FlatTrak will close:

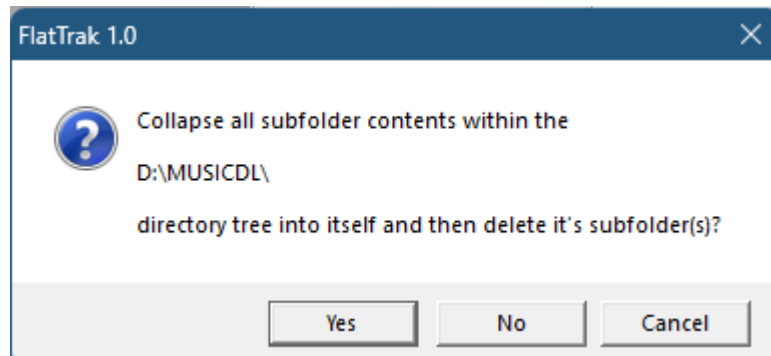


2. Scan the passed path name (e.g. D:\MusicDL\) and build a list of all subfolders and their content into a memory-based TAB delimited file

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.0

3. A popup confirmation window is displayed onscreen. If NO is clicked in the window, FlatTrak is terminated and no data is touched:



4. Starting with the parent folder level and then alphabetically through every subfolder, each folder's contents are retrieved and added to the memory file. Once the last subfolder is scanned, the full path+filename is sorted alphabetically in memory to a memory file
5. Each item within the memory file is then broken apart (filename, extension) and then sequentially renamed in memory with the predefined prefix (nnnnnn-) to ensure every filename will be unique. The prefix number starts at 000001, then 000002, and so on. The number sequence continues incrementing by a value of one
6. Each file is moved to the parent folder with its new filename
7. The subfolders (which should now contain no data) are deleted. If the subfolder is NOT empty, the subfolder is NOT deleted. [Note: This could occur if another Windows application, or another network user, has that file open]
8. FlatTrak closes and control is passed back to the calling application

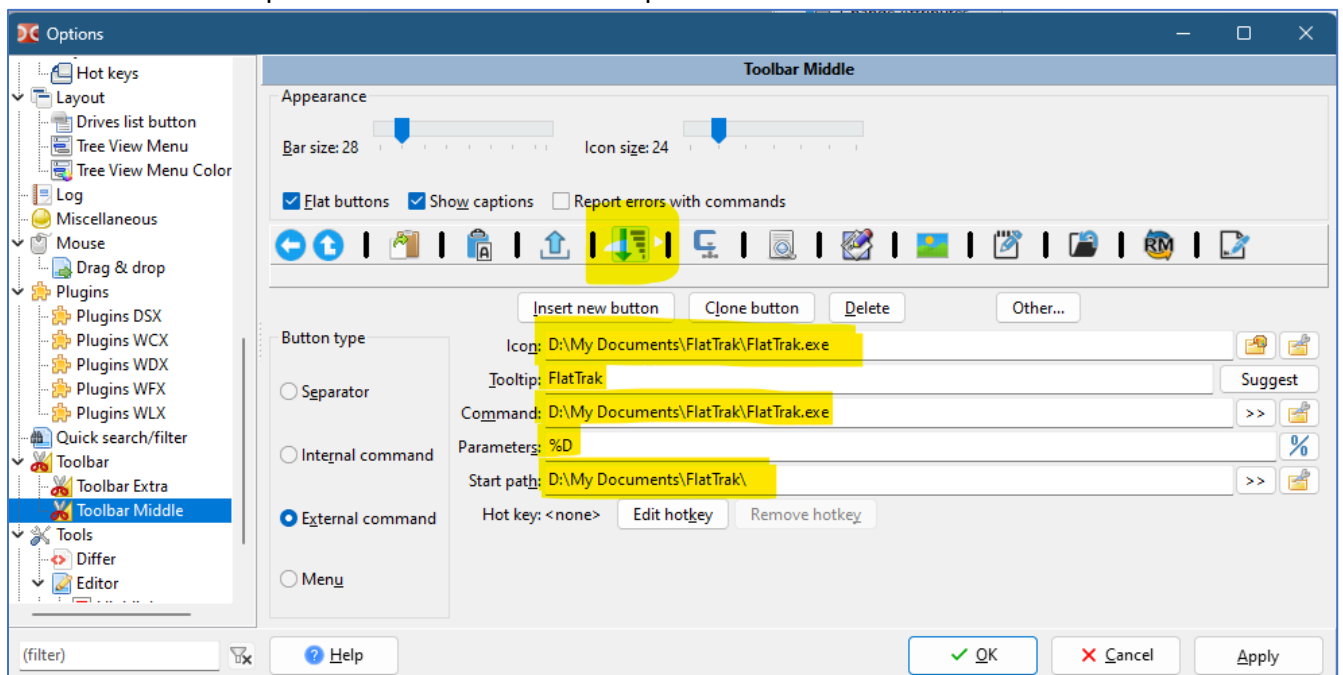
FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.0

File Manager Integration

FlatTrak is designed to be integrated into popular Windows-based File Management software applications (e.g. Total Commander, FreeCommander). The parameter passed from the file manager application to FlatTrak must be the parent folder's name with a trailing slash character (e.g. D:\Music\), with no quotation marks or apostrophe characters.

- a. **Double Commander:** Enable the middle toolbar (Options->Layout->Screen Layout->Show middle toolbar). Right click anywhere within the middle toolbar and select 'Edit' from the popup menu. Click the button titled 'Insert new button'. Populate the entry fields for Icon, Tooltip, Command, Parameters, and Start Path as depicted in the below screen capture:



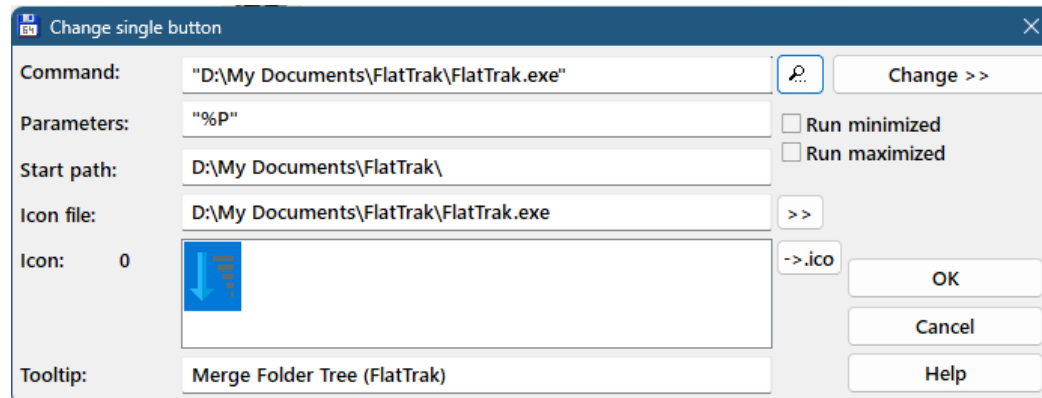
Click the OK button to save the middle toolbar settings and display a FlatTrak button onscreen.

You can select a different icon (e.g. a .ICO file) that you have stored on the hard drive if desired; an icon is embedded within FlatTrak that is used in the above example. You may change the Tooltip to something different – however, be aware that Double Commander will also display that tooltip text to the right of the icon which will widen the middle toolbar. The correct parameter that is passed from Double Commander to FlatTrak is **%D** – do not enter anything different! You can optionally assign a Hotkey to execute FlatTrak (if desired) in the Options screen by clicking the Edit Hotkey button.

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.0

- b. **Total Commander:** Add a button to its vertical button bar (right click inside of the button bar, select 'Change vertical button bar' from the popup menu, click the **ADD** button and then populate the button's configuration options as depicted in the screen capture (changing the Command and Start Path entries to where you've installed FlatTrak into):



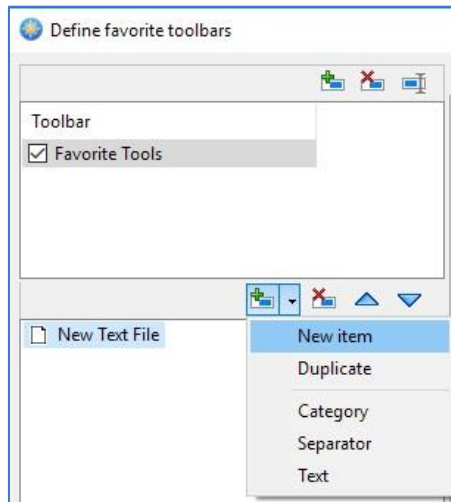
You may select a different icon if desired (e.g. an external .ICO file), and you may enter anything desired for the Tooltip. The 'Parameters' field MUST be entered exactly like this: **"%P"**

Click the **OK** button and the new button, when clicked, will execute FlatTrak against the currently open folder in the active Total Commander pane.

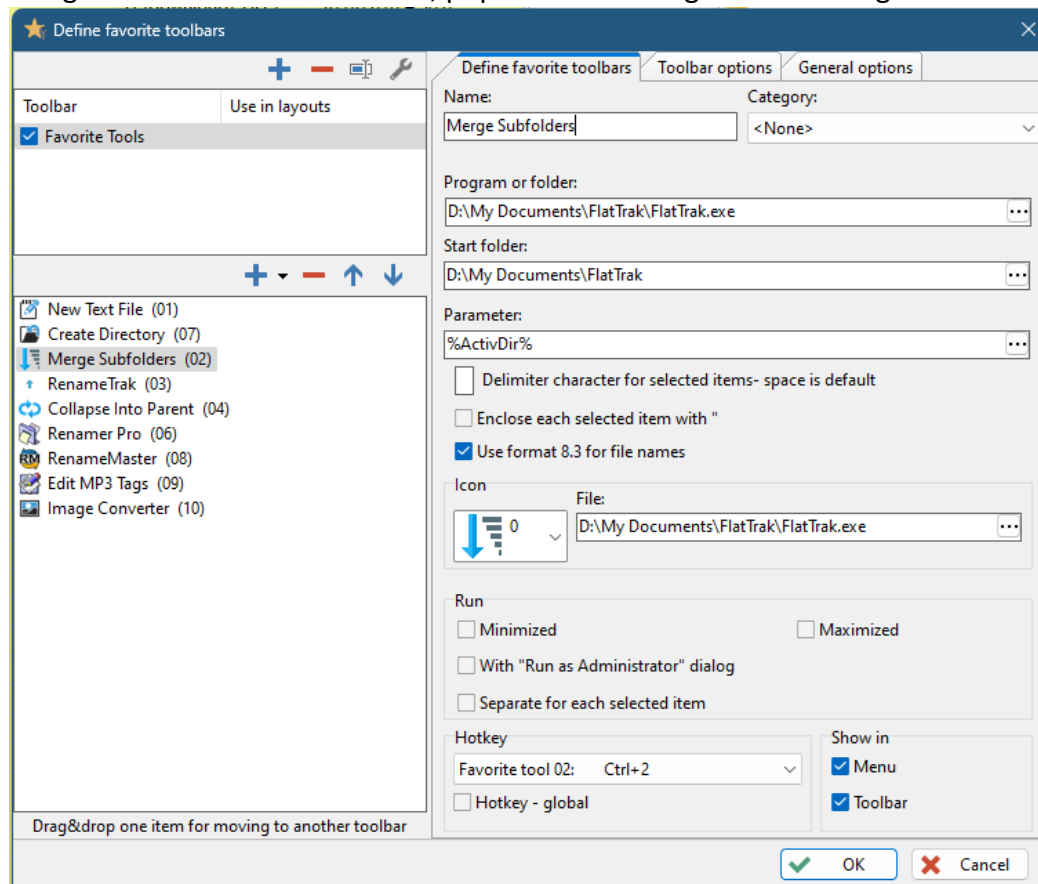
FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.0

- c. **Free Commander**: From the main menu, select **Tools**, then **Favorite Tools**, then **Favorite Tools Edit** to display the 'Define favorite toolbars' window. Click the button with a green '+' symbol and select 'New Item' from the droplist:



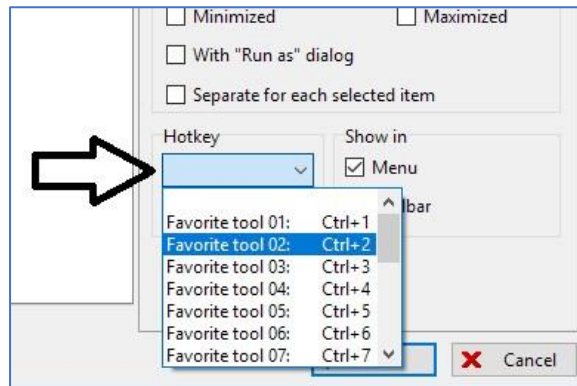
After selecting the 'New Item' menu item, populate the configuration settings like this:



FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.0

Before clicking the **OK** button, click the **Hotkey** droplist and assign the new **Favorite Tool** to a hotkey so it can be assigned to the FreeCommander splitter bar (in this example, the 'Favorite Tool 02' was assigned to FlatTrak):



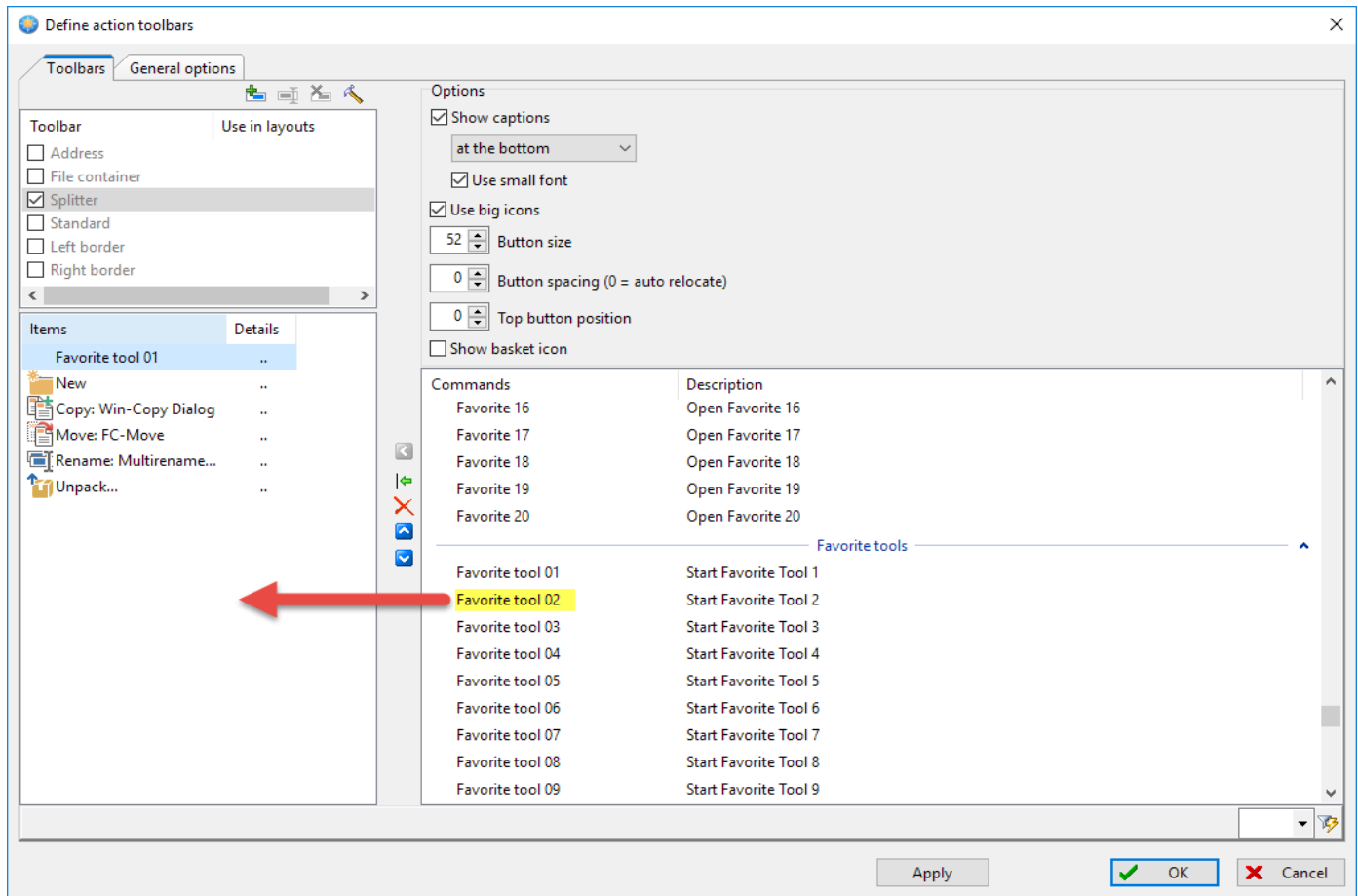
A new button named '**Merge Subfolders**' is added to the top of the FreeCommander window to execute FlatTrak when clicked:



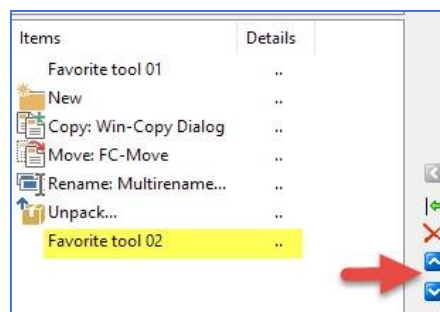
To add a FlatTrak button (i.e. '**Favorite Tool 02**') to the splitter bar, right click anywhere within the splitter bar that does not contain a button; from the popup menu select '**Define action toolbars**'. For my configuration (and as shown above in the screen capture), I assigned '**Favorite Tool 02**' to the FlatTrak favorite tool setting. Scroll down the list of commands in the bottom right window to find '**Favorite Tool 02**' in the list, and the drag it into the left listbox area:

FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.4



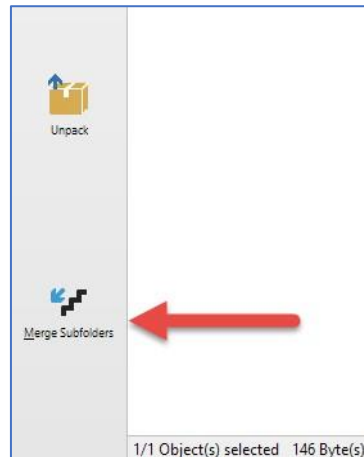
The screen is updated to now show the **'Favorite Tool 02'** listed of items to display in the splitter bar:



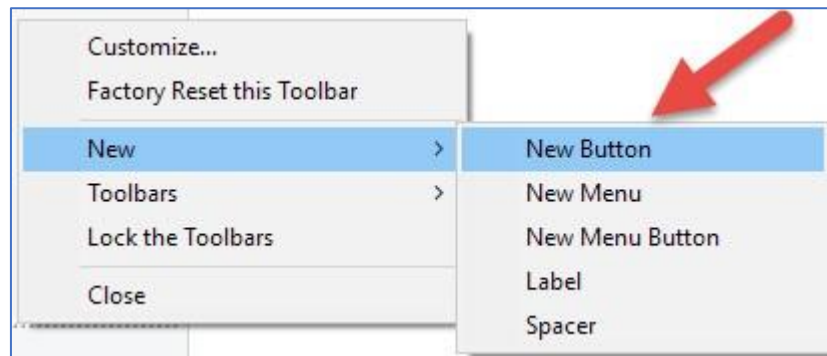
You can reposition the Favorite Tool 02 (i.e. FlatTrak) up/down within the splitter bar by clicking the up/down arrow buttons. Click the **OK** button to save the Action Toolbar configuration settings. The splitter bar now displays the Merge Subfolders (aka: FlatTrak) button:

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

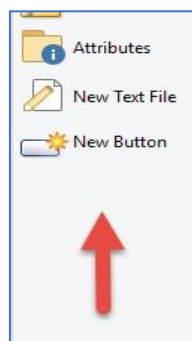
Version 1.4



d. **Directory Opus**: Right click on the splitter bar; from the popup menu select '**Customize**'. Right click anywhere within the splitter bar that doesn't have a button already placed within it, select '**New**' from the popup menu and select '**New Button**' from the menu list:



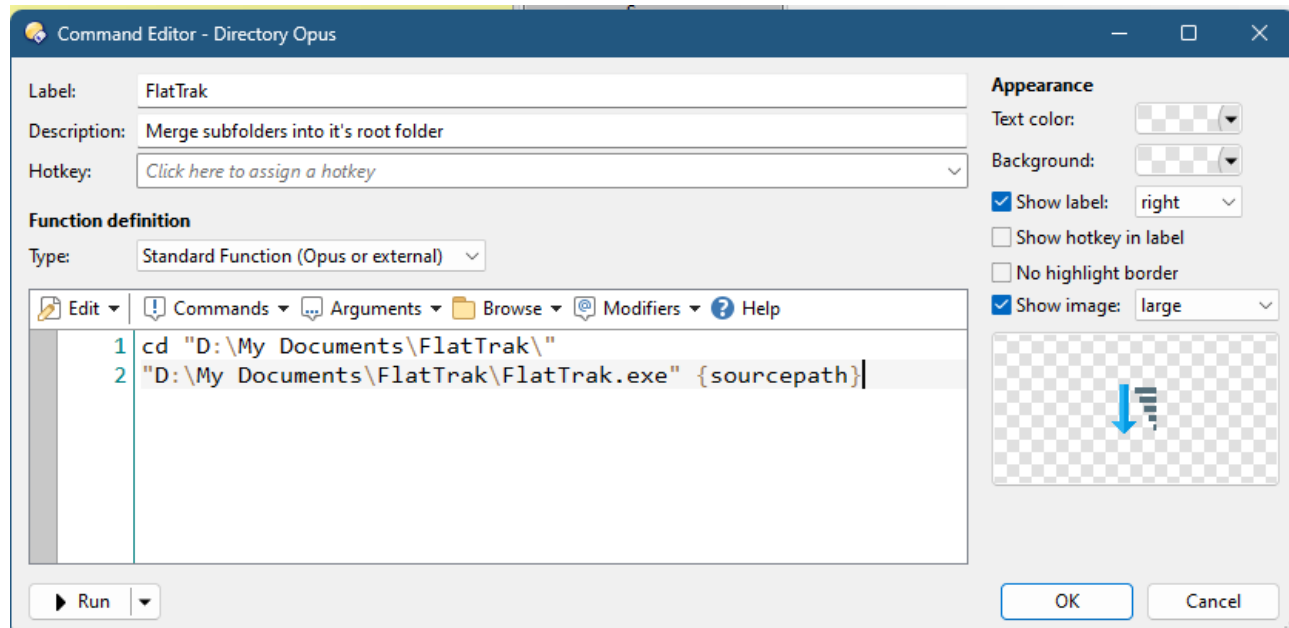
A new button is now placed within the splitter bar:



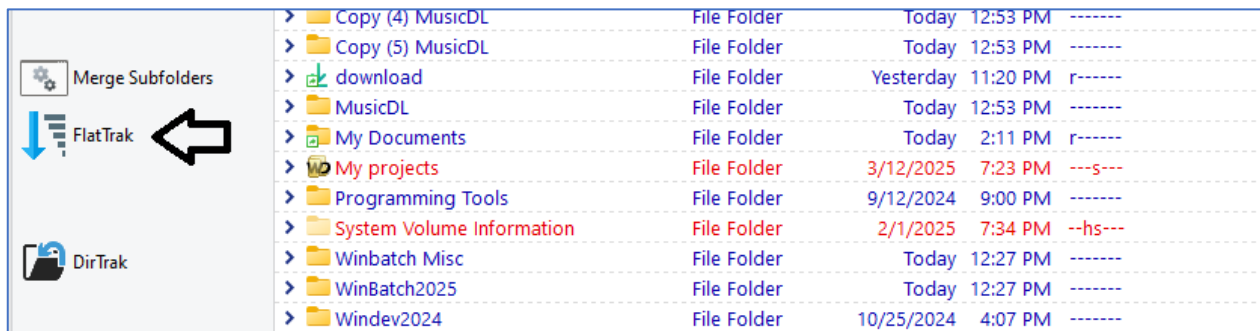
FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.4

Right click on the **'New Button'** button, and from the popup menu select **'Edit'**. A popup window is displayed onscreen to configure the button when clicked; configure it as such (changing the path to FlatTrak for wherever you installed it into):



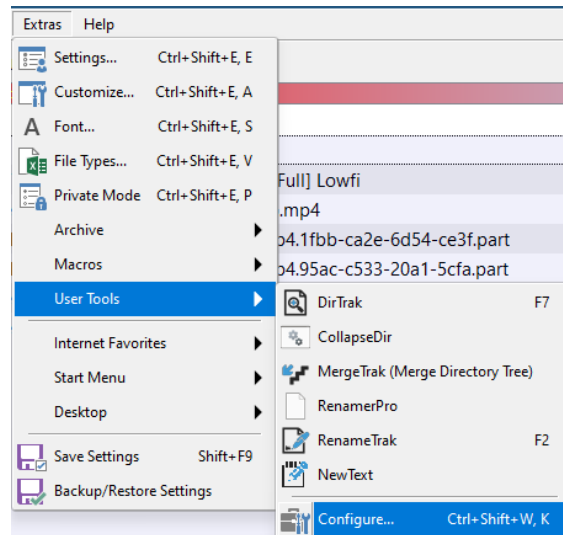
Click **OK** to save the editor window changes and close that window. Click **OK** to save the configuration settings. Click **OK** within the **'Customize – Directory Opus'** window to close it. The FlatTrak button is now displayed within the Directory Opus splitter bar:



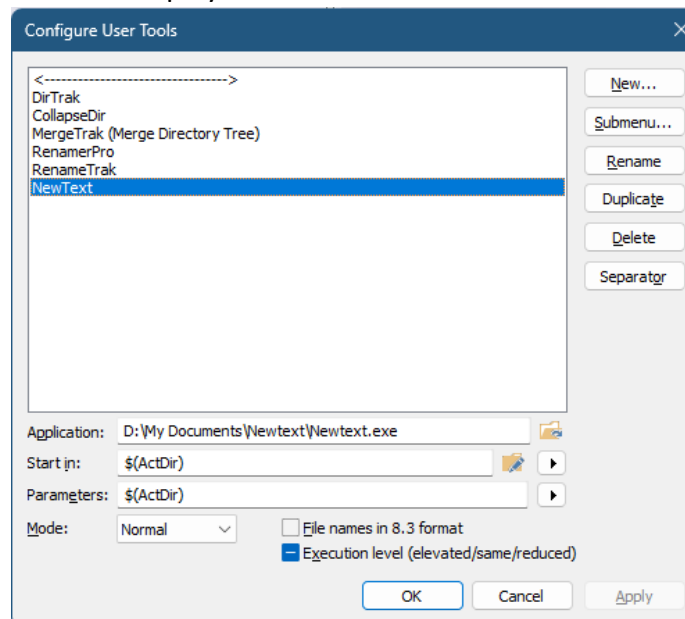
FLATTRAK USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.4

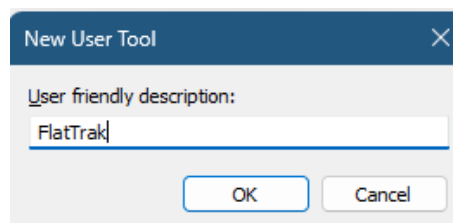
e. SpeedCommander: Within its main menu select Extras, then User Tools, the Configure:



The 'Configure User Tools' window is displayed:



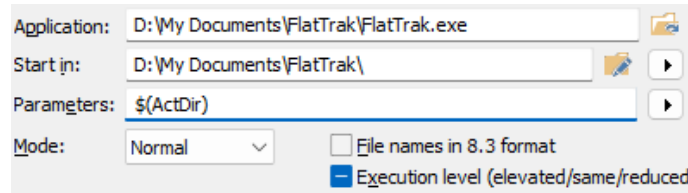
Click the NEW button; a window appears to enter a name for the new User Tool (enter 'FlatTrak' as its name):



FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

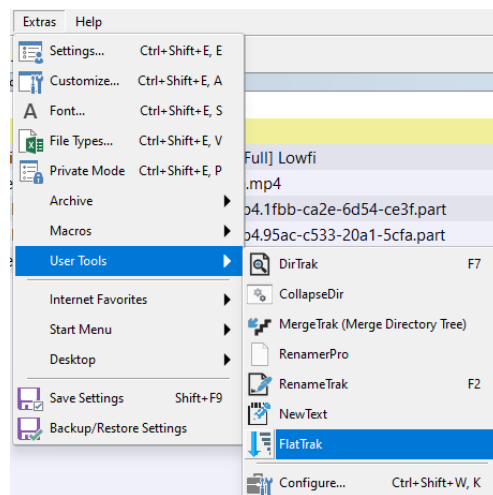
Version 1.4

Configure the parameters for FlatTrak:

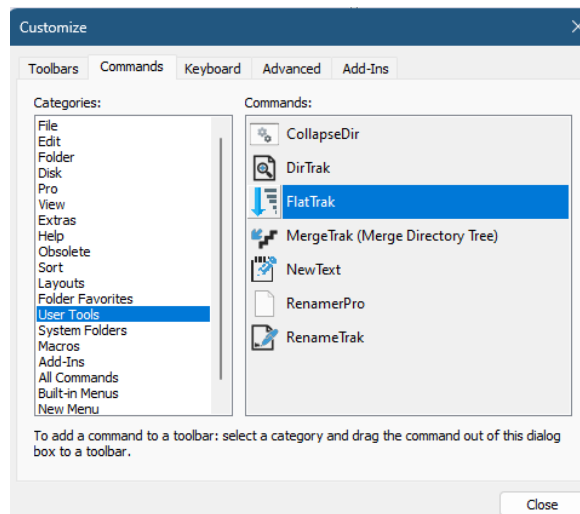


The 'Application' and 'Start in' settings will reflect the path that FlatTrak is installed on YOUR machine. The 'Parameters' setting must be entered like this: **\$(ActDir)**

A new menu item titled 'FlatTrak' is now added to the User Tools menu:



To add a FlatTrak button to the SpeedCommander toolbar (typically displayed at the bottom of the SpeedCommander window), right-click anywhere within the toolbar and select 'Customize' from the popup window.



FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.4

From the popup 'Customize' window scroll down the Categories list to the 'User Tools' category, then select the 'FlatTrak' command from the right list. Drag the 'FlatTrak' entry into the desired location within the toolbar. (Note: buttons may be relocated within the toolbar by dragging them to their desired location while the Customize action is active).

Payment

Software by Daughtry has released FlatTrak as "donorware" – primarily because we are a huge fan of Double Commander and FreeCommander (which is also donorware). It is not crippled in any way. We ask that if you found value in FlatTrak that you pay us what you think it is worth to you via the Software by Daughtry web page (www.sdaughtry.com) – a PayPal button will be displayed on our web page to contribute money for using FlatTrak.

History

- Version 1.0: initial release

End-User License Agreement (EULA)

- Ownership:** Software by Daughtry is the owner of FlatTrak; information entered by a licensed user into a FlatTrak configuration file is owned by the licensed user.
- Hacking:** A licensed user is not allowed to reverse engineer, decompile, or disassemble FlatTrak.
- Distribution:** A licensed user is not allowed to sell a copy, lease, sublicense, rent, distribute, or donate FlatTrak.
- License Transfer:** A licensed user is not allowed to transfer their FlatTrak user license to a non-company entity.
- Liability:** Software by Daughtry is not responsible for damages, real or perceived, by a licensed user that occurs during the use of FlatTrak.
- Support:** Software by Daughtry agrees to provide the licensed user with technical support, via email, that is directly related to the operation of FlatTrak and coordinate application feature suggestions. Software by Daughtry will evaluate FlatTrak technical support requests on a case-by-case basis to determine if the troubleshooting request is related to FlatTrak or if the situation requires your company's Information Technology support division to resolve. The licensed user agrees to provide adequate information to Software by Daughtry to assist in the investigation and to confirm that any problems have been resolved. Software by Daughtry does not provide a guaranteed response time but will make a good faith effort to answer emails within twenty-four hours or less during weekdays, excluding U.S. holidays.
- Maintenance:** Software by Daughtry retains the right to charge for FlatTrak software updates if it feels the programmatic changes are significant. Software by Daughtry generally provides a software update at no charge if the update fixes a significant application problem that evaded the beta testing development phase and will notify the licensed user via email of the update.
- Payment Terms:** All fees and other amounts paid to Software by Daughtry are non-cancellable and non-refundable. A user license will not be granted by Software by Daughtry without payment in full.

FLATTRAK USER's MANUAL

Version 1.4

By installing, copying, downloading, accessing or otherwise using FlatTrak, you agree to be bound by the terms defined in the FlatTrak EULA. If you do not agree to the terms of this agreement, you have no rights to FlatTrak and should not install, copy, download, or use FlatTrak.

Development Tools

FlatTrak was written in WinBatch 2025A.

Copyright Acknowledgements

- a. Total Commander is copyrighted by Christian Ghisler, Ghisler Software ([link](#))
- b. FreeCommander is copyrighted by Marek Jasinski ([link](#))
- c. Directory Opus is copyrighted by GPSoftware ([link](#))
- d. Double Commander is made available by Alexander Koblov under the GNU license agreement ([link](#))
- e. Windows is copyrighted by Microsoft Corporation ([link](#))
- f. WinBatch is copyrighted by Island Lake Consulting LLC ([link](#))

Contact Information

You can contact the author at email address: scott@sdaughtry.com

You can obtain additional information regarding software updates at the author's website:
<http://www.sdaughtry.com>