Super User is a question and answer site for computer enthusiasts and power users. It only takes a minute to sign up.

Sign up to join this community

Anybody can ask a question

Anybody can answer

The best answers are voted up and rise to the top

superuser

How can I hide an application from the Windows taskbar?

Asked 9 years, 11 months ago Active 11 months ago Viewed 99k times

24

Is there a way to "hide" a normal windowed application in Windows?

I'm looking for something that removes it from the taskbar and possibly puts an icon in the system tray instead.

windows taskbar icons

7

edited Nov 30 '14 at 2:21

Techie007

102k 16 163 227

asked Sep 18 '09 at 10:51

pufferfish

457 4 12 26

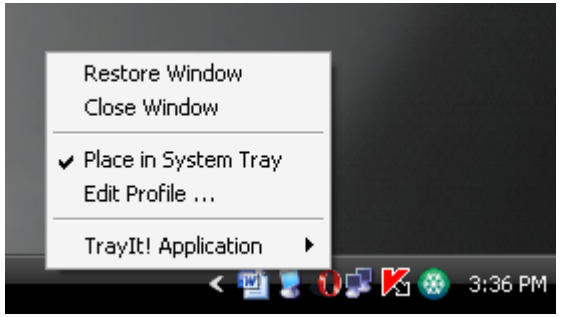
Well there's ones that retain the icon, or ones that use a "special" icon to "hide" the program from people (so when you hit the key combo to hide it, it's called the "Boss Key" :P). That way nobody knows what the application is - it may look like a networking icon. And requires a password to restore. – Breakthrough Sep 18 '09 at 11:40

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

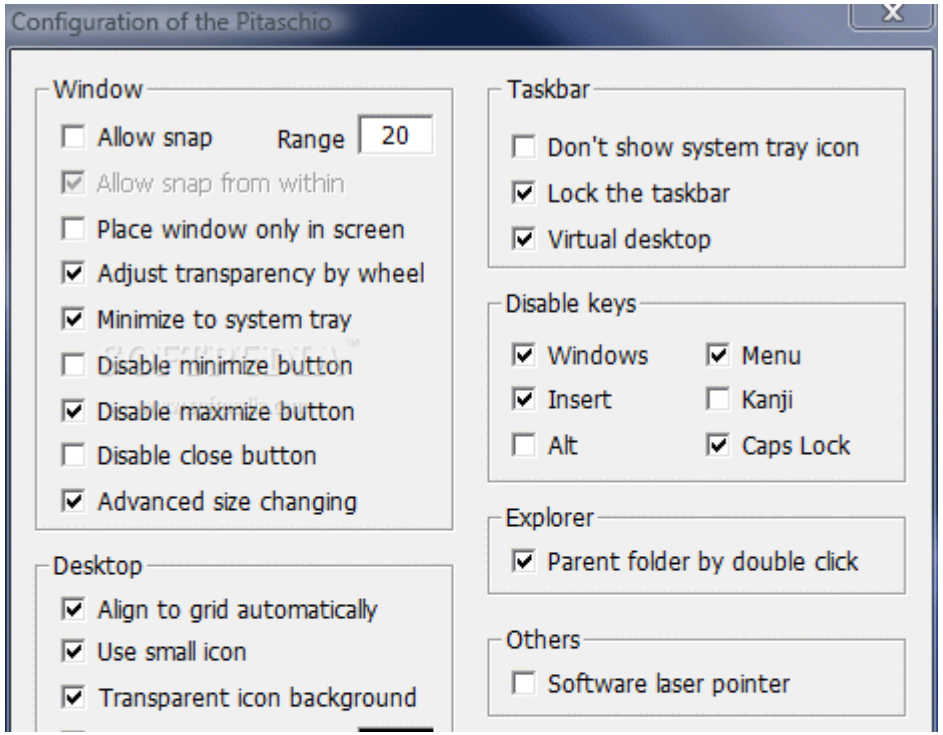
6 Answers

18

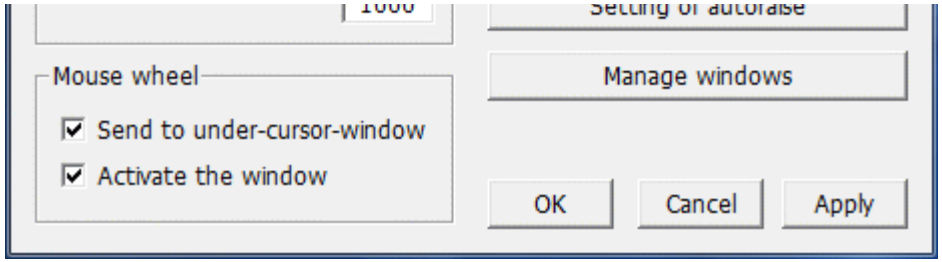
TrayIt



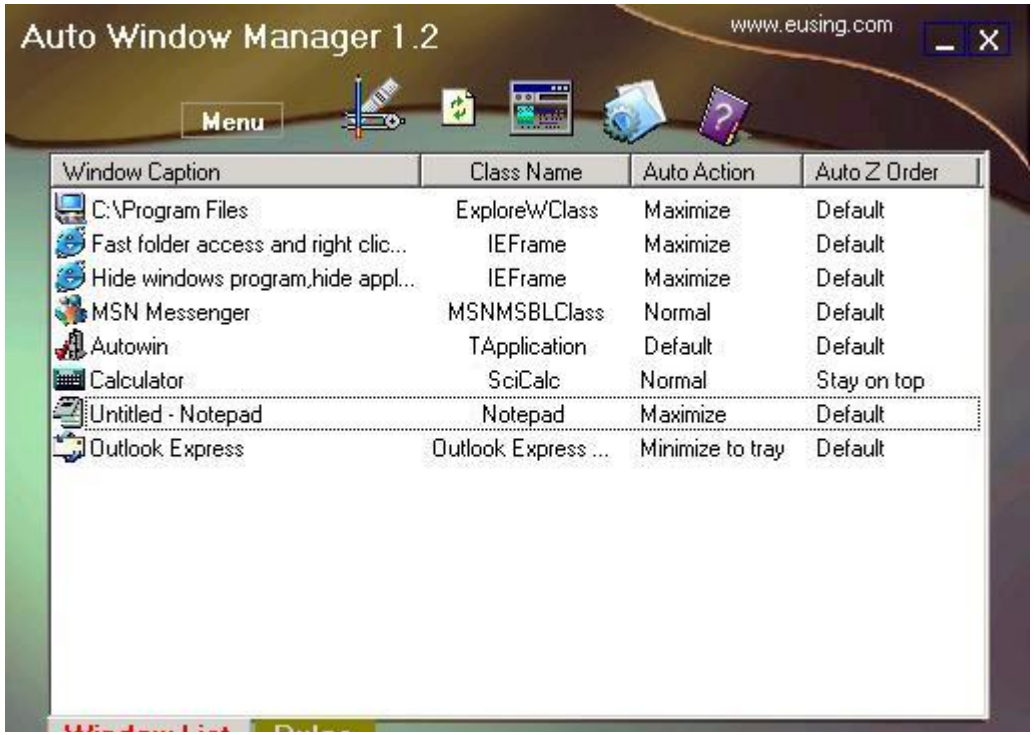
Pitaschio



By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



Auto Window Manager



By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

Take your pick. They all minimize applications to the system tray. They're all free and work with Windows XP.

edited Apr 11 '13 at 8:04
Sebastian
542 4 15

answered Sep 18 '09 at 10:52
Molly7244

Quite a few gems in your answer! Nice apps :) – alex Sep 18 '09 at 10:59

yep, TayIt does just that, the others offer a a whole rake of more or less useful features. – Molly7244 Sep 18 '09 at 11:14

Just installed TrayIt; it's a really nice app, especially the ability to remember to minimize an application to the system tray. – alex Sep 18 '09 at 13:10

4 unfortunately, None of these are able to hide a window's taskbar icon without minimizing it. – Malabarba Oct 19 '09 at 5:11

10

Try the open-source tools Minime and RBTray to minimize a Windows application to the system tray and hide it from the taskbar.

edited Dec 22 '11 at 20:16
Peter Mortensen
8,559 16 62 85

answered Sep 18 '09 at 11:41
ukanth
6,822 10 37 59

1 Hurray for open source! TrayIt's company doesn't exist anymore and PMW doesn't work in Win7. Minime does! – SevenSidedDie Dec 20 '12 at 0:39

1 Very nice. Minime.exe: ONE file. Portable. Ctrl-Shift-Z & Ctrl-Shift-A Done. (Win7 SP1 x64 compatible) – adam Jan 7 '13 at 10:09

1 As of March 2017, SF is showing that the Minime executable installer contains malware. It's possible it's a bundle-installer or something along those lines, but I'm not going to test it right now... – Doktor J May 13 '17 at 8:20

9 detections from virustotal for `minime.exe` . Anyway it doesn't do anything different from the others so it doesn't seem to be worth it. – cdlvcdlv Jul 16 '17 at 15:02

5

I use Process Manager for this. It has a lot of other options besides putting an app in the system tray, but I use this the most.

answered Sep 18 '09 at 10:57
alex
15.6k 7 49 73

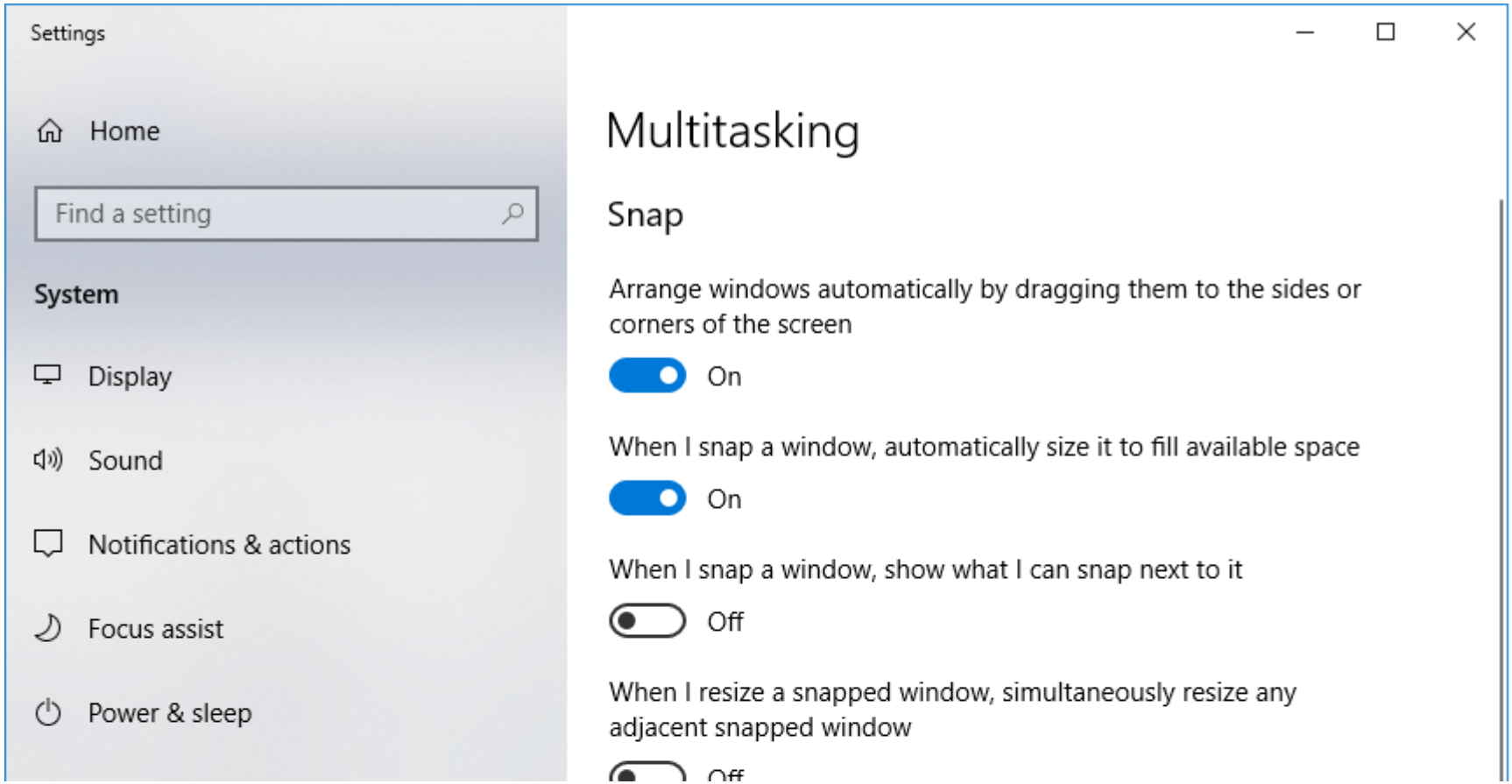
By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

2

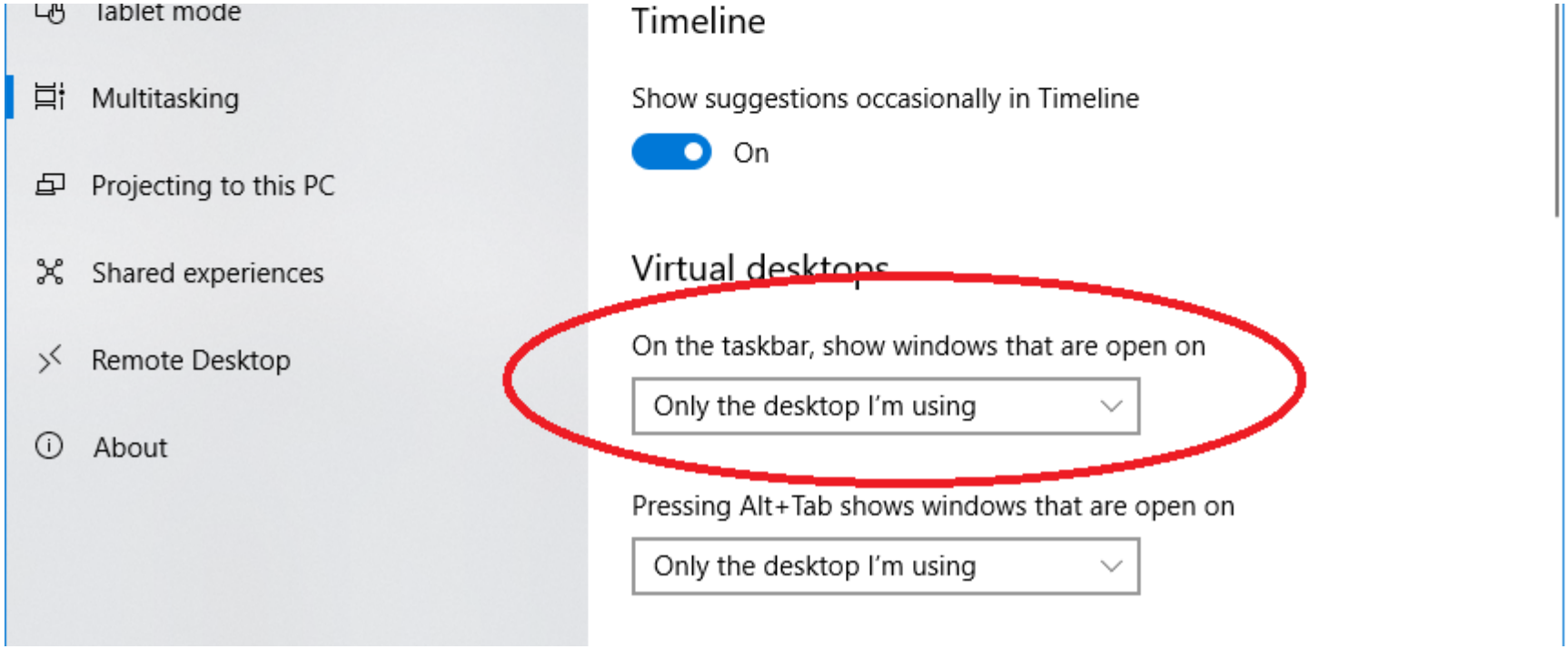
As of the April 2018 update, Windows 10 is now able hide windows from view without installing extra software. There are now Virtual Desktops that allow you to isolate specific windows to separate environments. Here's how you enable the feature to do as you desire:

Configure your Multitasking settings.

1. Open your Settings dialog
2. Search for Multitasking
3. Set the taskbar to only show the active desktop's windows



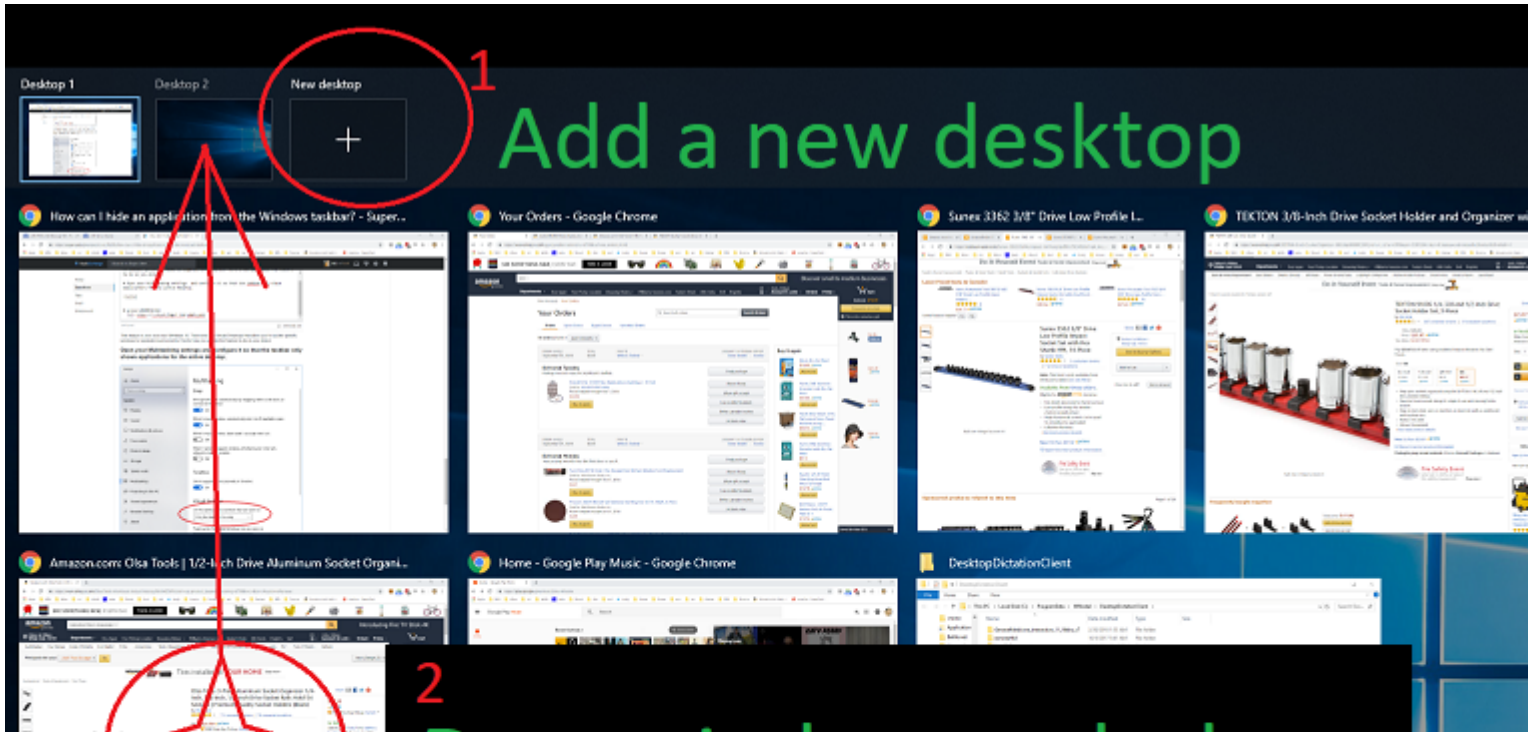
By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



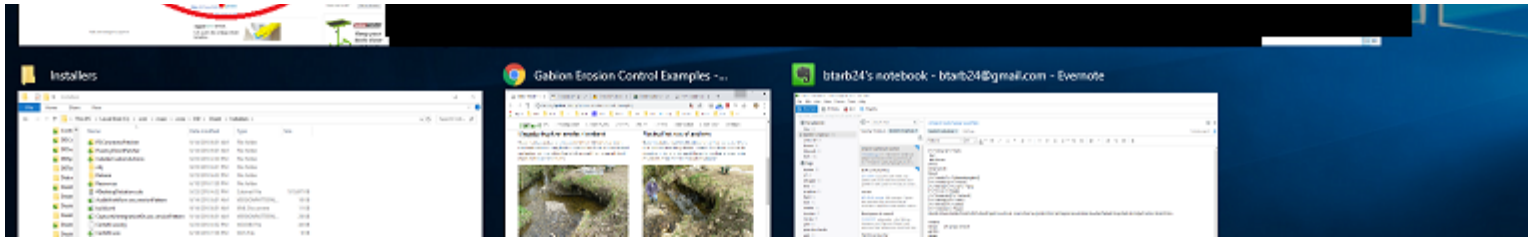
Move window to a different desktop

1. Press WINDOWS + TAB keys together
2. Click the 'New Desktop' option at the top of the screen
3. Drag one of the open windows to the new desktop window
4. Click on Desktop 2 to switch to that desktop
5. Observe that the taskbar no longer shows the windows that are open on Desktop 1

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.



Shortcuts

- WINDOWS + TAB = opens the Virtual Desktop management screen
- CTRL + WINDOWS + D = create and move to a new desktop
- CTRL + WINDOWS + RIGHT = move to the next desktop
- CTRL + WINDOWS + LEFT = move to the previous desktop
- CTRL + WINDOWS + F4 = close the current desktop

answered Oct 5 '18 at 20:56

Bill Tarbell
123 1 5

1

I found a clever workaround in the Windows Seven Forums:

1. Either create a new shortcut or copy a shortcut of the program (ex: CCleaner) that you want to pin to the taskbar to your desktop.

> NOTE: If you already have this program pinned to the taskbar, then you will need to unpin it before doing step 2.

2. Right click on the new shortcut (ex: CCleaner) on the desktop, and click on Properties.
3. In the Shortcut tab, click on the Change Icon button.
4. In the field under "Look for icons in this file", copy and paste the location below and press Enter.

```
%SystemRoot%\System32\imageres.dll
```

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.

7. Right click on the shortcut (ex: CCleaner) with the new blank icon on the desktop, and click on Pin to Taskbar.
8. Delete the shortcut (ex: CCleaner) on the desktop.
9. The invisible program icon is now pinned to the taskbar.

See link above to post in Windows Seven Forums for example screen captures.

edited Jul 14 '17 at 16:25
cdlvcdlv
573 4 16

answered Mar 9 '16 at 15:16
Jim Fell
2,949 14 47 72

This is great, but Windows 10 has made some adjustments to their task bar where invisible images have a border around them. Still trying to figure that one out. – Tmanok Mar 5 '18 at 19:58

so the icon is transparent but it still takes up the space, right? – Albin Jul 25 '18 at 21:32

0

http://www.softpedia.com/get/Desktop-Enhancements/Other-Desktop-Enhancements/Dialog-Mate.shtml. The one I use because it's small, well integrated and has the favorites part also. Right mouse click on the normal maximize/restore control button (on application's Title bar) minimizes any application to an icon on Desktop, right-clicking on minimize button minimizes any application to Tray (what OP asked). It also adds convenient menu to all applications' Title bars for these aforementioned functions, and to set 'Always on Top' also.

edited Apr 23 '15 at 21:06

answered Apr 21 '15 at 14:48
goldie
1 1

Can you add in the relevant parts of the link into your answer? We ask this to help the OP out, so they will not have to search through information that may not pertain to them. This is also to preserve the relevant information in case the hosting site goes down. For more information, see this meta post. – Cfinley Apr 21 '15 at 15:18

If this is software, please explain to us how to use the software in a way that answers OP's question. – Cfinley Apr 21 '15 at 15:20

unfortunately, this also isn't able to hide a window's taskbar icon without minimizing it. – Albin Jul 25 '18 at 21:34

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Cookie Policy, Privacy Policy, and our Terms of Service.