

Power Desk 7 Professional By Bart Koslow

I have been using Power Desk for many years, long before Avanquest bought the company that originally produced it. Essentially, Power Desk is a greatly enhanced Windows Explorer type program that manages files, digital photos, MP3 music files, and images. It can copy, move, label, convert, zip, color code, search, view, encrypt and prioritize files, and much more.

When you open Power Desk, it looks like Windows Explorer with a folder pane on the left and a detailed file pane to the right, and it works in a similar manner, but don't be fooled. Once you look more carefully, the resemblance quickly ends. You can do all the basic file management things, dragging and dropping files, moving, copying etc. similar to Windows Explorer. However, in Power Desk you may show two pairs of tree and file panes, left and right or top and bottom. These pairs may easily be switched, which is convenient when you are transferring files from one pair to the other. I like to go left to right on transfers. You may also add additional Windows with tree and file panes, and work between Windows, which I have never done. I forgot to mention you can customize the font size, type and even the language used, which is something I did to help my poor eyes on my 22" monitor. There is a favorites menu that permits you to add links to all the programs and folders you often use to quickly access them.

More advanced file management features allow you to email selected files and to UUEncode and decode email attachments. I selected a file to email which was then brought on screen as an attachment to an email in my email program ready to send. If you are security minded you may encrypt and decrypt files and completely wipe ones deleted from your hard disk. You may also quickly associate file types with programs, and may customize your recycle bin. Power Desk can perform disk operations like formatting drives, etc. and networking operations like mapping network drives, etc. and more other file management functions than there is room to describe here.

I was surprised to find a full FTP program in Power Desk. After a little struggle I managed to add my Verizon FTP site and easily connected to it and to the sub-directory where I keep my images. Here is where the two pairs of file and folder panes came in handy, one showing my computer and the other showing the Verizon site. I wanted my computer on the left and Verizon site on the right, so I switched the pairs of file and folder panes to instantly accomplish this. Now all I had to do was drag and drop files and folders from one site to the other. Nothing to it!

I frequently used the Power Desk file and folder finder which is much superior to the one in Windows Explorer. I just learned that if you are on a network, it will also find computers on the network. I have set the Power Desk Archive program as my default and use it frequently to create and open zip and other archived file

formats which compress files into archives. I have never used the file synchronizing program, but with dual and multiple panes provided in Power Desk, it should be easy to use.

Power Desk has a powerful image file viewer that I really like. Just click on the image file and oops – there it is! If you prefer you may use the View Pane instead, which will enable you to convert images into many different file formats. You may also work with Audio MP3 files: Create and edit playlists, play MP3 files, add track tags and more. In the past I have looked at the Size Manager, which shows you sizes of all drives, folders and files, but have never found it too useful. Power Desk has customization options to control many features. New to me is the Layout Manager. Set up all your customizations for a particular use, name it and save it in the Layout Manager. On click brings up your layout in the future. Nice.

I downloaded my copy of Power Desk so I have no written manual. The manual included on the disk is excellent, except for its description of “Dialog Helper” which I could never figure out how to use. I assume that if you buy the retail copy there will be a printed manual. Avanquest usually has well written, complete manuals based on my experience with their other products. Incidentally, if you buy a copy of System Suite or Fix It Utilities, you will receive a copy of Power Desk 7 Standard as a bonus on the CD. The standard version has many of the features of the Professional version. Power Desk Professional is available from Avanquest at \$39.95, and at other sites online for ten dollars less.

If you need a great file manager, look no further than Power Desk. I love this program. I use it every day. The latest version is even better.

Avanquest North America Inc., 23801 Calabasas Rd, Calabassas, CA 91302
818-591-9600

Requirements: Pentium or better, 40MB disk space, 32MB RAM.

Support: Visit the online Technical Help Desk and get expert help with your software product via free [frequently asked questions/e-mail support](#).
www.avanquest.com www.powerdesk.com

For phone support use the following number: **Phone:** 818.591.6245 **Hours:** Mon-Fri 7:00AM - 5:00PM PST