

LIBRA & WINDOWS

While Libra is still fundamentally a DOS based program, it works quite well with most versions of Windows with some exceptions. To augment this even further there is an optional Windows System Manager that can provide further compatibility, but the program remains essentially the same in either case.

Libra will work out of the box with any Windows 32 bit version. This includes Windows XP and Windows 7 Professional edition - 32 bit. It will not run natively under Windows 64 bit editions but if you have Windows 7 Professional you can download a free product from Microsoft called Windows XP Mode that can be configured to run Libra.

Windows XP Mode can be thought of as running Windows XP as a Windows 7 application in a window. It takes about 15-20 seconds to fire up, but once it does, it emulates Windows XP exactly and virtually any program that runs on XP will run in XP Mode. Since this is what Microsoft has deemed a “Virtual Machine” any and all configuration steps you would do on an XP machine will need to be done to the XP virtual computer as well, including installing printers.

Microsoft limits licensing of XP Mode to Windows 7 Professional and Ultimate editions. As an alternative, there is a third party software product called VM Ware that should be able to run Libra on 64 bit Home Editions but we have not tried to set it up as of yet.

When it comes to File Servers the 32 bit rule does not apply and Libra can reside on just about any File Server including Novell Netware, Windows 2000, 2003, 2008, 2012 and even Linux or Unix Servers. You only actually require 32 bit mode to run Libra on the computer in question and this is limited to the Workstation, not the Server since Libra has no actual File Server specific components.

LIBRA WINDOWS TIPS

While many users still run Libra in “Full Screen” I prefer to run Libra in a window. To do this you just need to alter the properties of the Libra Icon from Full Screen to Window on the Options tab. At the same time you do this you need to change some other parameters or Libra may end up rather small within that window. Click on the Layout tab making sure the width and height parameters are both set to 80 x 25. Uncheck the “let system position window” box and set the left and top positions to 1. Then go to the Font Tab and change the font to Lucida Console and increase the point size so Libra more or less fills the Window Preview screen. Once you ok the properties you can launch Libra to see what you think.

You can toggle between Windows and Full Screen Modes by pressing <ALT> <ENTER>. Running Libra in a Window has a variety of advantages. In general the fonts are a lot clearer running in Windows Mode. You can minimize the Window to check your e-mail for example. You can also even do some simple copying and pasting of data to and from Libra.

To copy data from a Libra Window click on the icon in the upper left corner of the window and select Edit & Mark. Then using your mouse create a block around the data you want to copy and press Enter. Right Click in a Windows Application and select Paste to transfer the data from Libra. This can be a single line or an entire screen of data. Similarly you can copy data to a Libra field by doing a standard block copy, then in Libra position the cursor and click in the upper left icon and select Edit & Paste to copy the data.

Copying Libra as a picture can be achieved by selecting the Libra Window and pressing <ALT> <Print Screen>. Then in another application, like Word, you can right click and paste the picture of the Libra screen as part of an instruction manual and add you own text.