

Recent History of PC Certify

Development of PC Certify began in 1988. The product has evolved through code additions from diagnostic technology dating to 1982, user interface enhancements, remote communication capability, self-booting capability, networking capability, and countless enhancements to keep abreast of technology. The design specification would consume volumes, and the history alone deserves its own book. We will not write a book here, however. This paper provides an abbreviated history of the *recent* changes made to PC Certify over time.

V 3.55.3 (1/25/2003)

1. Added Multiprocessor support.
 - a. Detects multiprocessor systems.
 - b. Command line parameter "CPU:n". For multiprocessor systems, this selects the CPU to run from.
 - c. Config screen shows the number of processors in the system.
 - d. Snapshot shows the number of processors in the system.
 - e. CPU (System board) tests will test all processors in a multiprocessor system.
2. Enhanced the Memory Tests
 - a. Made memory tests more efficient.
 - b. Improved speed and error detection.
3. Added USB tests.
 - a. Quick test
 - b. Initialization test
 - c. Reset test
 - d. Halt test

V 3.55.2 (11/15/2002)

1. Version number now has a third digit. It is hard coded in the software. It tells the products code-build version. It displays anywhere the version is shown including the build version that displays if you try to run an .EXE other than Certify.
2. Fixed bug where loading certain batch test files would kill the UI.
3. CPU MHz is now rounded to the nearest 100. 1699MHz is now 1700Mhz.
4. When running possibly destructive tests from a batch test file, it is no longer necessary to enter "CONTINUE"
5. Fixed weird error messages that happened during device detection (IDE nomem, before VID, etc). This happens because the detector runs out of memory at an unpredictable spot. On systems that are running a "piggy" DOS it may still happen but very rarely
6. Fixed readme command line parameter.
7. Fixed Snapshot report not showing USB information.
8. Fixed Snapshot report not showing NIC information.

9. Fixed Snapshot report saving user-entered information when the report settings were saved.
10. Added new PCI detection window during Snapshot's device detection (It just looks better).
11. Added Header line and footer line to Snapshot report that shows what program generated the report. The information comes from the Application Long and Short names controlled by Produtil.
12. Created new Eval version capability that displays an evaluation message at startup and every five minutes, and give user access to some features without really executing them. Eval versions disable report printing, saving/restoring CMOS, saving batch test files, and refreshing, formatting, refurbishing, or security erasing the drives.

V 3.55 (3/12/2002)

1. Corrected bugs in WINMINFO and WINXINFO that caused hard drive problems under Windows.
2. Fixed Copy Protection in SETUP program.
3. Removed MCA (POS Adapter) info and library.
4. Revised structure of PCI database and added to it and CPU database.
5. Removed all remote communication features and dropped Controller and Remote from product line.
6. Removed all NetBIOS and IPX network info, and replaced it with PCI network adapter info.
7. Allowed F4 to toggle active ports only in I/O port display list.
8. Revised help and coaches accordingly

V 3.54 (10/12/2001)

1. Repaired structural problems in 3.53
2. Added WINXINFO.VXD to get hard drive info reliably under Windows.
3. Removed obsolete machine library (*.mli or *.mil file) from Config / other devices menu.
4. Repaired bug that kept from making backup copies
5. Added ability to put help files on second disk (PC Certify requests it if help files not on first disk).

V 3.53 (9/20/2001)

1. Added feature to let snapshot report use a .SET file in which user sets parameters specifying which information goes into report, and user-definable headers and footers.
2. Changed Snapshot rating table to let user select cpu type.
3. Added Log feature to let user elect whether to rewrite or add to the log.

4. Added new batch test settings feature to let user cause snapshot report to be put into the log when batch testing.
5. Added WINMINFO.EXE to gather accurate memory size and hard drive serial numbers if Windows is running.
6. Updated Help files.

V 3.52 (5/7/2001)

1. Fixed virtual memory manager to use extended memory so compressed databases can be accessed even when no hard drive is in the system.
2. Improved accuracy of video board memory discovery for new video boards.
3. Repaired SMBIOS display in configuration menu.
4. Updated CPU database.

V 3.51 (3/15/0)

1. Changed Menu system for Pro, Standard, and User versions so Standard now gets snapshot report, but User does not, and user has no utilities.
2. Corrected bugs in virtual memory manager.
3. Simplified the backup procedure.

V 3.50 (2/15/0)

1. Fixed Drive tests for extended disk access when drives are larger than 1023 cylinders. Fixed drive tests for non-standard BIOS support for extended disk access.
2. Added support for Large Block Address (LBA) mode drive tests in drive tests and utilities
3. Fixed LBA access bugs in all hard drive utilities.
4. Fixed Config screen and Fixed Disk Information screen to correctly display LBA drive sizes and to calculate LBA partition sizes.
5. Improved the speed performance of the Fixed disk tests for reading and writing tracks.
6. Fixed batch test time limit bug.
7. Made it possible to view databases when there is no hard drive and no memory managers are loaded.
8. Disks can now be backed-up when there is no hard drive and no memory managers are loaded.
9. Products can now be activated when there is no hard drive and no memory managers are loaded.
10. Snapshot report now includes information about PCI and Plug-n-Play devices. Memory detection and testing are improved.

V 3.50 (11/15/99)

1. Repaired bug in hard drive utilities that prevented accessing the full size of the drive.

V 3.50(10/10/99)

1. Repaired bug in hard drive size detection to support early version of large drive BIOS extensions.
2. Fixed bug that prevented activation under Win 98.
3. Made it possible to activate an upgrade (e.g. from user to pro).
4. Made preauthorized activation code work.
5. Made summary log report summary if tests prematurely terminated.
6. Fixed bug that prevented help text from printing.
7. Made it possible to write protect the disk.
8. Made it possible to run multiple PC Certifypppppp from server at same time.

V 3.50 (8/18/99)

1. Changed Fixed Disks Information to show LBA mode drives and LBA sectors.
2. Improved performance in Hard Drive Utilities.
3. Added test summary report for Batch testing (Burn-in).
4. Improved L2 cache detection and testing.
5. Improved the speed performance of memory tests.
6. Improved the Snapshot report for CPU rating and drive reporting.
7. Moved the Computer type library and POS (MCA) adapter library to the Config / Other devices menu.
8. Changed all database edits so that they can be used even if the computer doesn't support that type of device.
9. Fixed bug in the Log tips.
10. Fixed PCI device report to display all PCI devices.
11. Fixed bugs in help text search routines that caused search to skip certain words.