How does the TRACE32 autostart mechanism work?

2026-08-13 - Comments (0) - TRACE32 PowerView

When the TRACE32 application starts, certain PRACTICE scripts are executed automatically.

Autostart (Build 99519 and Later – August 2018)

Starting with build 99519, TRACE32 uses the following autostart sequence:

1. TRACE32 first runs `autostart.cmm` from the TRACE32 system directory (e.g. `C:\T32`).

2. `autostart.cmm` then executes:

- `system-settings.cmm` (TRACE32 system directory)
- `user-settings.cmm` (user settings directory: `%APPDATA%\TRACE32` on Windows or `~/.trace32` on other systems)
- `work-settings.cmm` (current working directory)

3. Finally, TRACE32 executes any script specified on the command line (or in T32Start).

If `autostart.cmm` is missing, TRACE32 reverts to the old mechanism and executes `t32.cmm` (unless a start script is specified on the command line or in T32Start).

Important Notes

- `autostart.cmm` is provided by Lauterbach and should not be modified. It will be overwritten during software updates.
- Custom settings should be placed in `system-settings.cmm`, `user-settings.cmm`, or `work-settings.cmm`, which remain untouched by updates.

Autostart (Build 99518 and Earlier)

In builds prior to 99519, TRACE32 executed only one script at startup:

- If a start script is specified on the command line (or in T32Start), only that script runs (and `t32.cmm` is ignored).
- If no script is specified, TRACE32 executes `t32.cmm` from the current working directory.
- If no script is found there, TRACE32 executes `t32.cmm` from the system directory (`C:\T32`).

Update (August 2017):

Lauterbach shipped a variant of `t32.cmm` that could also start `system-settings.cmm`, `user-settings.cmm`,

and `work-settings.cmm` if those files existed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I switch back to the old autostart mechanism?

A: Although the new mechanism is recommended, you can emulate the old behavior by editing `system-settings.cmm` in the TRACE32 system directory (`C:\T32` on Windows). Add the following PRACTICE code at the top:

```
IF
(VERSION.BUILD()>=99519.)&&(PRACTICE.CALLER.FILE(1)==OS.FILE.ABSPATH("~~/autostart.cmm
"))
(
    PRIVATE &cmm &param
    ENTRY  %LINE &param
    BookMark.RESet // Clear all bookmarks loaded via AutoSTOre in autostart.cmm
    HISTory.SIZE 10. // Clear command history loaded via AutoSTOre in autostart.cmm
    IF VERSION.ENVironment(STARTUP)!=""
      &cmm=VERSION.ENVironment(STARTUP)
    ELSE IF OS.FILE.readable("./t32.cmm")
      &cmm="./t32.cmm"
    ELSE IF OS.FILE.readable("~~/t32.cmm")
      &cmm="~~/t32.cmm"
    IF "&cmm"!=""
      RUN "&cmm" &param
    END
)
```

Q: How can I just remove that dialog, which tells me that t32.cmm is no longer started automatically?

A: Move your custom settings from `t32.cmm` into `system-settings.cmm`, `user-settings.cmm`, or `work-settings.cmm`. Then delete or rename `t32.cmm`.

Q: How can I suppress the automatic execution of any PRACTICE script?

A: Use the command-line option `--t32-safestart`. This prevents PowerView from executing any PRACTICE script at startup.