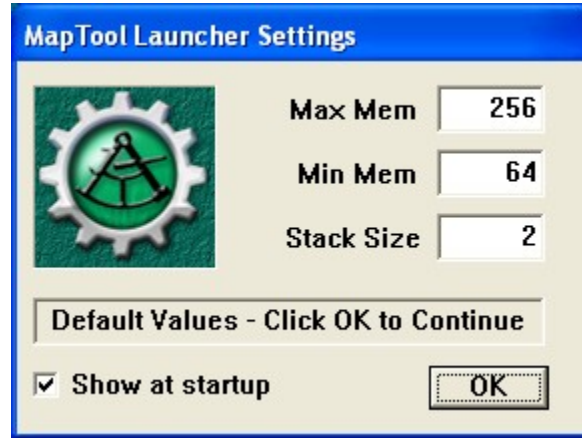# MapTool Launcher v1.0.1

Settings Dialog

With the MapTool Launcher, Windows users of MapTool can use a GUI to set various parameters for the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) environment that MapTool runs within.

Screenshot 1: Settings Dialog

JVM Options

When started, the Settings Dialog will be shown unless this feature is disabled via the checkbox in the bottom left of the dialog. There are three JVM options that may be set via the Settings Dialog. All options are specified in megabytes.

> **Max Mem –** Set this to the maximum amount of memory the JVM can allocate and thus MapTool will have available for use. MapTool requires that you set the maximum to at least 256 MB to start. In 32-bit environments the maximum value that can be set will be approximately 1536 MB though it may be slightly less. Setting this to more than half of the physical memory size is not recommended. The default is 256.

> **Min Mem** – Set this to the minimum amount of memory the JVM should allocate at startup. This should be set to *no more than* the **Max Mem** number and generally should be set to a lower value. The default is 64.

> **Stack Size** – Use this to give the executing threads of MapTool more stack space. Larger values are generally only needed when employing very complicated macros with nested loops. The default is 2.

Setting these options to values larger than actually required by MapTool to run will not result in increased performance and may actually decrease performance if extreme values are entered.

Startup Option

The Launcher defaults to showing the Settings Dialog upon startup. An option is provided to change this behavior.

> **Show at Startup** – Uncheck this option to prevent the Settings Dialog from being shown on subsequent startups.

Configuration File

All options are saved to a configuration file located in the same directory when you click on the OK button. This file is named "**mt.cfg**". Deleting this file will cause the Launcher to display the Settings Dialog again when you start it.

The configuration file is a simple text file with the options listed one per line.

```
MAXMEM=256
MINMEM=64
STACKSIZE=2
JVM=javaw
PROMPT=true
```

The MAXMEM, MINMEM, and STACKSIZE options are the same as those presented in Settings Dialog as described previously.

The PROMPT option in the configuration file reflects the state of the *Show at startup* checkbox the last time the Settings Dialog was shown. Change this to "false" by editing the configuration file or by un-checking the option on the Settings Dialog.

The JVM option can only be changed by editing the configuration file. Setting JVM to "java" will cause a command prompt window to remain open when MapTool is launched. This is useful when debugging problems as it will allow you to see any error messages that may be generated while MapTool is running.

Additional JVM options may be added to the end of the line as would be used when starting a Java application from a command line. For example:

```
JVM=javaw -Duser.language=ES -Duser.region=MX
```

This would start MapTool with the language set to Spanish and locale to Mexico. This method can only be employed if there already exists translation files for the desired language.

If you make changes to the configuration file and MapTool no longer starts, delete (or rename) the file and the Launcher will recreate the file with the defaults.

Configuring Shortcuts for the MapTool Launcher

The MapToolLauncher program must be located in the same folder as the MapTool jar file (e.g. maptool-1.3.b50.jar) but you can create shortcuts to it that can sit on your desktop or the QuickLaunch panel in the Windows Taskbar. You can also add optional arguments in the shortcuts to increase the allocated memory size and enable the the command prompt window to see any error outputs.

Creating a Shortcut on the Desktop

There are several methods to create shortcuts to programs in Windows. One way is to hold down the Alt key and then right-click-drag from the MapToolLauncher icon to your desktop. This will create a shortcut that looks like *Screenshot 2*. Once placed on the desktop the shortcut can be renamed in the normal manner.

Screenshot 2: Shortcut on desktop.

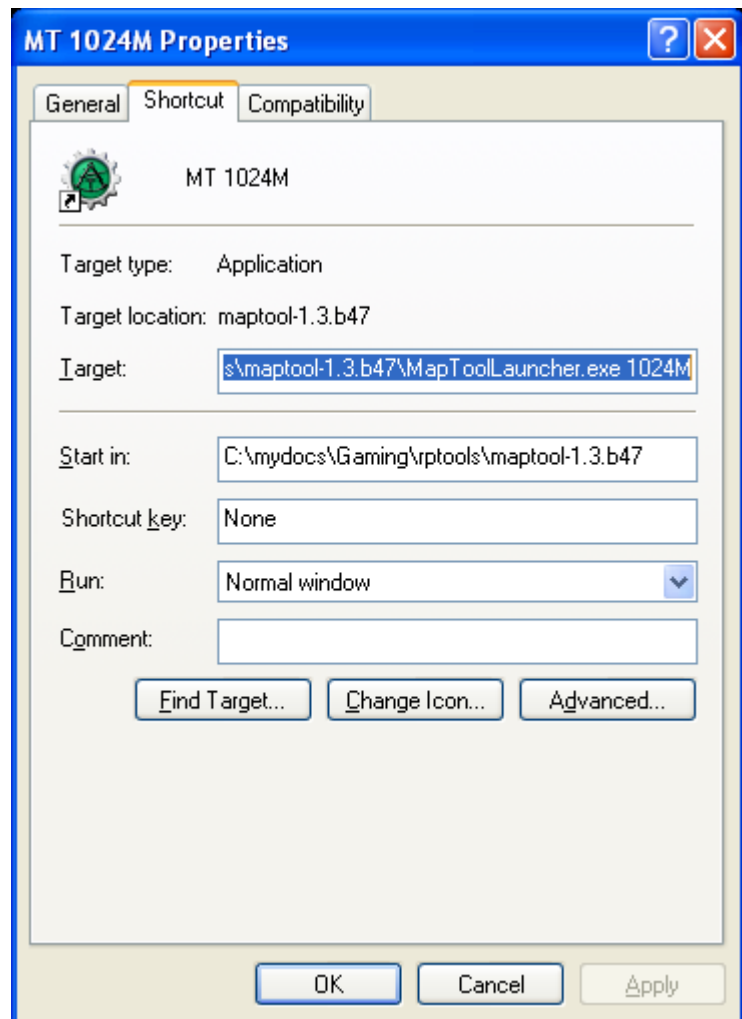### *Increasing Memory Allocation in the Shortcut*

Right-click on the shortcut and select Properties from the pop-up menu that appears. The Properties dialog will open with the Shortcut tab active as shown in *Screenshot 3*. To start MapTool with 1024 MB for the Java Virtual Machine (JVM), locate the Target text field in the Properties dialog then add a space and **1024M** to the end of the line. This can also be seen in *Screenshot 3*. The memory argument takes the same form as is used by the -Xmx Java command line option.

Enabling Debug Output

Enabling debug output is done in the same manner. Simply add a space and the word **debug** to the end of the Target line. Note that you must have both a memory allocation size and the word **debug** for this to work.

Requirements

The MapToolLauncher relies upon a correct and working Java installation. This means that the Java executables must be in the System path. The launcher works in the same manner as the batch files included in the MapTool zip files. If those work then the launcher will work.

Screenshot 3: Properties