

**FRONTDOOR**  
**Route file optimizer**  
**U s e r   G u i d e**

# **FRONTDOOR**

Route file optimizer

User Guide

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## About this document

When using the PDF viewer from Adobe, Acrobat Reader, this document is best viewed in 1024x768 (or higher) resolution. We realize that not everyone has access to hardware capable of such resolutions and apologize if the document appears hard to read on some displays.

The *bookmarks* window (typically displayed to the left of the *document* window) can be closed to gain some display space for the document window. Furthermore, the View options Fit page and Fit width can be used to change the display of the document. We also recommend experimentation with the various display settings in the reader, in particular the Smooth text and monochrome images option (located under File.Preferences.General in the English language version of the reader).

One, perhaps not so obvious, feature in the Acrobat Reader is the ability to jump "back" after having followed a link. To jump back, hold down the **CTRL** key and press - (minus).

## Legal notice

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FDROPT may be used without charge by anyone that is running a registered copy of the shareware version of FrontDoor, or the commercial version of FrontDoor.

FDROPT may also be used during the 30-day trial/evaluation period of the shareware version of FrontDoor. After this period, FrontDoor must be registered if you want to continue using this program (or FrontDoor).

## What is FDROPT?

FDROPT is a utility that simplifies the managing of complex FrontDoor mailer, "FD" hereafter, route files (ROUTE\*.FD).

What it does:

- It "optimizes" your ROUTE.FD file; i.e. makes it smaller, which will decrease the time FD needs to process the netmail folder. This is particularly an advantage with versions of FD prior to 2.25, since 2.25 and later uses a compiled route file.
- It verifies ROUTE.FD, and will let you know if it finds any errors.
- For multiline users, it makes it possible to have one route file for all lines, since it is possible to include task-specific sections in the FDROPT route file. This makes it easier to maintain your routing.
- It adds macro capabilities; i.e. you can define macros and use them instead of node numbers, flags, or anything else.
- It adds support for ? in node numbers. A ? will be expanded to all digits (0-9).
- For FD version 2.25 and later, FDROPT makes it possible to use region and hub routing. Just specify a region or hub number, and FDROPT will expand it to all nets in the region, or nodes that belongs to the hub.
- If you also are using the program Mail2Dir, FDROPT can create the route file that Mail2Dir uses.
- All these things put together will hopefully make your routing life easier.

 *The term FD 2.25+ in this document refers to version 2.25 and above of FD.*

## Requirements

FDROPT requires the following to run:

- FD version 2.11 or later
- The environment variable FD pointing to the directory where SETUP.FD is located, or SETUP.FD in the current directory
- For multiline users, the environment variable TASK containing the task number.

## Operating system versions

FDROPT comes in three different versions, one version for DOS, another one for OS/2 2.x and Warp, and one for Win32 (Windows 95 and NT) console mode. This document uses the name FDROPT.EXE to refer to all of these versions; the actual filenames are:

DOS	FDROPT.EXE
OS/2	FDROPT2.EXE
Win32	FDROPW32.EXE

If you are using the OS/2 or Win32 version, please replace any references to FDROPT.EXE with the correct name above.

## 2. PROGRAM USAGE

### Installation

To install FDROPT, just copy the FDROPT.EXE file to a directory, and then create the source routing file, which should be named ROUTE.FDR (note the trailing **R**). This file should either be located in FD's SYSTEM directory, as specified in SETUP.FD, in the current directory, or in the same directory as the FDROPT.EXE file.

If you only have one ROUTE.FD file, just rename it to ROUTE.FDR. It is not necessary to do anything else, but you might want to edit it to take advantage of some of the extra features that FDROPT provides, such as region- and hub-routing, macros, etc.

If you have more than one ROUTE\*.FD file (e.g. ROUTE1.FD, ROUTE2.FD, etc.), you have to decide which one of your ROUTE\*.FD files that should be the original source file. Rename that file to ROUTE.FDR. You can then modify this file so that it contains the specific routing commands for the other ROUTE\*.FD files as well. You can of course also use any of the other extra features that FDROPT provides. See "The ROUTE.FDR file" below for more information.

### Command line format

When the ROUTE.FDR file has been created, all you have to do to create the ROUTE\*.FD that FD uses is to run FDROPT.

If you are running a multiline system, you can either run FDROPT in each task and let it create the ROUTE\*.FD file for the current task, or you can specify the task numbers FDROPT should process on the command line. For instance, the command:

```
FDROPT 1 2 3
```

This example would process task 1, 2 and 3, and create the files ROUTE1.FD, ROUTE2.FD and ROUTE3.FD.

### Optimized ROUTE\*.FD file

The ROUTE\*.FD file that FDROPT creates is optimized to minimize the time that is required for FD to process it. When optimizing the file, FDROPT uses the following techniques:

- All comments and blank lines are removed.
- Commands that do not have to be in a specific order are rearranged, so that the same commands are located directly after each other.
- If two consecutive lines contain the same routing command, and the command does not have a routing target as a parameter (i.e. only a list of nodes), the list of nodes on the second line are appended to the first line.
- By default, FDROPT writes as much data on each line as FD allows (which is 253 characters).

## 3. THE ROUTE.FDR FILE

The ROUTE.FDR file that FDROPT uses is a standard ROUTE.FD file, with a few additions:

- ❑ There are a few FDROPT commands that can be added. All FDROPT commands begin with a # character. See below for information about these commands.
- ❑ Macros can be used anywhere in the ROUTE.FDR file. A macro is defined using the FDROPT command **#macro**.
- ❑ ? characters can be used in addresses. Each address that contains a ? character will be replaced with 10 addresses where the ? character has been replaced with a digit 0-9. For instance, **2:20?/\*** would expand to **2:200/\* 2:201/\* 2:202/\* 2:203/\* 2:204/\* 2:205/\* 2:206/\* 2:207/\* 2:208/\* 2:209/\***. If two ? characters are used in the same address, e.g. **2:2??/\***, the address will be replaced with all 100 possible addresses between **2:200/\*** and **2:299/\***.

The additions above are available with all versions of FD; the ones below are only available with FD 2.25+.

- ❑ Regions, nets and hubs can be expanded using information from the nodelist. See "Region, net and hub expansion" below for information on how to use this.

There is one thing in ROUTE.FD that FD 2.20c and earlier versions support, which is not supported by FDROPT, and this is the use of the keywords **MYPOINTS**, **MYNET**, and **MYZONE**. Since these macros do not work very well when being a member of multiple networks, they are not supported. If something similar is required, it is possible to define macros that can behave like these. (Please note that the **\$[MYPOINTS]** macro supported by FD 2.25+ is fully supported).

### FDROPT commands

The FDROPT commands that can be used in the ROUTE.FDR file are:

#### #macro NAME TEXT

Defines a macro, which can be referred to in ROUTE.FDR.

#### NAME

This is the name of the macro to define. The macro can then be used in the ROUTE.FDR file, and will be translated to **TEXT**.

#### TEXT

Contains what **NAME** should be translated to.

#### Notes

A macro can be used anywhere in the ROUTE.FDR file after the point where it was defined. To use it, just specify **\$[NAME]** (replace **NAME** with the macro name).

## #addmacro NAME TEXT

Adds more text to an already defined macro (which should have been defined with **#macro**, see above). For example:

```
#macro      POINT 2:201/329.1
#addmacro   POINT 2:201/329.11
```

This would result in **POINT** containing "2:201/329.1 2:201/329.11".

## #task TASK [TASK [TASK [...]]]

Defines a section of ROUTE.FDR that should only be included for certain tasks.

## TASK

The number of the task, which should have the following lines included. To return to normal mode, i.e. include lines for all tasks, enter a **0** for TASK. More than one TASK number can be specified, with a space between each number; e.g. **#task 1 2 3**.

## Notes

If this command is used, FDROPT will create ROUTE%TASK%.FD files, instead of the normal ROUTE.FD file.

## #expandaddress

Instructs FDROPT that it should expand all short form addresses that follows in the ROUTE.FDR file.

This setting is the default for FD 2.25+; it has to be specifically enabled (by using **#expandaddress**) for previous versions of FD.

FDROPT will expand short form addresses using the same method as FD 2.25+. When an address is expanded, any missing parts are taken from the previous address specified in ROUTE.FDR. Versions prior to FD 2.25 took any missing parts from the main address instead of the previous address in the route file. Since most users assume that short form addresses are expanded using the previous address in the route file, it is recommended that this command be used.

 *Only addresses processed after the line containing this command will be expanded, i.e. it should be placed near the beginning of the ROUTE.FDR file.*

## #noexpandaddress

The opposite to the above. If used, FDROPT will leave all short-form addresses as they are specified in the ROUTE.FDR file.

## #noexpandnodelist

When FDROPT is used with FD 2.25+, it does region expansion (**ZZ:RR/region**), net expansion (**ZZ:NN/net**) and hub expansion (**ZZ:NN/HH/hub**) by default (see below).

If this is not the desired behavior, the **#noexpandnodelist** command should be placed somewhere near the beginning of the ROUTE.FDR file.

## #linelength LENGTH

FDROPT writes lines that are up to 253 characters long by default, which is the maximum line length that FD supports.

If you use this command, FDROPT will limit the maximum length of a line to the number that you specify.

## LENGTH

The maximum line length allowed. Valid values are any number between 40 and 253.

## #mail2dir [TASK]

The program Mail2Dir can use a route file similar to FD's route file when it is used. FDROPT does not create this file (ROUTE.M2D) by default. However, if you use this command in the ROUTE.FDR file, the ROUTE.M2D file will be created.

 *Only a subset of all of the routing commands that FD understands is supported by Mail2Dir. FDROPT knows which commands it does support, and will only include them. For more information, see the Mail2Dir documentation.*

## TASK

If you specify the optional parameter TASK on the **#mail2dir** line, the ROUTE.M2D file will only be created when FDROPT creates the routing file for the specified task, containing the same routing commands as the ROUTE\*.FD file contains.

## Region, net and hub expansion

When FDROPT is used with FD 2.25+, it is able to do region, net and hub expansion when processing the ROUTE.FDR file. Regions are expanded to all nets in the region, and nets and hubs can be expanded to a list of nodes.

To do this expansion, FDROPT uses the nodelist as defined in SETUP.FD.

 *If you use region, net or hub expansion, you probably need to run FDROPT to update the information each time the nodelist have been updated.*

## Region expansion

Regions can be specified, and FDROPT will expand a region to all nets that exist in the region. To specify a region, use the format:

```
ZZ:RR/r or ZZ:RR/region
```

where **ZZ** is the zone number, **RR** the region number, and **r** and **region** the literal text r and region.

For instance, to specify region 20 in zone 2, use

2:20/r or 2:20/region

FDROPT will expand this to a list of nets that exists in the region, for instance:

2:20/\* 2:200/\* 2:201/\* 2:203/\* 2:204/\* 2:205/\* 2:206/\*

## Net expansion

Nets can be specified, and FDROPT will expand a net to all nodes that exist in the net. To specify a net, use the format:

ZZ:NN/n or ZZ:NN/net

where **ZZ** is the zone number, **NN** the net number, and **n** and **net** the literal text n and net.

For instance, to specify net 201 in zone 2, use

2:201/n or 2:201/net.

FDROPT will expand this to a list of all nodes that exist in the net.

 Please note that you actually get the same functionality from using **2:201/\*** in the route file. This expansion mostly exists for completeness.

## Hub expansion

Hubs can be specified, and FDROPT will expand it to all nodes that belong to the specified hub. To specify a net, use the format:

ZZ:NN/HH/h or ZZ:NN/HH/hub

where **ZZ** is the zone number, **NN** is the net number, **HH** is the node number of the hub, and **h** and **hub** the literal text h and hub.

For instance, to specify all nodes under the hub 2:201/100, use

2:201/100/hub

FDROPT will expand this to a list of all nodes that belong to the hub, for instance:

2:201/103 2:201/111 2:201/116 2:201/125 2:201/128

# Appendix A: VERSION HISTORY

## FDROPT 2.00

### New features:

Added OS/2 and Win32 versions of the program.

Added support for FrontDoor 2.25+.

Added possibility to specify which tasks that should be processed on the command line. (See "Command line format" above).

Added region, net and hub expansion. (See "Region, net and hub expansion" above).

Added FDROPT command `#linelength`. (See "`#linelength LENGTH`" above).

Added FDROPT command `#mail2dir`. (See "`#mail2dir [TASK]`" above).

### Changes:

All macros should now be specified as `$(MACRO)` instead of the old format `%[MACRO]`, to be more compatible with FD's way of writing this.

### Bug fixes:

Route-Files should be treated the same way as all other routing commands, and never be moved to a block of its own, as it has been in earlier versions.

Fixed incorrect error message when `SETUP.FD` was not found.

## FDROPT 1.01

### New features:

Added FDROPT command `#addmacro`. (See "`#addmacro NAME TEXT`" above).

### Changes:

FDROPT will now search for the `ROUTE.FDR` file in the current directory. If it is not found there, it searches the directory where `FDROPT.EXE` is located, and if not find there either, it searches FrontDoor's system directory.

## FDROPT 1.00

Initial version

## Appendix B: CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please refer to our website (above) for additional information such as the FrontDoor Developer's Kit (FDDEV), the *FrontDoor Frequently Asked Questions* (FDFAQ) document, and more.

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