BMPreVIEW

1   Overview

1.1   Introduction

BMPreVIEW is a fast, compact FREEWARE large BMP-image previewer for *Windows* with an easy to use interface and a nice features that are zooming, contrast adjustments, and more.

With BMPreVIEW you can quickly preview large BMP image files. Image files are displayed in miniature (thumbnails). This lets you keep an overview of the images available at the same time as letting you quickly view and select specific images. BMPreVIEW automatically fit large image to the window size.

BMPreVIEW can be run without installation. An additional features is that BMPreVIEW is available on all Windows operating systems.

1.2   LICENSE

BMPreVIEW is FREEWARE without any limitation. PROGRAM IS DISTRIBUTED "AS IS". NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND IS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.

1.3   Features

Main features of BMPreVIEW:

- works without installation
- memory saving thumbnail-like image previewing algorithm
- creates thumbnails of image files with the fastest speed
- antialiasing for quality preview
- manual and automatic contrast enhancement filters
- selected region zooming
- save to file and copy to clipboard operations
- drag & drop support
- simple hotkeys, keyboard shortcuts for all operations
- input file name command line parameter
- shows information of image files

1.4   System Requirements

The Minimum System Requirements are:

- Microsoft Windows 95 OSR2 (98, Me, NT, 2000, XP and Vista are Supported)
- 100 MHz processor
- 1 MB available hard disk space
- 8 MB of RAM (for 1024x768 pix display)
- SuperVGA HiColor compatible display adapter and monitor
- keyboard, mouse or other pointing device

1.5   Supported File Formats

There is the only one format supported by the current version of BMPreVIEW - *uncompressed Windows Bitmap* 1, 8, 24 bits (2, 256, 16M color images), loading of RLE8 or RLE4 compressed bitmaps is not currently supported.

1.6   Installation

Installation of BMPreVIEW can be done in two different ways. Using the Setup program or ZIP Archive:

BMPreVIEW installation files

We recommend using the Setup program as this is simple to use and allows for easy installation and deinstallation.

1.6.1   For the Experienced Computer User

Download BMPreVIEW, and unzip the files into a directory of your choice. Create a shortcut to the program in the *Windows start menu*, or place an icon on your *Windows desktop* that can be double clicked to start the BMPreVIEW.

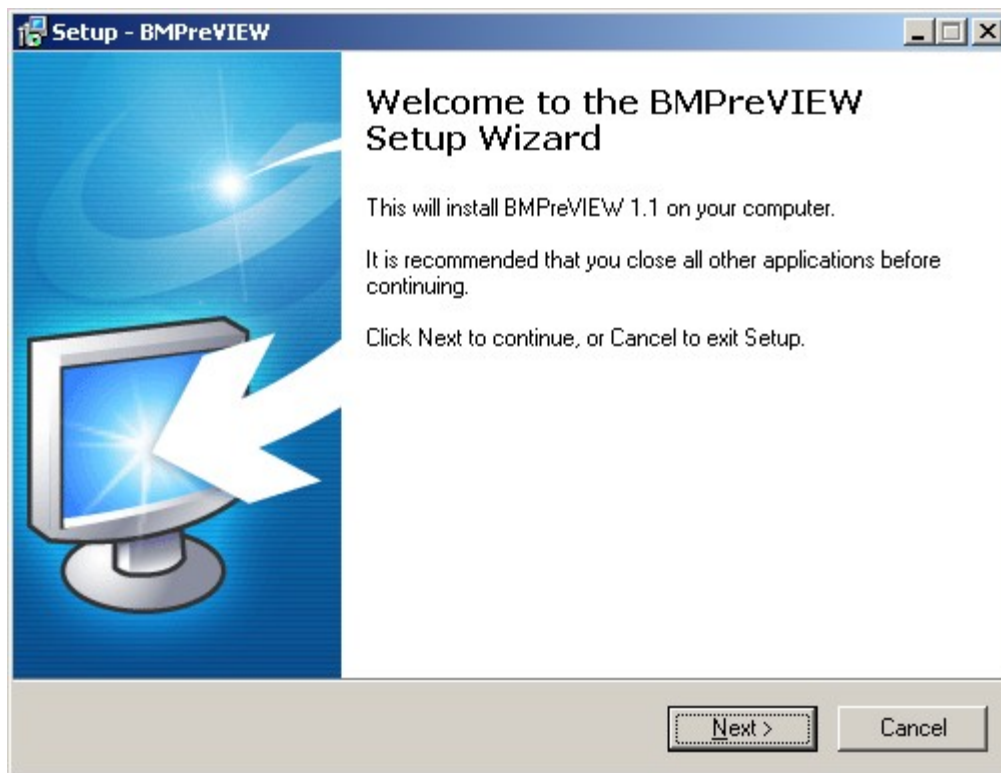You can also add BMPreVIEW to *Send-to Menu*:
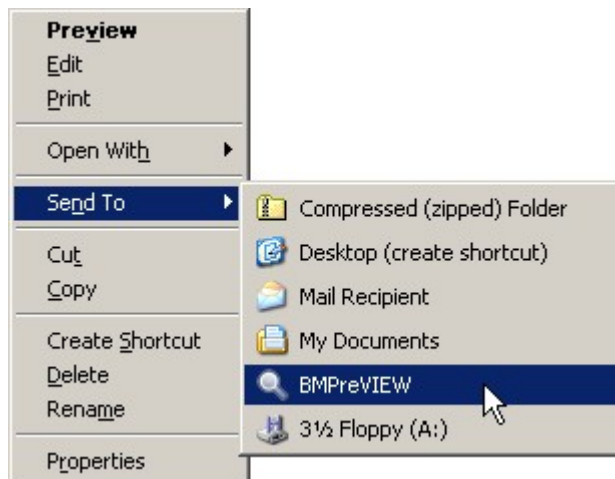
Windows XP Send-to Menu

Unzipped, the archive contains file `bmpreview.exe` the program that makes BMPreVIEW work:
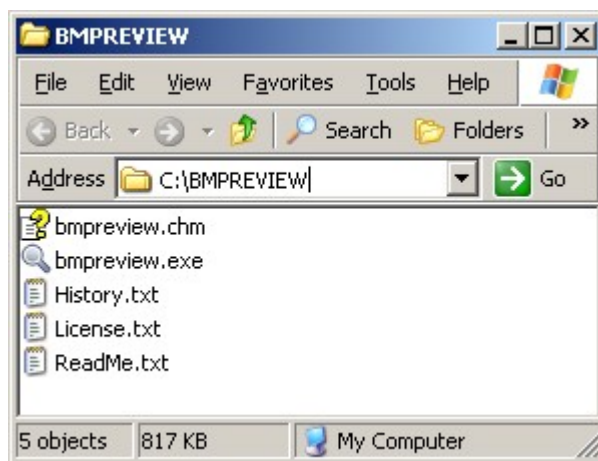
**ZIP Archive contents**

1.6.2   For the Less-experienced Computer User

Download a self-install copy of BMPreVIEW and start the **Setup program** by double-clicking on the file:

Setup Welcome Screen

Setup program contains **ReadMe** file that describes the BMPreVIEW, and gives information about the author, history of versions of the program and outlines some advanced features:
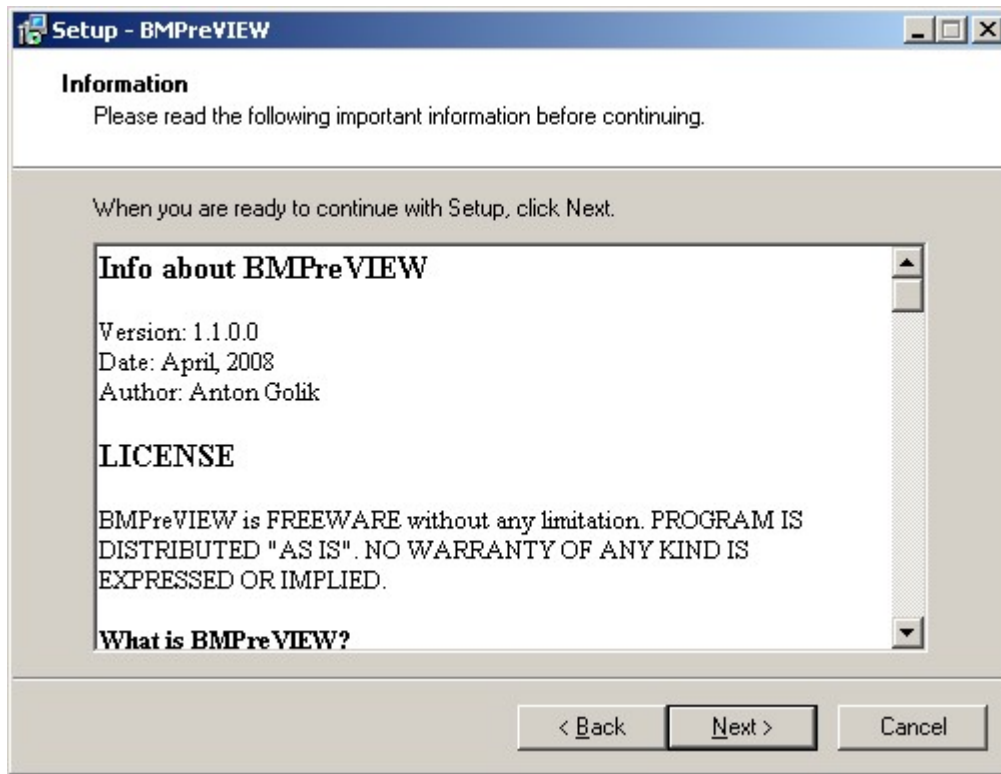
Setup ReadMe Screen

Follow the on-screen instructions of the Setup program.

1.7   Update

If you already installed a version of BMPreVIEW, and you want to replace this version with a new one, then you perform an update. Update requires you the uninstall the old version and then install the new in the same directory.
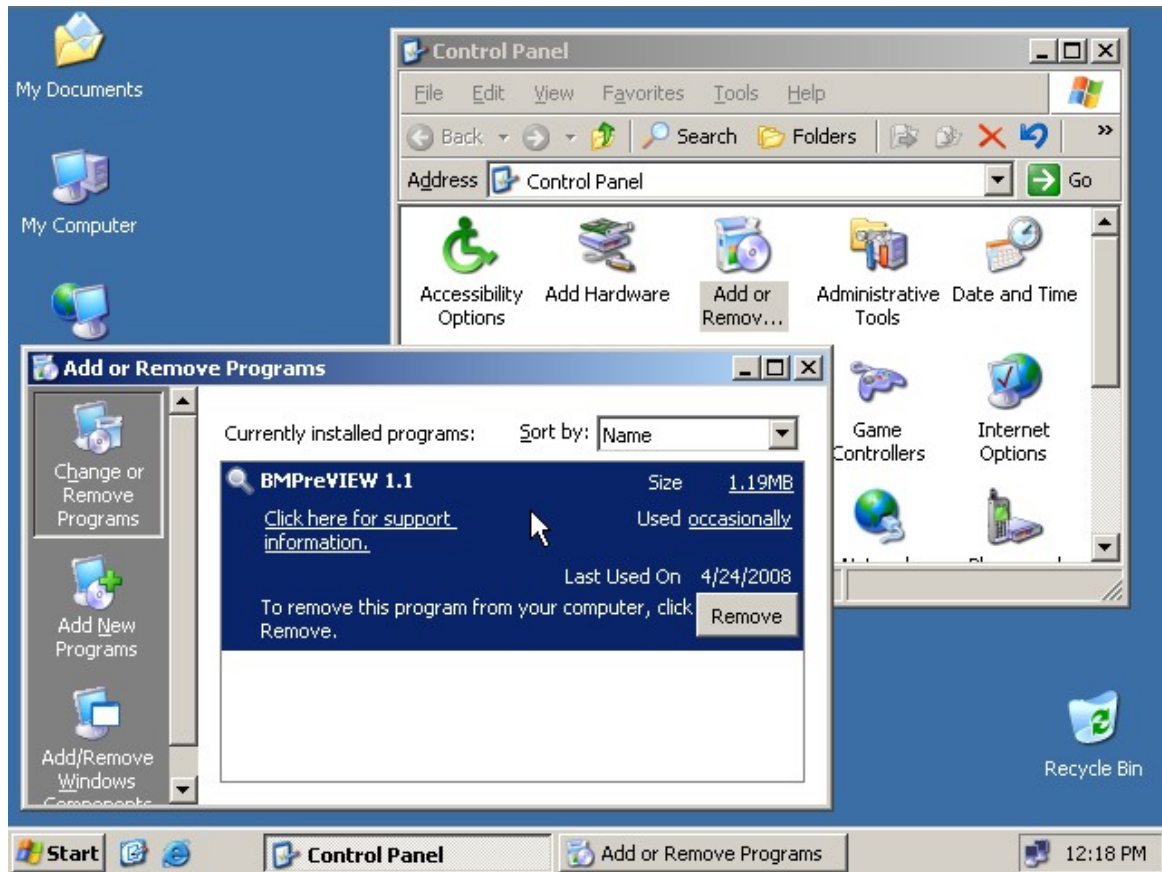
1.8   Uninstall

To uninstall BMPreVIEW after it has been installed using the Setup Program go to **Start →
Programs → Fototest → BMPreVIEW** and click **Uninstall BMPreVIEW**:
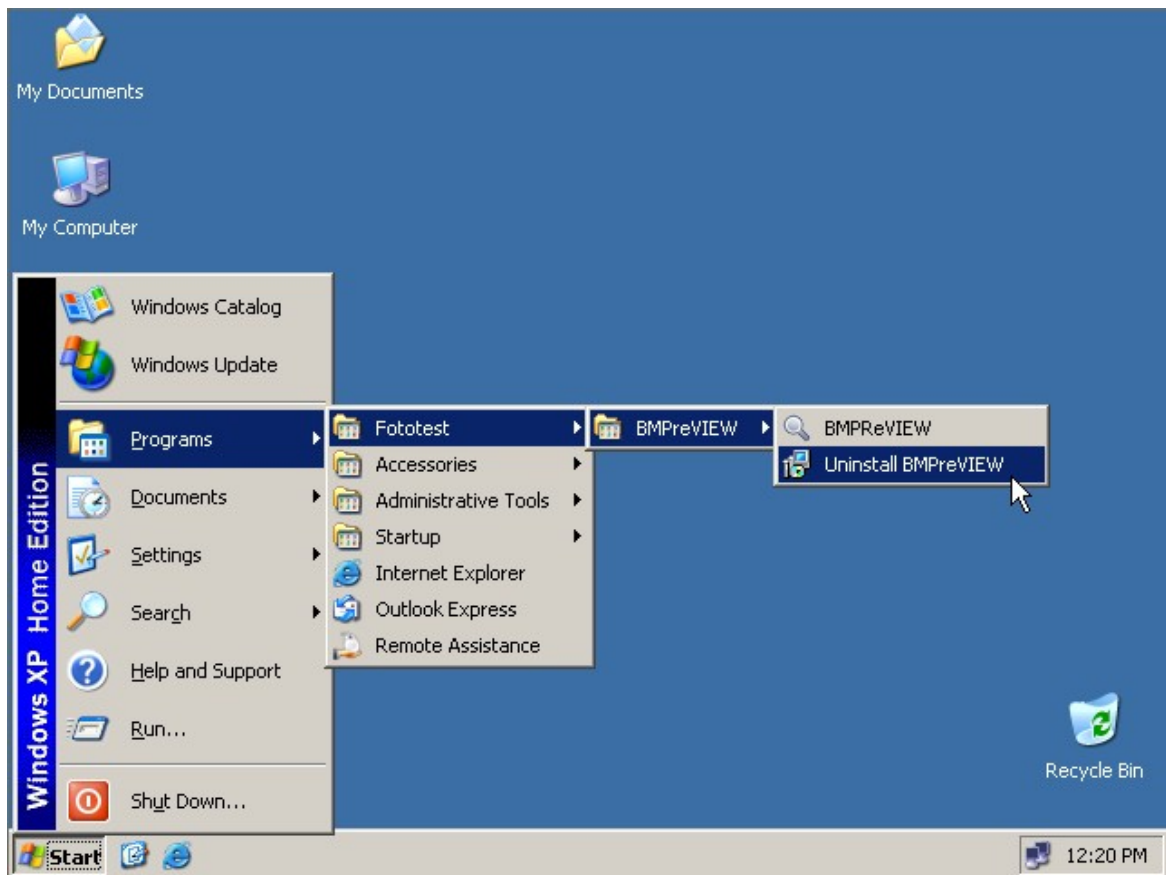
Link to Uninstall

or see in **Start → Settings → Control Panel → Add/Remove Programs**:

BMPreVIEW in Add/Remove list

All program files, directories and registry entries on your computer will be removed by uninstaller automatically.

To uninstall BMPreVIEW after it has been installed using the ZIP Archive delete the program directory and the files contained. Also delete the application properties stored in registry key `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Fototest\BMPreView`.

1.9   Command Line

Command line options allow you to set input file name before the BMPreVIEW is launched, for example `bmpreview.exe "C:\My Documents\My Pictures\Image.bmp"`.

1.10   Getting Started

Open BMPreVIEW by clicking it's icon on the *Windows Start Menu* or double clicking the icon on your desktop. The following picture shows the main window that is displayed when BMPreVIEW is started:
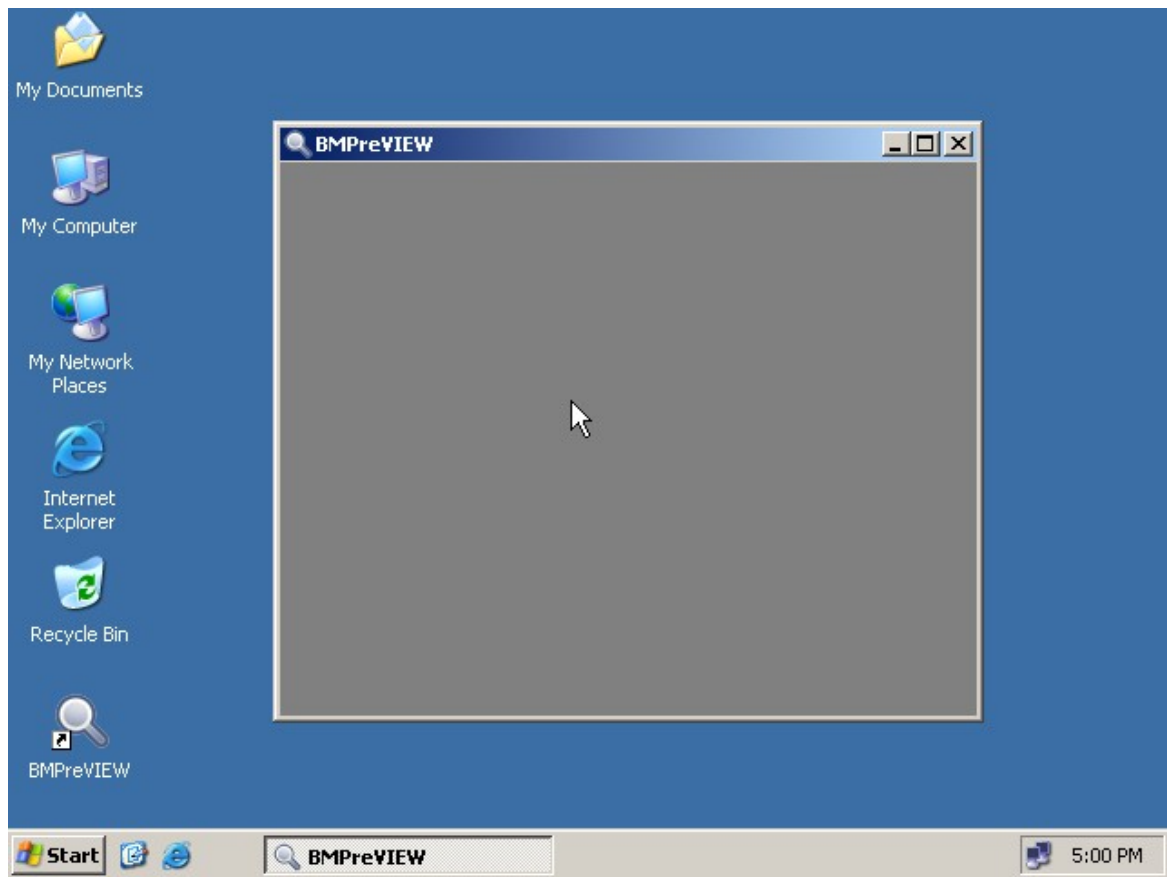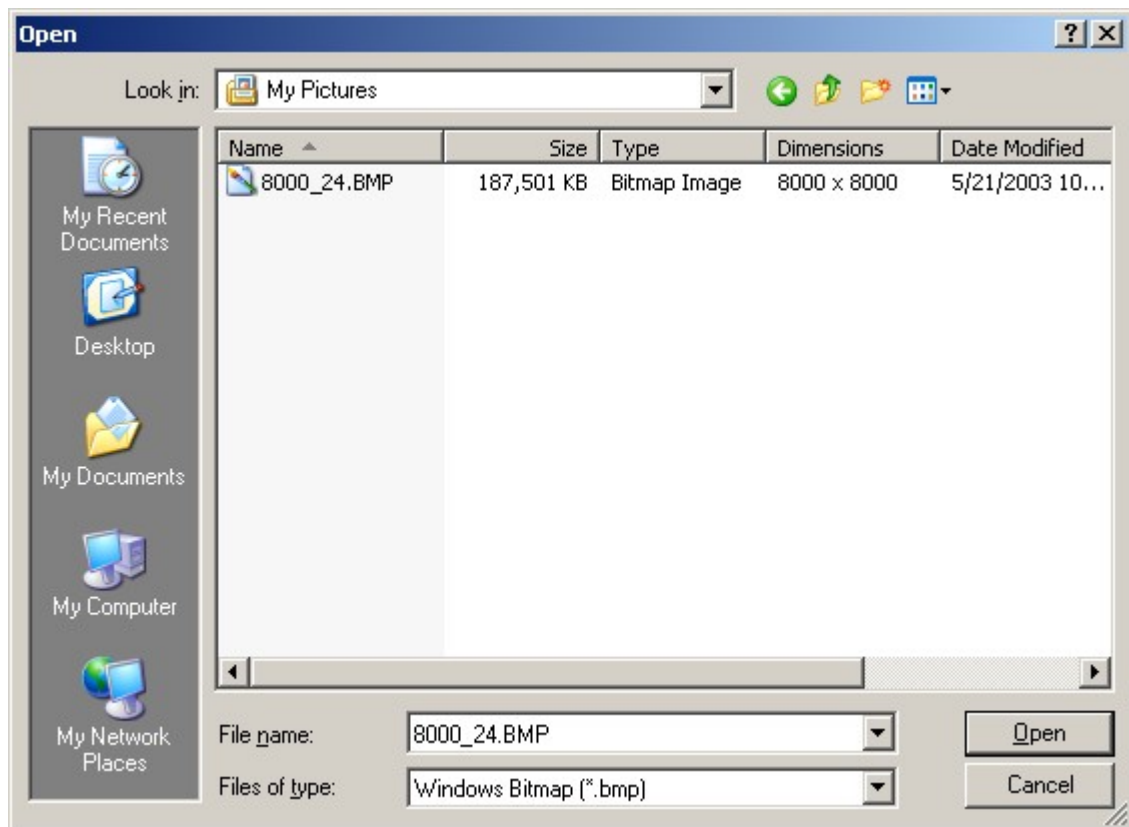
BMPreVIEW is started

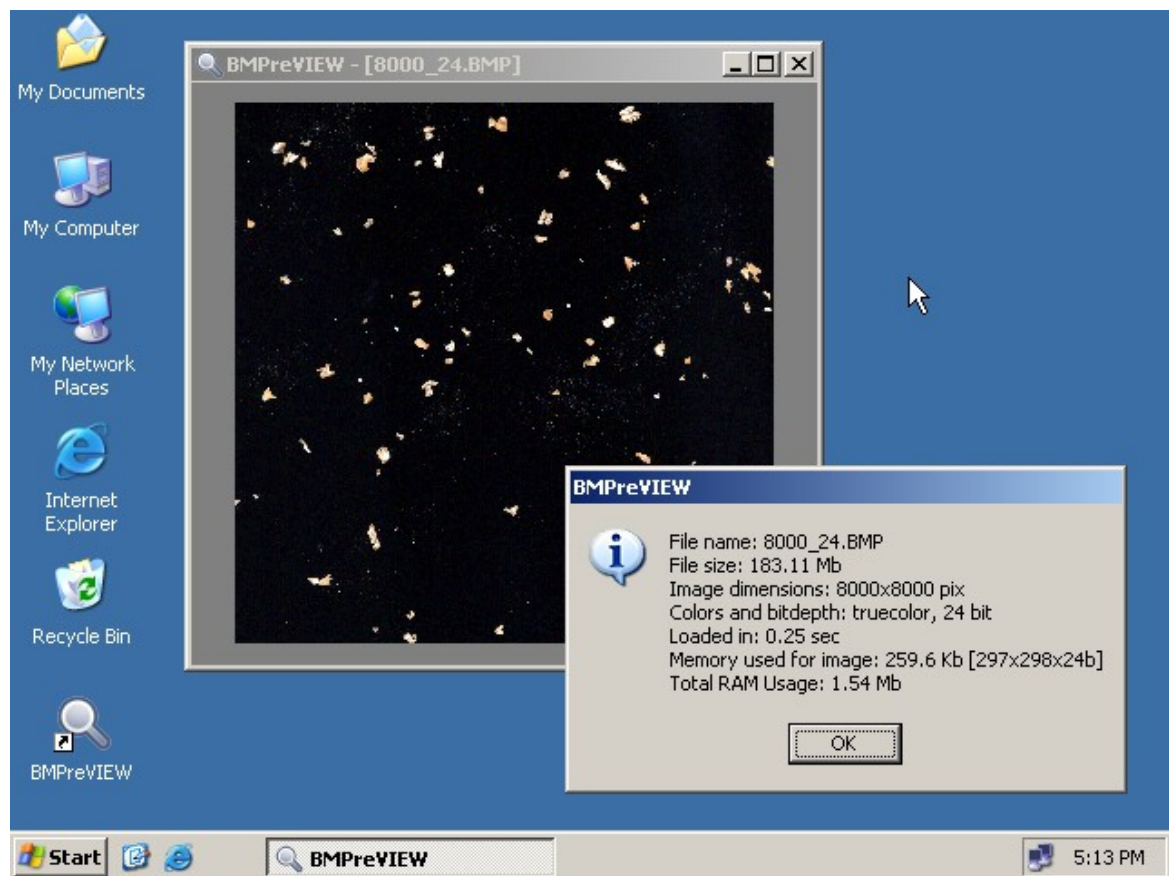The right mouse button used to show the context popup menu:
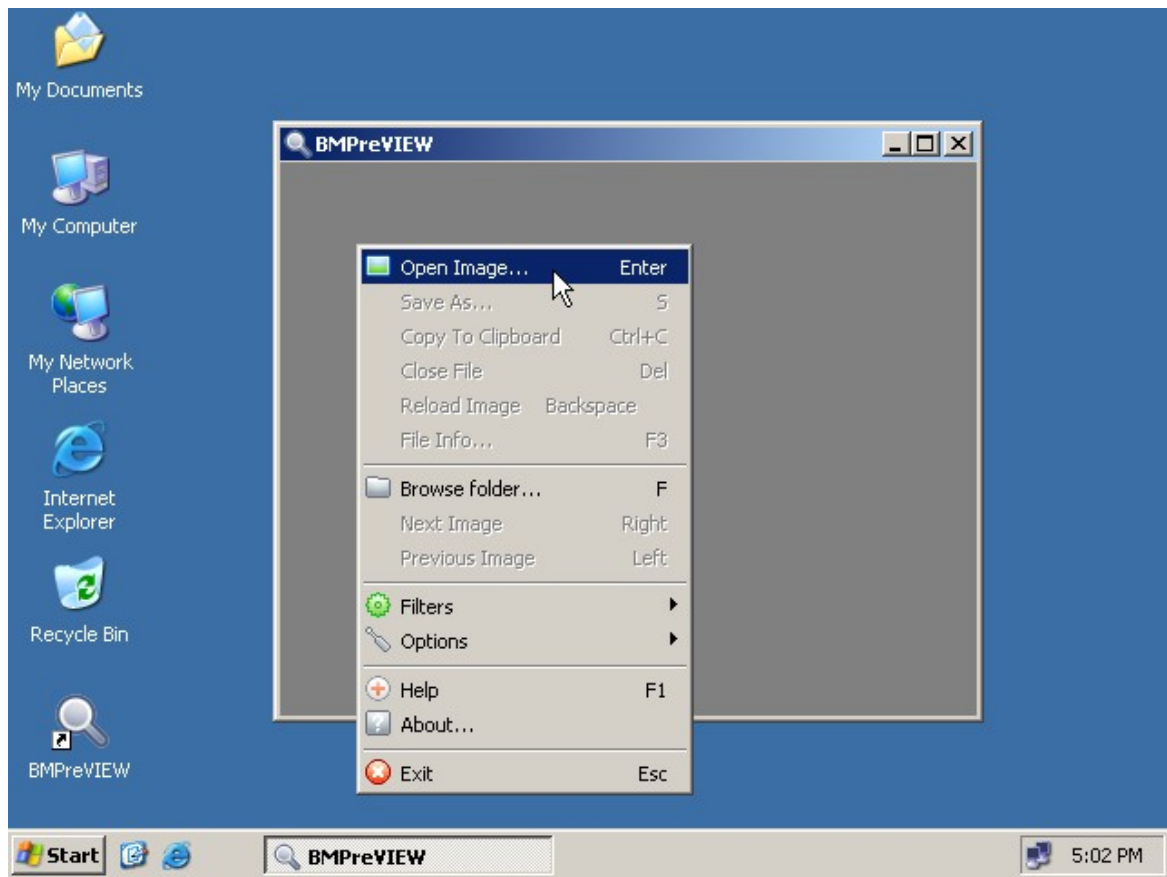
Context popup menu

Right click on the main window, then select ▢**Open Image…** option in the menu to get a file for use in the previewer. A dialog box will allow you to select the file you want:

Open dialog

After the opening, you will see small resized version of image or you will get an error message, if the file type is unsupported by BMPreVIEW. The image will be resized to fit the window. Resizing the window lets you control the size and quality of the preview. The following image shows the main window with an open image:

BMPreVIEW with opened image

With an image in the viewer, you can manipulate it in some ways. Functions for changing an image are in the ⚙**Filters** submenu:
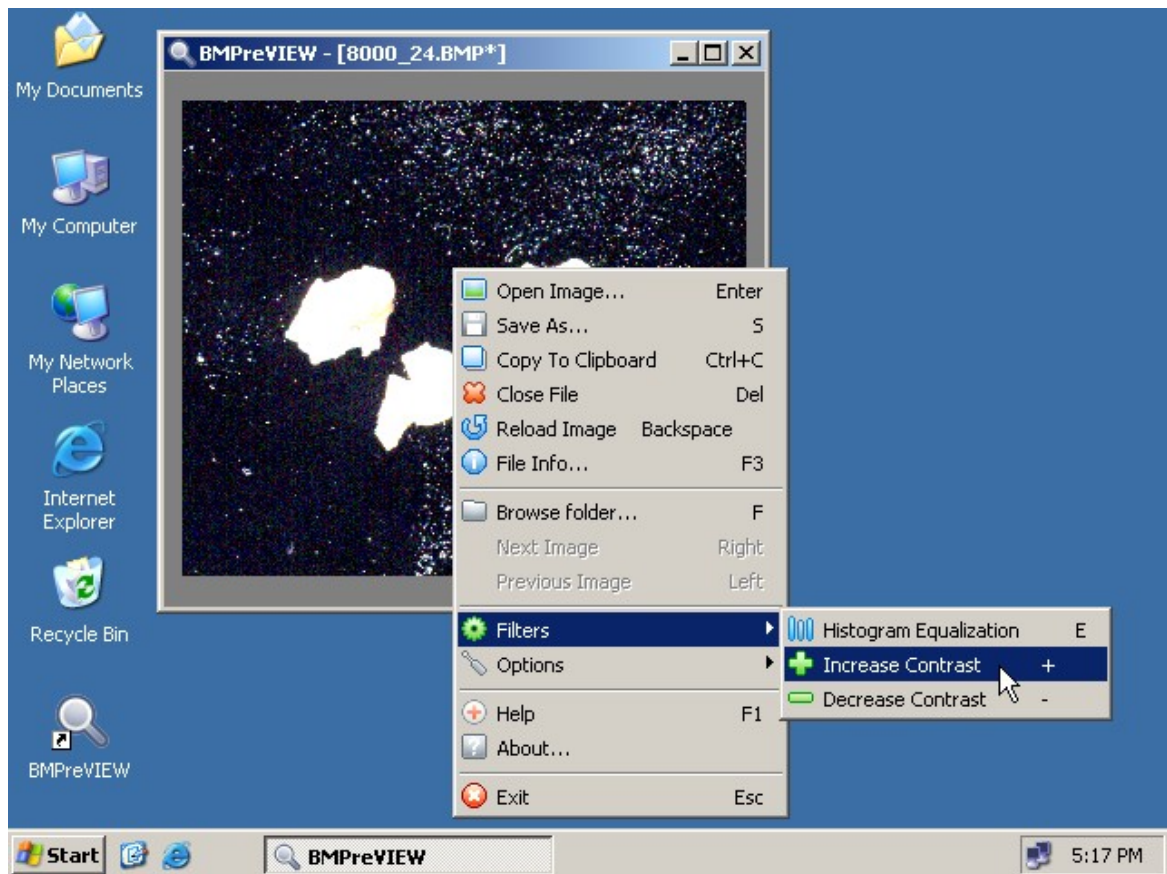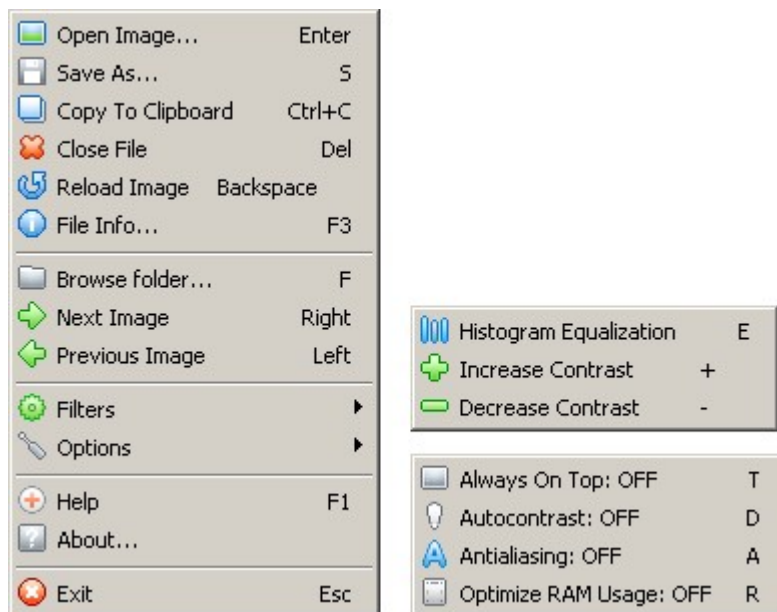
Filters submenu

When you are finished with the image, bring in another image, or ⊘**Exit** BMPreVIEW.

1.11 Menu

The context popup menu allows quick access to some of the most useful features of BMPreVIEW. There is an image of the menu here :
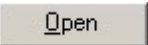
Open Image...	Enter	
Save As...	S	
Copy To Clipboard	Ctrl+C	
Close File	Del	
Reload Image	Backspace	
File Info...	F3	
Browse folder...	F	
Next Image	Right	
Previous Image	Left	
Filters	▶	
Options	▶	
Help	F1	
About...		
Exit	Esc	

Histogram Equalization	E	
Increase Contrast	+	
Decrease Contrast	-	

Always On Top: OFF	T	
Autocontrast: OFF	D	
Antialiasing: OFF	A	
Optimize RAM Usage: OFF	R	

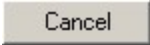**Main menu and submenus**

2   How to...

2.1   Open

Right click on the main window, then select ⬜**Open Image…** option in the menu (or use Enter key.) The **Open** dialog box will allow you to select the file you want:
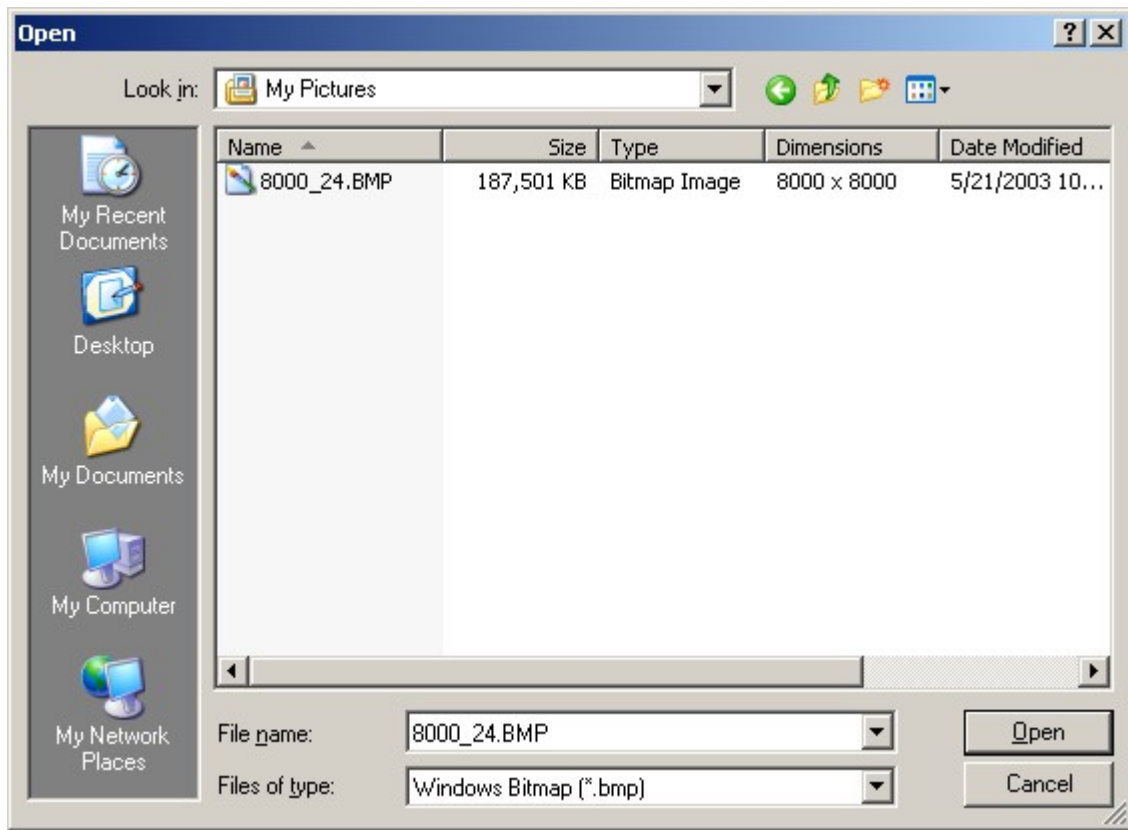
Open dialog

Locate the file you want, or type a file name into **File Name** text field. **Files of type** lets you limit your choice, showing only the type of file supported by BMPreVIEW (*Windows Bitmap*).

Single click on ⬚ Open button brings the file into the BMPreVIEW window. You can also double click the filename.

To close dialog without opening a file, click ⬚ Cancel button.

After the opening, you will see an image or you will get an error message, if the file type is unsupported by BMPreVIEW:

Error message box

User can open pictures using *Drag & Drop*:
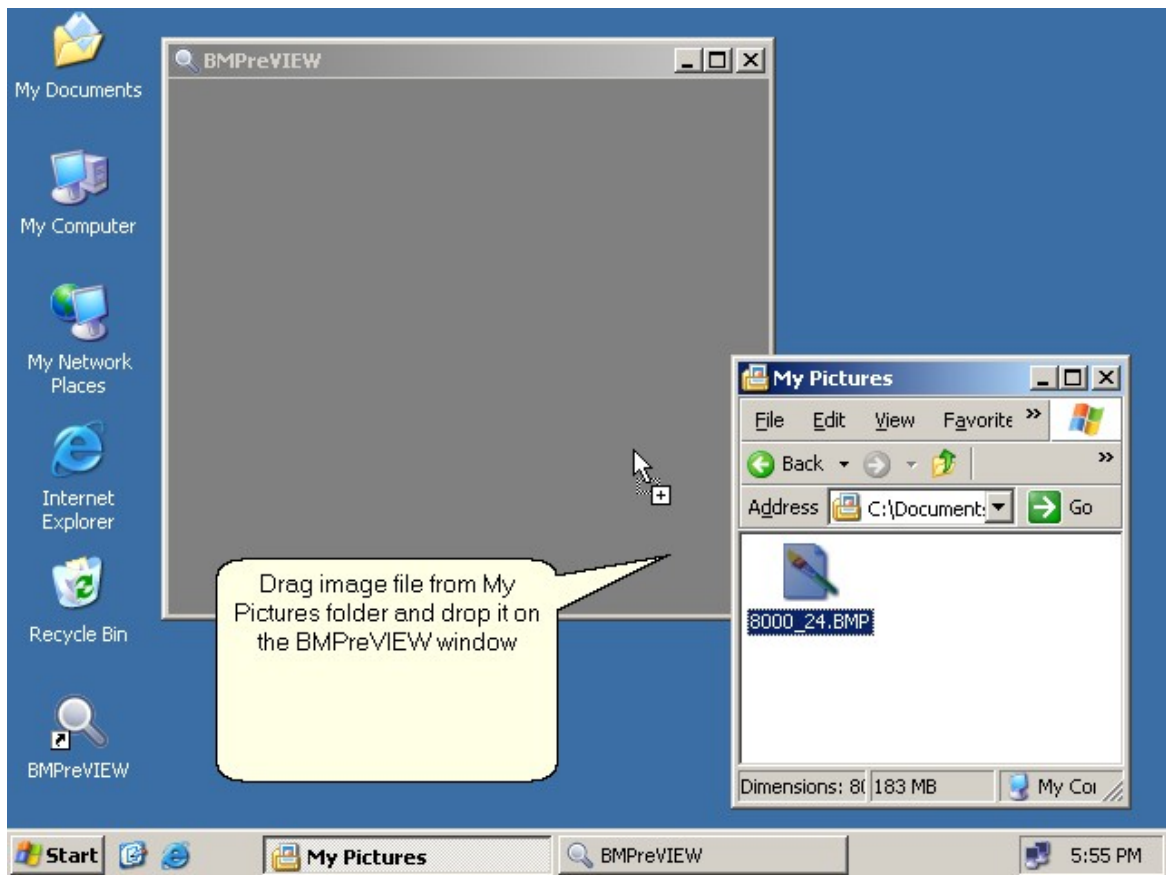
Drag & Drop

2.2 Reopen

Right click on the main window, then select **Reload Image** option in the menu (or use `Backspace` key) to bring in, again, the last file you opened.

2.3 Close

Right click on the main window, then select **Close Image** option in the menu (or use `Del` key) to remove the image from the BMPreVIEW. This does not affect the image stored on your disk drive.

2.4 Copy

Right click on the main window, then select ⬜**Copy To Clipboard** option in the menu (or use `Ctr +C` shortcut). The image in BMPreVIEW window (only resized preview, not entire image) will be placed on the *Windows Clipboard*, and may be pasted in elsewhere.
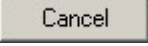
2.5 Save

Right click on the main window, then select ⬛**Save As…** option in the menu (or use `S` key.) The **Save** dialog box will allow you to find the directory where you want the file saved and specify the file name:
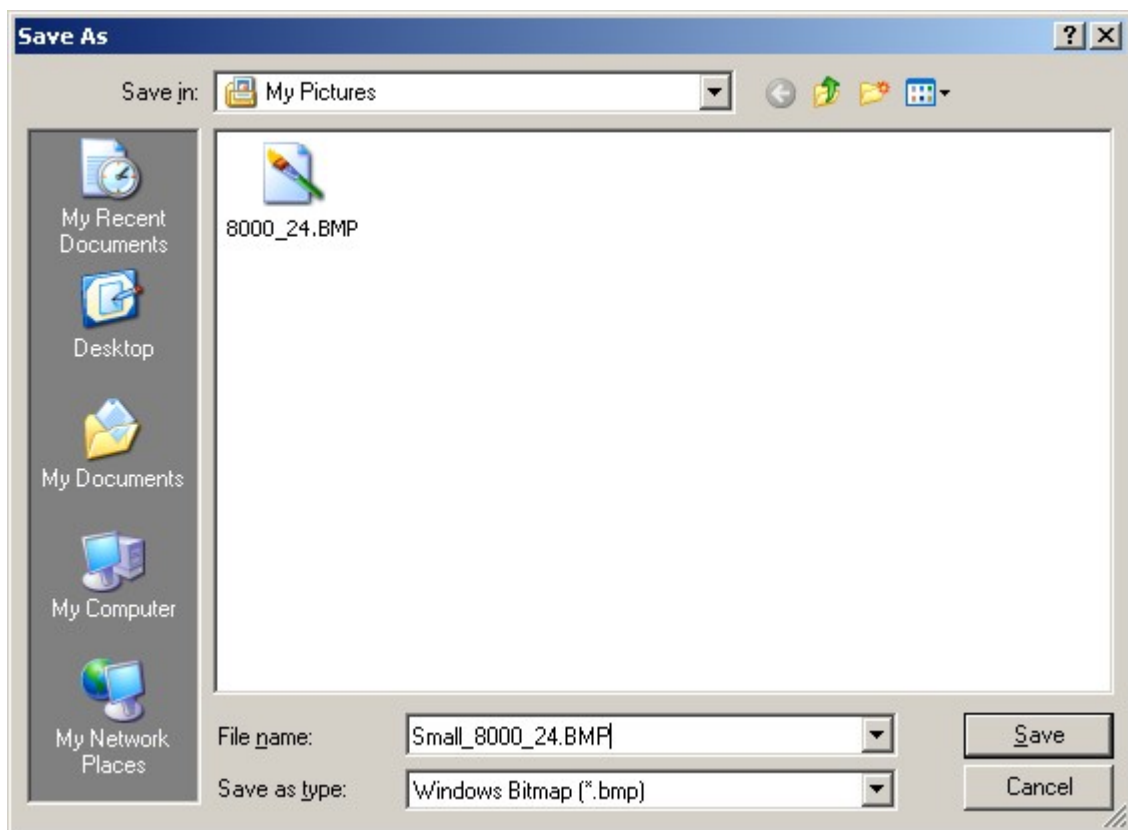
Save dialog

The image in BMPreVIEW window (only resized preview, not entire image) will be saved to file.

Click ⬚Save button to send the file to your disk drive.

To exit without saving, click ⬚Cancel button.

2.6   Exit

There are several ways to exit the program.

On the main window, press the `Esc` key on your keyboard. The program will close immediately. (If you're in the menu or dialog box, `Esc` key will back out of that window. Press it again to exit.)

Right click on the main window, and then select ⊗**Exit** option in the menu to close the BMPreVIEW. Click the ☒ box in the upper right corner of the program window. This will also close the program.

Note: BMPreVIEW doesn't ask if you are sure you want to exit - it closes right away. Be sure you've saved any work you want to keep.
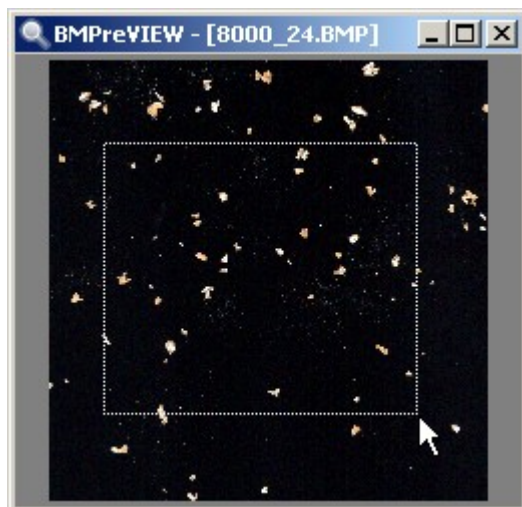
2.7   Enhance Contrast

Right click on the main window, then select ⚙**Filters** submenu, then ➕**Increase** or ➖**Decrease** contrast. You can also automatically adjust contrast by ▓**Histogram Equalization** method.

This actions can be reversed by the menu's ↻**Reload Image** command.

2.8   Zooming

Use the left mouse button to outline the area (selection):

Region selection

This action can be reversed by the menu's ↻**Reload Image** command.

2.9   View Files in Directory

With BMPreVIEW you can display all the BMP files in each directory. Use the `Space bar` or `Left arrow` key to move forward and `Right arrow` key to move backward through the files.

Note: when you reach the first/last of the images in a directory, BMPreVIEW don't notify if end/begin of directory is

reached.

To specify the directory right click on the main window, then select ▢**Browse Folder...** option in the menu (or use `F` key). The **Browse fo Folder** dialog box will allow you to select the directory you want:
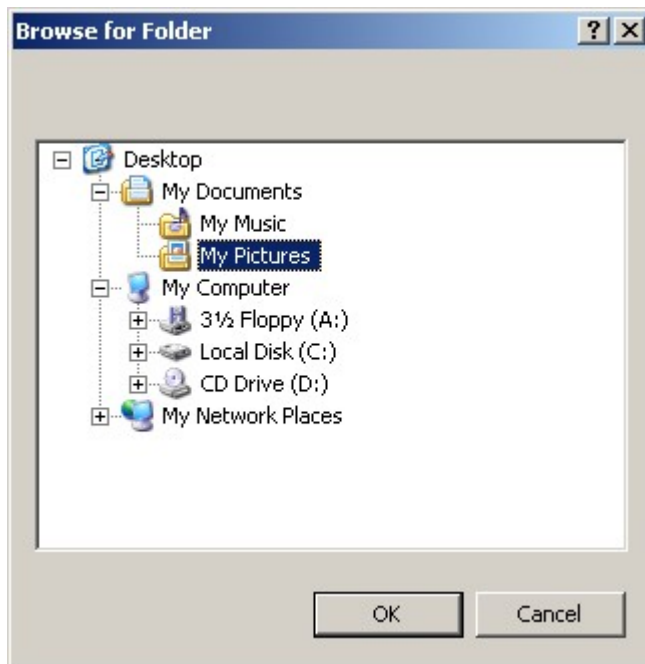
Browse for Folder dialog

2.9.1 Next File

Right click on the main window, then select ⇨**Next Image** option in the menu (or use `Right Arrow` key). The BMPreVIEW displays the next BMP file in current directory.

2.9.2 Previous File

Right click on the main window, then select ⇦**Previous Image** option in the menu (or use `Left Arrow` key). The BMPreVIEW displays the previous BMP file, in reverse sequence.

2.9.3 First File

Press `Home` key. The BMPreVIEW displays the first BMP file in the current directory.

2.9.4 Last File

Press `End` key. The BMPreVIEW displays the final BMP file in the current directory.

3   Settings

3.1   Antialiasing

Enable this if you want better (but slower) displaying of the color images.

Right click on the main window, then select **Options** submenu. Check the **Antialiasing** option for turn this mode ON. Turn it OFF by clicking **Antialiasing** again.

3.2   Autocontrast

Enable it if you want to automatically change the intensity of each loaded image.

Right click on the main window, then select **Options** submenu. Check the **Autocontrast** option for turn this mode ON. Turn it OFF by clicking **Autocontrast** again.

3.3   Always on Top

Right click on the main window, then select **Options** submenu. Check the **Always On Top** option. BMPreVIEW will always be visible on your screen, even when you open other programs. This can be removed by clicking **Always On Top** again.

Note: this option will be saved and restored after next BMPreVIEW start.

3.4   Memory optimization

You can improve your efficiency by optimizing memory usage. Optimization increases the amount of RAM available on your computer by storing temporary files that are not currently in use in the swap disk space. This artificially increases the amount of memory available on your computer and improves the ability of BMPreVIEW to handle bitmap images. Recommended for computers that having 128 MB of RAM or less.

Right click on the main window, then select **Options** submenu. Check the **Optimize RAM Usage** option for turn this mode ON. Turn it OFF by clicking **Optimize RAM Usage** option again.

Note: this option works only on *Windows NT, 2000, XP* and *Vista*.

3.5   Only 1 Instance

There is not allowed to open BMPreVIEW more than once at the same time. BMPreVIEW will prevent more than one instance of the program at any time.

3.6   Last window size and position

Each time you open the BMPreVIEW, it will be positioned on your screen where it was when you last closed it.

4   Information

4.1   View Image Properties

Right click on the main window, then select ⓘ**Image Info…** option in the menu (or use F3 key). A box opens with the following about the image:

- File name
- File disk size
- Original image dimensions
- Current image dimensions
- Original color depth and Bits per Pixel
- Current image memory
- Time to load image
- Total RAM usage by program
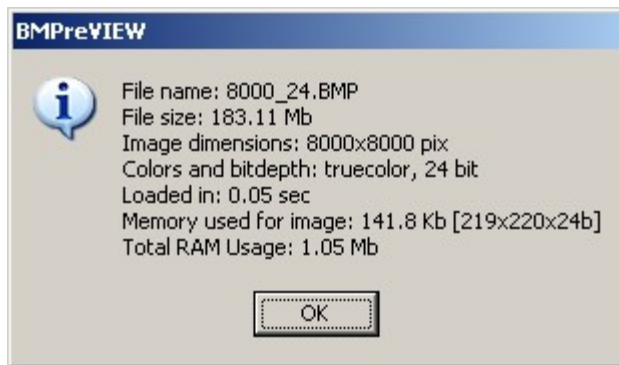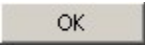
The following picture shows this dialog box:

BMPreVIEW

File name: 8000_24.BMP
File size: 183.11 Mb
Image dimensions: 8000x8000 pix
Colors and bitdepth: truecolor, 24 bit
Loaded in: 0.05 sec
Memory used for image: 141.8 Kb [219x220x24b]
Total RAM Usage: 1.05 Mb

OK

Image info box

Click the   OK   button when you are done viewing the information.

4.2   Getting Help

Right click on the main window, then select ➕**Help** option in the menu (or use F1 key). This help file (the one you are reading now) will appear.

Note: *HTML Help* (CHM files) is the standard help format for *Windows 98* and later versions, including Windows XP.You may download:
- BMPreVIEW help for *Windows 95* in *Windows Help Format* (HLP files)
- User Manual for *Abobe Reader* (PDF files)
here: http://www.graintest.ru/download.html.

4.3   About the program

Right click on the main window, then select 🖼**About…** option in the menu. This gives the current version number of BMPreVIEW, website and e-mail address for the author, and the copyright notes.

The following picture shows this dialog box:

About box

When done viewing the information, click on the bar that says "close".

5   Hotkeys

For quick access, all menu items are available using Control and Key combinations (shortcuts)

Available keyboard shortcuts in BMPreVIEW:

Key	Function
+	Increase image contrast
–	Decrease image contrast
→	Load next image in current folder
↓	
←	Load previous image in current folder
↑	
Space	Load next image in current folder
Enter	Open image
S	Save image to file
Ctrl+C	Copy image to Clipboard
Del	Close image
Delete	
Backspace	Reload image
F3	Image info
F	Browse folder
E	Apply histogram equalization filter
T	Turn ON/OFF Always On Top mode

Key	Function
D	Turn ON/OFF Autocontrast mode
A	Turn ON/OFF Antialiasing mode
R	Turn ON/OFF Optimize RAM Usege mode
F1	Help
Ecs	Exit
Home	Load first image in current folder
End	Load last image in current folder

6   Version History

Legend:

🟢 - added feature

🔴 - bug fixed/removed

🟡 - improved/changed feature

1.1.0.0 (04/2008)

🟢 English help file and user manual

🟢 optional installer (by Inno Setup)

🟢 now displays the next, previous, first and last image in current directory

🟢 "Select Folder" dialog allows to select a directory from which the files will be taken

🟢 RAM usage optimization for WinNT/2000/XP/Vista

🟢 information about memory usage by application in "About..." and "File Info..." dialog boxes

🟡 "Always On Top" mode improvements

🟡 progress label now shows image loading percentage

1.0.2.0 (04/2008)

🟡 improved autocontrast enhancement filter

🔴 fixed bug with applying contrast enhancement filter to the newly opened image when "Autocontrast" mode is on

🔴 fixed bug with "Save As" dialog appearance when "Always on Top" mode is on

🔴 minor bugs fixes and code optimization for stability improvement

1.0.1.1 (03/2008)

🟡 Windows 95/98/Me compatibility improvements

1.0.1.0 (12/2007)

🟢 English language interface

🟡 new "About..." dialog

🟢 some GUI features: icons added in popup menu

🟡 improved contrast enhancement filters

🟢 "Options -> Always on Top" command added

🟢 "Options -> Autocontrast" command added (linereal histogram stretch)

🟢 "Copy to Clipboard" command added

🟢 "Save As..." command added

🔴 doesn't use bmpreview.ini any more

🟢 application properties store in registry HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Fototest\BMPreView

🟡 now application consists of one single file bmpreview.exe [540   ]

🔴 fixed bug in command line support

🔴 sometimes popup menu doesn't work after zooming

🔴 memory leaks in contrast algorithm

🔴 some other minor bugs fixed...

1.0.0.3 (02/2007)

🟢 files opening via command line

🟢 prevent the simultaneous start of several instances of BMPReVIEW

🔴 some other minor bugs

1.0.0.2 (12/2006)

🟢 contrast enhancement filters added ("Filters" submenu)

🟢 "File Info" dialog (file size, file name, image dimensions...)

1.0.0.1 (08/2006)

🔴 some bugs with 1 bit images support fixed

🟡 improved stability

🟢 saving application properties into bmpreview.ini file (remember last window position and more...)

🔴 many other minor bugs, cosmetical improvements and some language corrections

1.0.0.0 (08/2005)
First semi-public beta release…

7   Contact Information

E-mail: anton@graintest.ru
WWW: http://www.graintest.ru

8   Credits

The program BMPreVIEW and documentation by the author Anton Golik are copyright protected.
© 2005-2008 Anton Golik, Fototest Ltd. All rights reserved.

RAM usage optimization code by Tomasz Klekot http://www.techblog.tomksoft.com/download/Ram-Optimization-Sources and Swiss Delphi Center.