

# Advanced Logon Editor Documentation

ALE

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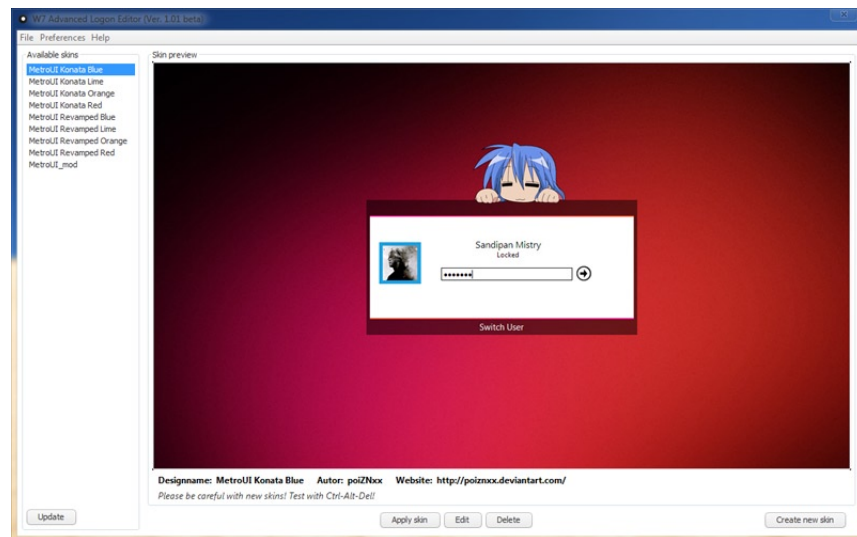
**Abstract.** The Advanced Logon Editor is a program to change the Windows 7 Logonscreen. It provides methods to create a skin, to apply it and, in case of errors, to apply a backup. The editor is written in the programming language Java and needs the Java Virtual Machine to run. This document gives a short overview about the program. It describes the basic functionalities and how you create your own skin.

## 1 Before you start

The program is separated in two parts: The Quickchooser and the Editor. The chooser is the first window which opens after the start. The editor appears if you choose a skin and click the edit/new button.

It is important that your logon is unchanged at the moment you start the program. The program creates a backup of the systemfiles and if they are changed the backup won't recreate the original windows 7 logon.

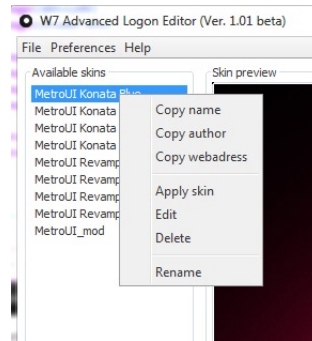
## 2 The Quickchooser



**Fig. 1.** Screenshot of the chooser. The preview shows a skin from deviantArt (MetroUI Revamped from poiZNxx)

The Quickchooser is used to choose and apply skins. On the left side are the available skins listed. On the right are shown the basic information about the chosen skin. On left click opens the website of the skin. At the bottom of the window are some important buttons to manage the skins.

- **Update:** Updates the skinlist.
- **Apply:** Applies the skin which is chosen in the skinlist.
- **Edit:** Opens the editor.
- **Delete:** Deletes the skin.
- **Create new:** Open the editor to create a new skin.

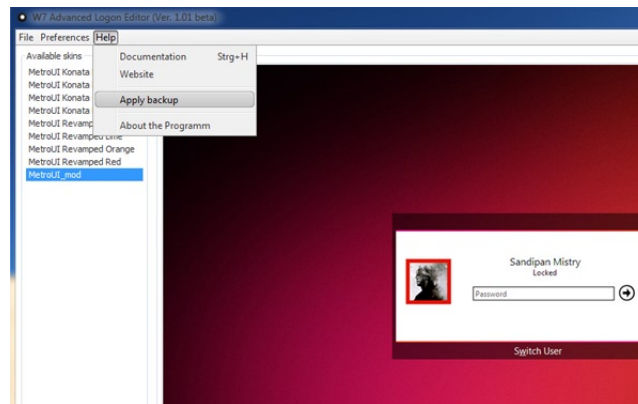


**Fig. 2.** Pop-up menu of the skinlist.

## 2.1 The Pop-Ups

The copy buttons of the menu copy the name, author or website to the clipboard. The rename button lets you enter a new skinname.

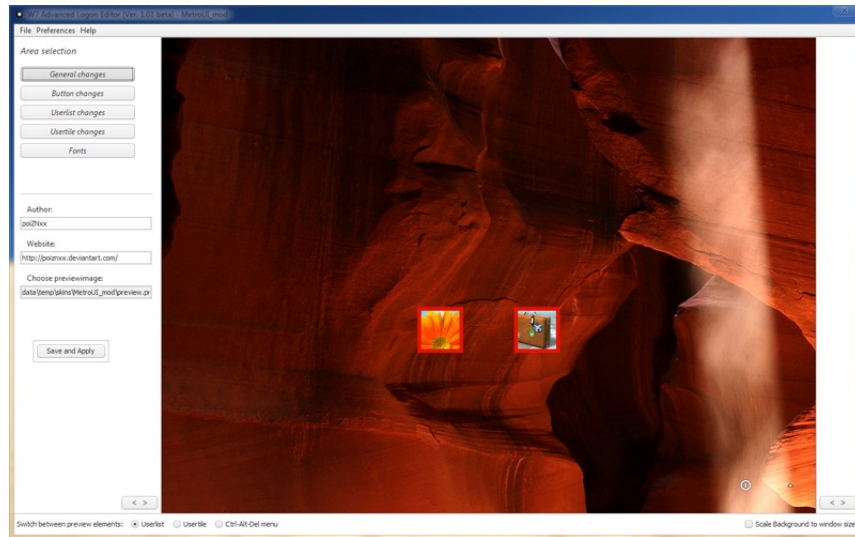
## 2.2 The Menubar



**Fig. 3.** The help menu is the most important in the chooser.

The menubar contains not many interesting buttons. The most important button is perhaps the one which applies the backup.

### 3 The Editor

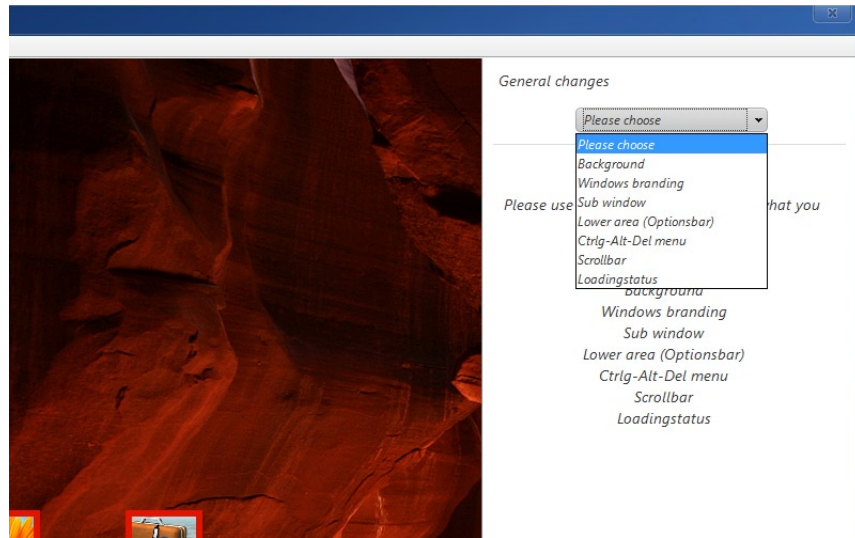


**Fig. 4.** The editor as shown after the start with a loaded skin.

The editor is used to modify a skin. On the left is a menu with buttons for menus on the right side. I used them to group the changes in a reasonable way (I hope). Under the buttons are three textfields to change author, website and previewimage.

- **General changes:** Changes which affect bigger areas of the logon.
- **Button changes:** Options to change the buttons.
- **Userlist changes:** Userlist changes.
- **Usertile changes:** Usertile changes. Passwordfield included but not the password submit button.
- **Fonts:** All font changes.

### 3.1 The Menus on the right Side



**Fig. 5.** Right menu of the editor.

Here you can choose a subarea which you want to change. Be careful with your inputs. Don't insert too high or too small numbers. It is useful to test the logon after each menu to see if it works.

#### 3.1.1 General changes

- **Background:** Menu to change the logon background image.
- **Windows branding:** Menu to set the position, the image or the visibility of the branding.
- **Sub window:** The sub window is the element which contains the userlist, usertile and Ctrl-Alt-Del menu. This menu is used to add a background image. Additionally it is possible to add animations to the window and its content (ie. list, tile,...).
- **Lower area (Optionsbar):** The optionsbar is an element at the bottom of the logon. It contains the branding, the shutdown and the accessibility button. If you change the height it moves the sub window up or gives room for a higher shutdown button. If you hide the bar all bottom buttons and the branding are invisible.
- **Ctrl-Alt-Del menu:** Here you can change the position and padding. The position may be connected with the sub window size. Also you can hide each button of the menu.
- **Scrollbar:** Menus to change the scrollbar images.

- **Loadingstatus:** The “loading status” is the message between the usertile and desktop or desktop and shutdown etc etc etc.

### 3.1.2 Button changes

- **Accessibility button:** The menu contains a possibility to change the symbol, size or the position. The blue background of the button can be changed in the default button menu.
- **Ctrl-Alt-Del buttons:** Menu to change the background and arrow symbol of the Ctrl-Alt-Del buttons. You are able to move the symbol to the right side of the button text.
- **Default button (Blue):** This is the basebutton for some other buttons of the logon. Like the accessibility button they use this button as background and only add texts or symbols.
- **Password button:** Contains a image change field to change the submit button graphic.
- **Shutdown area:** The shutdown button is divided in two elements. First the shutdown button himself and second the menu. Together I call them shutdown area. You can change the position of the area within the “optionsbar” in this menu.
- **Shutdown button:** Here you can set the background image of the shutdown button and the symbols on top of it. If you want to use a text as symbol you can do this by entering the text in the “Text” field. If this field contains any text the imagefields of the symbols are not visible. If possible use symbol images for this button. It is not possible to set a “shutdown with update” text ect.
- **Shutdown menu:** Like the other shutdown button you can select the background and the symbol/text.
- **Language button:** The language button is the top left button on blue ground. You are able to change the position or margin.
- **Misc:** If you want to move the shutdown area and the accessibility button into one element you can select that here. After that shutdown and accessibility are next to each other.

**3.1.3 Userlist changes** The userlist and usertile image are separated in two parts. First there is the image of the user. Second there is a border or overlay over the userimage. The position of userlist or usertile are connected with the size of the sub window because this is their parent element.

- **Image:** Here you can modify the size and padding of the userimage. By default the image padding moves the image from the overlay to the inside. Experiment with the padding if your image overlaps with the overlay.
- **Imageborder:** The menu allows it to change the overlay image and its size.
- **Layout:** This menu contains fields to change the layout of the complete list, not only the layout of an image. By default the images are ordered in a row, but you can also stack them. The padding in this menu is helpful to

move userlist and usertile to the right, ie. away from the left side of the sub window.

**3.1.4 Usertile changes** The first changes are mostly equal to the ones of the list. See the subsection above.

- **Image:** ...
- **Imageborder:** ...
- **Layout:** Here are some interesting layout changes. If you want to have the user image on the left of the passwordfield and name you should select the first option. The next options are relative similar. The second moves the passwordfield to the right of the name and the third moves name and status in one row.
- **Passwordfield:** Menu to change the passwordfield image, size, margin... The shift fields help positioning the passwordfield. Its useless to use upshift and downshift at the same time.

**3.1.5 Fonts** The menus here are used to change the fonts of the texts. To select a font you should look after one in the systems font folder. Then copy the name of the font.

- **Fontshadow:** This option changes the fontshadow for all texts.
- **All in One:** This option copies the input to all other menus. If you type 11 into the size field the other fields are the same after this.
- **Shutdown button:** ...
- **Shutdown menu:** ...
- **Passwordfield:** ...
- **Passwortreset:** ...
- **Loadingstatus:** ...
- **Shortmessage:** ...
- **Ctrl-Alt-Del button:** ...
- **Default button (Blue):** ...
- **Status (Userlist):** ...
- **Status (Usertile):** ...
- **Name (Userlist):** ...
- **Name (Usertile):** ...

**Some useful fontnames:** Be careful. Don't type Segoe UI or something like this. I had some trouble with it. Just remember not to copy the filename but the real name of the font.

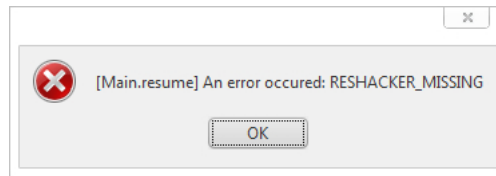
- *Segoe UI*
- *Comic Sans MS*
- *Calibri*
- *Courier New*
- *Lucida Console*
- *MS Sans Serif*

## 4 Troubleshooting

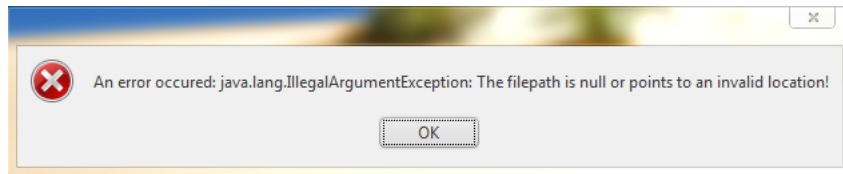
There two main reasons for trouble.

### 4.1 A Program Bug

First the program itself has a bug:



**Fig. 6.** The program has a bug.



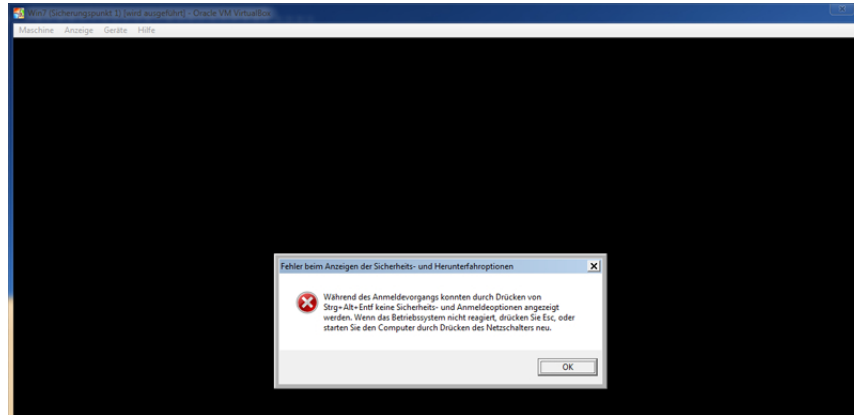
**Fig. 7.** An exception was thrown.

If you didn't change the programfiles it is not your fault and you can do nothing to fix it. You may write me an e-mail or leave somewhere else a message for me with some information about the bug.



## 4.2 A Logon Bug

Second the logon has a bug and windows is not able to read it:



**Fig. 8.** The logon file has a bug. Here caused by simply renaming the authui.dll so that the system could not read it.

This one is the critical. If you would go ahead and restart your system it gets really nasty to reset it to the backup state. I build something in the program for that case too but it is better not to test it. It is important that you do not restart. Click “ESC” on your keyboard and get back to the program. Click at the top in the menubar on “help” and then on “apply backup”. After that the logon should work again. An alternativ is to create a new skin and to apply it.

**4.2.1 Reseting the Logon with the Commandline** If you are not able to start windows because the logon is broken you can try this: Start windows in the special mode where you have access to the console. Type the path to the program and behind that “backup”. ie. C[or E or F...]:/.../AdvLogonEdit.exe backup . After that the program applies the backup files. I forgot how you exactly get the console but I know that this is possible.

## 5 Known Issues

- **I applied a skin and now my startorb is changed (to the original)!**  
Just test if the logon works and then restart your computer. After that it is correct.

## 6 Last Words

I'm a student of Informatics in Germany and is my first program which is completely written by myself. I know that it is not perfect but I think that I learned a lot. My biggest problems now are not any programming languages but mostly the patterns and how to really program object-oriented code. Someone may notice that the GUI is not the best. I used Swing and I think this was the last time. I used it because I learned it in my first semesters in university and was the opinion that it is ok.

Ah, and sorry for my bad english.

I think I make the program open-source. If someone knows how to do something better I would like to hear it. What I don't need are Insults or comments about using Java etc.