7Log Manual Version 3.7

Written by Anthony Lomeli

© 2010 - 2012

About Windows 7 and 7Log

In 2009, Microsoft Corporation released a new operating system called Windows 7. Windows 7 became a big success, especially with those frustrated with Windows Vista's bugs and slow performance. Using less virtual memory than Vista, 7 was able to run many large applications at once. What was also a nice touch was its ability to start up quickly and head straight to the log-in screen, which had a beautiful background.

But once in a while, we get tired of the log-in background or we didn't like it in the first place (not to be sexist, but it is a little girly). There is a way to change it manually, but that involved making changes to the registry, something that may be easy for a professional computer user, but could be devastating for those who don't even know what the risk was if they made a mistake. A company called Stardock created a program for Vista and XP to change the log-in screen, called LogonStudio, but have yet to make a version for 7.

One day, when I was starting up my computer, I remembered how I was able to easily change my log-in screen's background with LogonStudioVista (I used to have Vista before I upgraded). I thought, "If Stardock hasn't made a LogonStudio for 7, I'll make my own."(though eventually, they did)

And that's how this program came to be. And while you can't completely customize the log-in screen like in LogonStudioXP, you can change the log-in screen's background to something cool (Resident Evil :3), which can really brighten up your day, even if you only look at you log-in screen for a few seconds. So, sit back, relax, and let 7Log take care of those nasty registry entries and change your log-in background that fits the most important person, you!
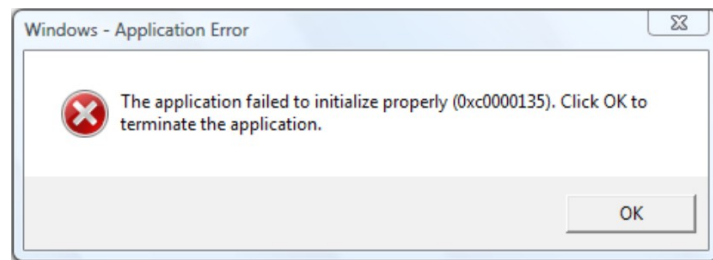
-Anthony Lomeli

Installation

You probably already have 7Log installed, but if you haven't, here's where to get it.
I put a link to the installer on my Blog or 7Log's Google Code page:

http://anthony-lomeli.co.cc | http://code.google.com/p/7log

Note that the link above will always give you the latest version of the software. Other websites may host their own mirrors of the 7Log installer. The issue with this is that other websites do not update their copies as updates are released (and hence as bugs are fixed, things are added etc.). Also by downloading the installer from my website, you can be sure it is 100% virus/spyware free.

I also recommend that you create a System Restore point before installing. Since 7Log edits the registry, if something where to happen such as it installing a corrupted registry file or deletes an important one. This will likely not happen, but it's better to be safe than sorry and risk losing your files forever.

Microsoft .NET Framework

In order to run 7Log, you need Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 to be installed on your computer. Microsoft Windows 7 should already include this in Service Pack 1 (so you can run the application straight away and ignore this step). If for some bizarre reason you don't already have it, you will receive the following error:

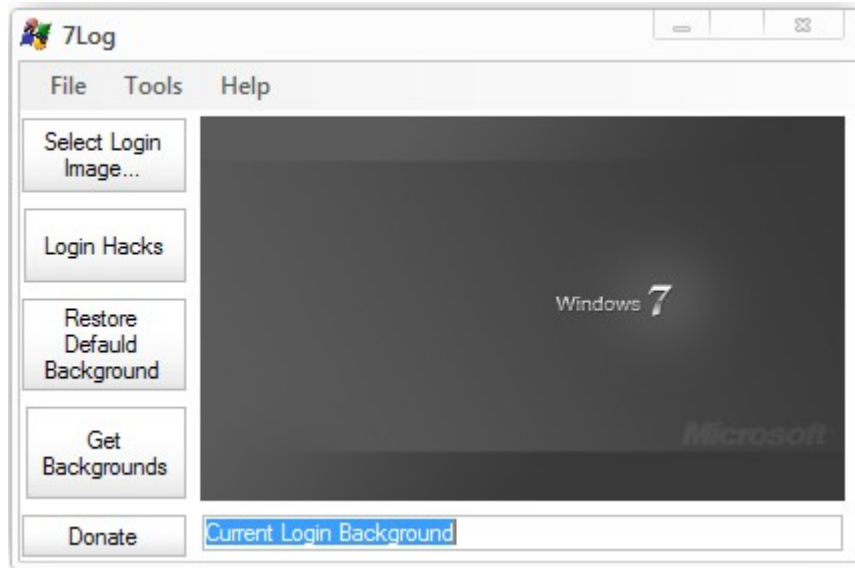To install the framework simply download the installer from the Microsoft website:

http://bit.ly/MicrosoftDotNet4
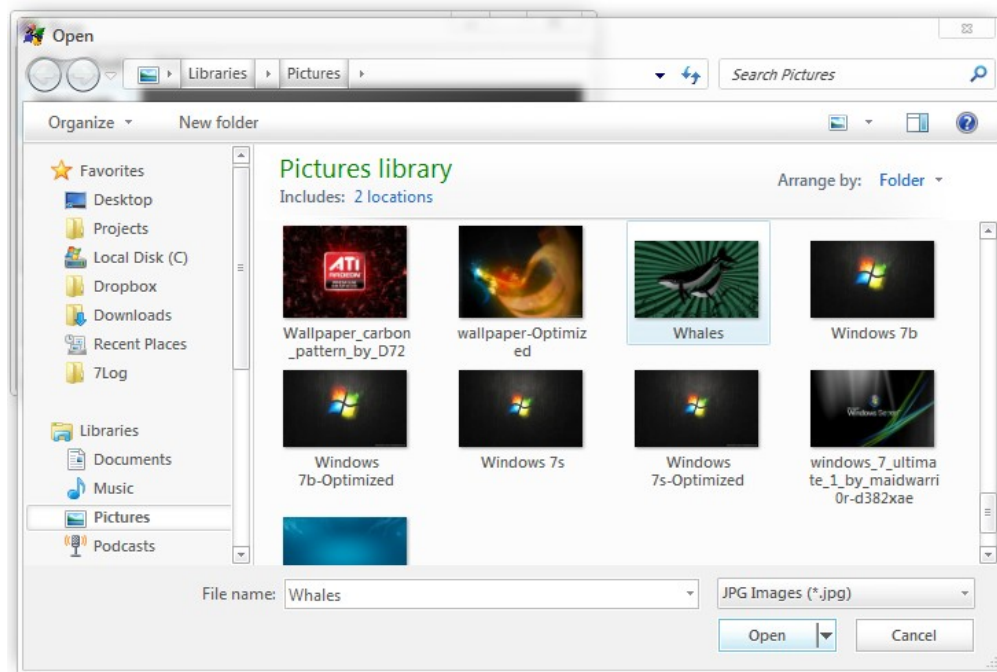
You may now run 7Log

How do I change my Log-in background?

7Log allows you to change your background easily. All you really have to do is select the image you wish to use.
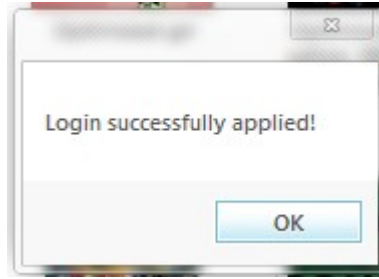
Step 1. Open the Image Dialog box by clicking "Select Log-in Image..."

Step 2. Select your image:

Step 3. Boom! Login has been applied!

Login successfully applied!

OK

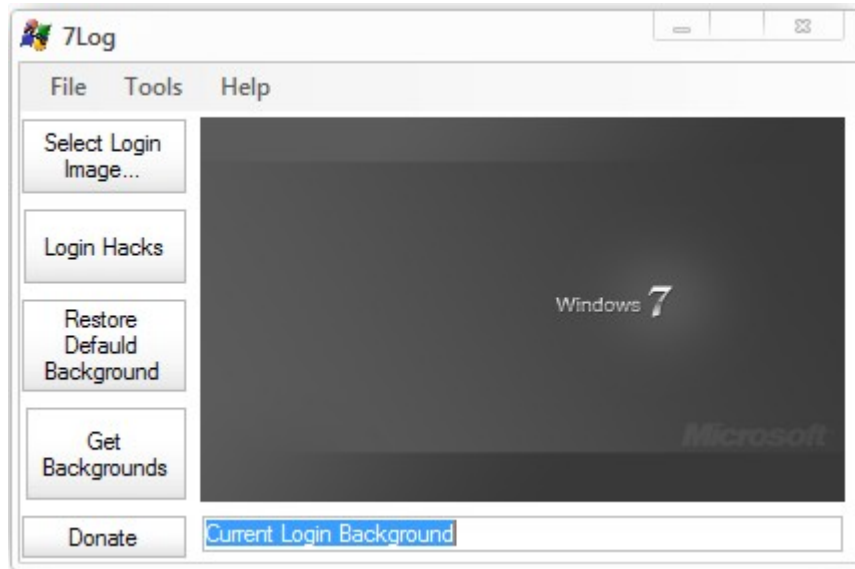**See the results for yourself by logging out. :-)**

Note: 7Log will attempt to re-size the image to fit your screen's resolution, which should also shrink its size. However, it can only shrink it so much. Image quality may also be affected depending on the original image's size. It might not always work for ridiculously large images.

How to Apply Log-on Hacks?

7Log now allows even more customization than before with the inclusion of Log-on Hacks! These *tweak* **the registry to edit the log-in screens appearance besides the background.** <u>NOTE: Make sure to make a system restore point in case something goes wrong!</u>

Step 1: Open up 7Log

Step 2: Open the Log-in Hacks window by clicking the *"Log-in Hacks"* button

Step 3: Select a Log-in Hack

I'll be using the "Darker Login Text Shadow" hack for this example

Step 5: Click "*Use*" and you're done!

Note: Log-in *hacks no longer show the registry editor pop-up and some take more* *steps. All hacks are now written into 7Log's coding and only require admin* *verification (i.e. "Run as Administrator")*

FAQ

Q: I can't start the program/get error when opening 7Log.
A: You must not have Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 for some reason. Download and install it. If it's not the Framework, then maybe you got a corrupt copy of 7Log. Re-download the installer from my website and reinstall.

Q: I set my log in image, but I still have the default background/get an error.
A: Remember, 7Log will <u>NOT</u> apply log-in images it deems too big. Remember, a jpg image only 250KB or less. The new Image Optimization Feature *CAN* shrink its size down, but only by so much. Also try to run as admin, in case Windows won't give 7Log full permissions. If that is not the case, maybe 7Log didn't correctly install the registry file. Just go *Tools -> Reinstall OEMBackground***. This will install the registry file (Note: You must be the admin to do this). If you get an error, then maybe 7Log didn't create the backgrounds folder. Just go to** *C:\Windows\System32\oobe\info* **and create a folder called "***backgrounds***". Test 7Log and see if it works now.**

Q: Log-in Hacks won't work for me!
A: Log-in Hacks can have varying outcomes depending on the user's system. All Log-on Hacks are registry files that install when activated. Thus, you may have to run 7Log as an Administrator in order to successfully install the hack. Also, hacks can't double up (i.e. Darker Shadow + Darker Shadow Hack ≠ 2x Darker Shadow). Your version of Windows may also cause trouble for the hacks (I have only tested them on Windows 7 Ultimate 32x and they work fine). If you know all of the reasons listed are not the cause, please don't hesitate to contact me at anthonylomeli11@gmail.com.

Version information

Version 3.7

1. **Dropped dependency of ImageOptimizer.API.Dll and wrote image optimization in plain C#, which offered better quality in images and smaller file size.**
2. **Minor bug fixes**

Version 3.5

1. **Small UI changes, nothing real big or noticeable, but still worth mentioning.**
2. **Image Optimization for images larger than 256KB (Provided by http://www.imageoptimizer.net/). May not always work.**
3. **2 new Log-in Hacks: Changes log-in screen to old Username & Password screen of old.**
4. **All log-in hacks are now written into 7Log's coding. No more** *.reg* **files taking up room.**
5. **COMMENTS IN SOURCE CODE :D**
6. **Incomplete coding for Vista Support within 7Log's coding. Download the source code and tweak it if you like:**
   `svn checkout http://7log.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/ 7log-read-only`

Version 3.0

1. **Completely rewritten in C#**
2. **Smaller GUI**
3. **Now checks to see if image is smaller than 256KB. If not, the user will be prompted with an error**
4. **New Log-in Hack: Log-in Messenger, set up messages to appear before you log-in**
5. **Source Code now on Google Code™: http://code.google.com/p/7log/**

Version 2.4

1. **New Icon for 7Log.**
2. **Program Size decreased.**

Version 2.0

1. **Login Hacks added. Your customize your login screen to a greater extent**
2. **Can now recreate** *"backgrounds"* **folder if 7Log didn't detect it, but fail at recreating it upon loading.**
3. **Fixed installation glitch (where the installer would not replace the old version of 7Log with the new one.**

Version 1.3

1. **7Log can now work on any foreign (non-US) Windows 7 Computers!**
2. **7Log now checks for "***backgrounds***" Directory before starting, and creates it if needed!**
3. **7Log can now reinstall** *OEMBackground.reg*

4. **7Log icon image quality increased**
5. **7Log can now tell the difference of plain text via an actual image**
6. **7Log has a slightly smaller window(doesn't really matter, but still need to mention)**
7. **Redistributing conditions window now won't maximize, but is now slightly larger**
8. **Small bug fixes. They didn't really cause problems with 7Log, they were just annoying me.**
9. **Typos in Manual and in 7Log Corrected!**

Notes:
- **Might make a 7Log Website**
- **Might think about letting 7Log have plugins, but don't have any idea of what kind of plugins might be made for this type of application?**

Version 1.0
1. **7Log is finally ready for public release**
2. **Some features taken out due to complexity**
3. **Only few bugs left to be fixed**

Version 0.8
1. **7Log switched to its current format of a simple picture box and text box**
2. **Stuck with VB2010**
3. **A lot of glitches fixed**
4. **PDF had to be remade**

Version 0.5
1. **7Log switched to a browser like format**
2. **Considered switching to C++ or a C# WPF**
3. **Some glitches fixed, including Log-in Background Error**
4. **Got GNU License**
5. **PDF was made.**

Version 0.1
1. **7Log project stated 6/21/2010**
2. **Decided to use VB2010 to keep it simple**
3. **Started off with a like grid format**
4. **Major glitch of Login background not working**
5. **Registry file made**

Credits

7Log, 7Log Icon, & PDF Manual
Copyright © 2010-2012 Anthony Lomeli

I'd like to thank the following people/Organizations:

Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Professional, Windows Flag, and Microsoft Office 2010
Copyright © 2009 - 2012 Microsoft Corporation

GIMP 2.6.11
Copyright © 1995-2008 Spencer Kimball, Peter Mattis and the GIMP Development Team

GNU General Public License Version 3
Copyright © 2007 Free Software Foundation, Inc.

Special Thanks to:

Julien Manici
Your program *Windows 7 Logon Background Changer* really inspired me, even though I didn't know how to use the source code.
http://www.julien-manici.com/
RECYCLER, from the DevAtan forums

I am very grateful for all you hard work. Your applications and icons really help in the development of this program.
Also, I would really appreciate if you guys could write this manual in another language or made new Login Hacks!

http://anthony-lomeli.co.cc/

;-)