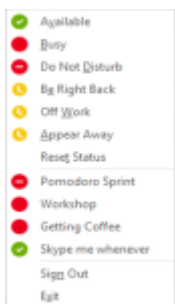


Technical blog about Exchange, OCS, Lync, Skype for Business and Office 365 by Ståle Hansen

How to set custom presence states in Skype for Business on your Windows machine

📅 20/08/2017 13/04/2018 👤 STÅLE HANSEN 💬 21 COMMENTS

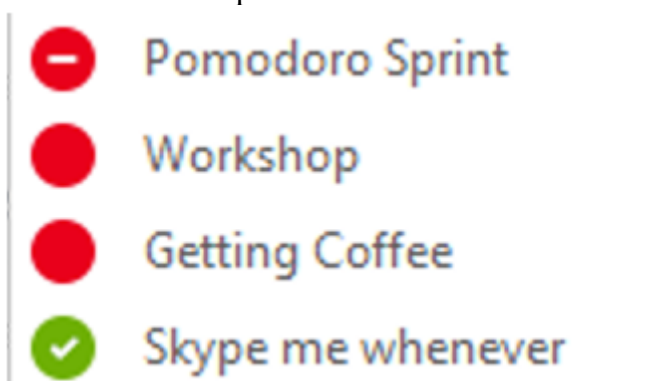
This works on Windows 10, Windows 8, Windows 7, Lync and Skype for Business desktop clients. Requires administrative rights to your computer. Make sure you check out the [Pomodoro Windows App](https://msunified.net/2018/04/03/announcing-the-pomodoro-pc-app/) (<https://msunified.net/2018/04/03/announcing-the-pomodoro-pc-app/>) that makes it even easier to set custom presence states



(<https://stalehansen.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/custompresence.png>) Wouldn't it be cool if you could change your presence state in Skype for Business to match your current task such as busy in a Workshop, Do Not Disturb in a Pomodoro Sprint or Away Getting Coffee?

Turns out, you can by creating an XML file and adding a setting in your local registry. How? The easy way is to download my [script](https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094) (<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094>), change the custom presences that is predefined in the script and run it.

1. Download the script from TechNet Gallery
 - <https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094> (<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094>)
2. The default custom presence states are shown below



◦ (<https://stalehansen.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/customstates2.png>)

3. To change the names you need to open the script and write your own presence states

- Away does not work as a custom presence state, if you put that in no custom states will show up in the client
 - The presence states that works are: Online, Busy, and Do-Not-Disturb
4. To run the script, just type the following in PowerShell in elevated mode from the location you saved it
- **.\Set-CsCustomPresence.ps1**
 - It works for Lync and Skype for Business
 - It works for 64-bit and 32-bit office
 - It works for MSI installed Office and Click-to-Run Office
 - The xml file will get stored under c:_CustomPresence\CustomPresence.xml if that is your systemdrive
5. You need to sign out of the client and back in for the changes to take effect
6. The presence states works in the following scenarios
- On English Skype for Business clients for you and your colleagues
 - On Skype for Business clients in your local location retrieved using (Get-Culture).LCID
 - For everyone in your Colleagues relationship level as long as they are running a client language version specified above
 - If you want external contacts to see your custom presence state you need to elevate them as colleagues in the relationship pane
 - Understand that they will also see you as in a meeting, in a call, your note and your location as well
 - If you are in an environment with more than two languages for you Office deployment, make sure you add an LCID per language in the script
 - You can find the language ID codes here
 - <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc233982.aspx> (<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc233982.aspx>)

Download the script [here](https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094) (<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Set-CsCustomPresences1-in-8c78d094>) and use PowerShell to control your presence using the Lync 2013 Client SDK described [here](https://msunified.net/2017/08/20/how-to-install-the-lync-2013-client-sdk-without-being-prompted-to-install-visual-studio/) (<https://msunified.net/2017/08/20/how-to-install-the-lync-2013-client-sdk-without-being-prompted-to-install-visual-studio/>).

You can now control you custom presence states using PowerShell, if you have installed the SDK, using the Publish-SfBContactInformation.ps1 found on GitHub [here](https://github.com/janegilring/PSPProductivityTools/blob/master/Functions/Publish-SfBContactInformation.ps1) (<https://github.com/janegilring/PSPProductivityTools/blob/master/Functions/Publish-SfBContactInformation.ps1>) with this syntax

```
1 | Publish-SfBContactInformation -CustomActivityId 1 -PersonalNote "Getting Stu
```

You are now ready to use this in a Pomodoro context, read how to get started with the open source PowerShell based Pomodoro timer [here](https://msunified.net/2013/11/25/lock-down-your-lync-status-and-pc-notifications-using-powershell/): <https://msunified.net/2013/11/25/lock-down-your-lync-status-and-pc-notifications-using-powershell/> (<https://msunified.net/2013/11/25/lock-down-your-lync-status-and-pc-notifications-using-powershell/>).

■ [SKYPE FOR BUSINESS](#) ♦ [CUSTOM PRESENCE STATES](#), [LYNC](#), [LYNCPRO](#), [SKYPE FOR BUSINESS](#)

21 thoughts on “How to set custom presence states in Skype for Business on your Windows machine”

1.

vairckof says:

19/12/2017 at 17:36

Thanks for ur guide, really helpful.

Firstly, I tried with ur custome statuses and it worked! However, I wanted to change the statuses and customize them from myself. I modified the ps1 file, delete the “_CustomePresence” path and the system variables created but it never worked again 😞

Any idea?

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

19/12/2017 at 18:09

Did you replace it with your own path? Is the xml stored there? If you tried away status, that will break cyst om presence states. If all looks good. Send me your code in my contact field and I'll take a look

REPLY

vairckof says:

20/12/2017 at 09:09

Thank you very much for your quick reply! I think the problem was I added many statuses. I have tried with just four custom statuses and it worked again 😊 Is there any limit? I have really appreciated your attention.

Best,

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

20/12/2017 at 10:07

Yep. Four is the limit :)

2.

Randy says:

11/04/2018 at 01:13

This is fantastic and very helpful – thank you so much. Three things:

1) FYI – for the step where it says to execute .\Set-CsCustomPresence.ps1..., I had to remove the “Cs” part so that name matched the downloaded file Set-CustomPresence.ps1. Just mentioning if it might help someone else out.

2) All worked great when I ran this in Windows 8 (once I changed access to unrestricted). But, when I ran it in Windows 10 Enterprise, I get 4 messages that indicate:

Set-ItemProoperty : Cannot find path

‘HKLM:\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Office\15.0\Lync’ because it does not exist.

I don’t know what to do to try to fix this – any suggestions?

3) Is there a limit for how many characters the status values can be? I kept mine down to 17 or less (based on your examples), but I’m curious to know if there is some boundary since a few more would be helpful.

Again, thank you! Hoping I can get it to work on the Windows 10 machine.

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

11/04/2018 at 09:01

Hi, thanks for your feedback. It works fine on my Windows 10 machines, not sure why it will not work on yours, it is also tested with Office 2016 MSI and Office Pro Plus C2R. Maybe you could try the new app for custom presence and Pomodoro timer? that way you can get the presence statuses in and edit the xml file with your own statuses.

<https://msunified.net/2018/04/03/announcing-the-pomodoro-pc-app/>

3. REPLY

Payaam says:

17/04/2018 at 12:12

How we can set more than 4 custom states?

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

17/04/2018 at 12:13

You can't, 4 is the limit.

REPLY

xkamzar says:

17/04/2018 at 12:13

ok, thanks

4. REPLY

xkamzar says:

17/04/2018 at 13:42

I have another question. How we can get the 'yellow' icon beside our custom status?

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

17/04/2018 at 12:49

You can't set the yellow status, it is not available as custom presence. You can do available, busy and do not disturb

REPLY

xkamzar says:

17/04/2018 at 12:51

Thanks for the feedback.

Oh! It would be nice if we could do it. Hope somebody can come up with a resolution. I'll keep my eyes open here.

5. REPLY

Nico says:

24/05/2018 at 01:57

Hi guys,

Not sure why we need an XML syntax here? Can you explain?

Thanks,

Nico

6. REPLY

Rishabh Kumar Jindal says:

25/02/2019 at 09:59

Hello Team,

It is not working on my system and any of the custom statuses are not visible on the status screen.

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

26/02/2019 at 22:18

Are you using the correct language? your client language and LCID needs to match up

7. REPLY

Keith says:

01/04/2019 at 12:58

Is this working with Office 365 MSO 16.0?

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

02/04/2019 at 21:42

Yes, I think so

8. REPLY

Ivo says:

02/04/2019 at 19:51

Is it possible to set a default status? I would like to have it at Do not Disturb, or at least Busy. It is very frustrating to have people inundate you the moment you come online.

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

02/04/2019 at 21:41

Yes you can set your presence before signing-in in the presence drop down menu

REPLY

Ivo says:

03/04/2019 at 00:22

Hi Ståle. Thanks for your prompt answer. I am of course aware of that possibility, but I have the SfB set to start automatically at Windows logon and would like to preset the startup status.

REPLY

Ståle Hansen says:

02/04/2019 at 23:36

Then I don't have a better answer for you, unless you want to do it programmatically using the sdk

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