ActiveSaver - Screen Saver for Windows 9x/Me and Windows NT/2000/XP
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This freeware screen saver is actually not a screen saver. It is
a utility that can be set up as a screen saver, but instead of just
showing fancy pictures (as most other screen savers do), ActiveSaver
does something useful: it can run a program or open a file, or
logoff, restart, or shut down the computer.

You may find ActiveSaver useful if you want a program to be run each
time your computer is idle for a number of minutes. For example, you
can make it run a disk defragmenter or a virus scanner. You can also
set it up to open any file instead of running a program (for instance,
you can make it play a particular sound, after the computer is idle
for some time).

ActiveSaver lets you also specify whether you want to initiate the
logoff, restart, or shutdown process after the computer is idle long
enough. This is especially useful for network administrators whose
customers keep fogetting to logoff after they are all done with the
work. You can make it display a warning message for some time before
actually performing such an action, and the text of the message can
be customized by you. Doing so would let the user cancel the action,
if he or she wants to continue working with the computer.

Installing ActiveSaver
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To install ActiveSaver, simply run the file ActiveSaver.exe. The file
ActiveSaver.scr will be copied in the Windows System folder (usually
it is C:\Windows\System or C:\Windows\System32), where other screensaver
files are, because it would make ActiveSaver immediately available for
use through the Control Panel - Desktop command.

To complete the installation, you must let Windows know that you want
to use ActiveSaver as its default screen saver. This is done in the
same way as if it were a regular screen saver: right-click on the
Desktop, and select Properties from the shortcut menu. When the
Display Properties windows pops up, select the Screen saver page, and
then select ActiveSaver as the current screen saver.

Configuring ActiveSaver
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While on the Display Properties | Screen saver page, click on the
button Settings....

The dialog box has the following areas:
  * Run a program or open a file, folder, or Internet resource -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver to run a program or open
    a file when it is activated by Windows. Enter the full path of
    the program or the file you want to run in the area below the
    checkbox.

  * Wait for close -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver to wait for the program or
    file to be closed before continuing. This option is available
    only if both the Run program... and Perform the action... options
    are checked.
    Note that some programs close the files immediately after opening

them, so this option may not work with some programs. You need to
test it with the program or file you are using to make sure it
works for you.

  * Perform the action -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver to logoff, restart, shutdown,
    of power off the computer when it is activated by Windows. If both
    the Run program... and Perform the action... options have been
    selected, ActiveSaver first runs the program specified, and then
    performs the action you have chosen.
    Note that unless the Force application termination option has been
    selected as well, Windows checks for open documents before actually
    performing the action, and prompts the user to save them, as
    necessary. The user may cancel the logoff or shutdown action during
    this process.

Note: If you have selected the Power off action, but your computer is
       restared instead, you need to enable APM (Advanced Power Management),
       using Control Panel - Power Options or similar command of Windows.
       If it still does not help, you need to contact your computer
       manufacturer for the updated BIOS, that properly supports APM.

  * Display warning for ... seconds -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver to display a message for
    the specified number of seconds before actually initiating the
    logoff, restart, or shutdown action. Use this option if you want
    the user to be able to cancel the action and continue working with
    the computer.

  * Force application termination -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver to force the logoff or
    shutdown and terminate all running applications, even if the user
    has not saved all of his documents! This is a potentially dangerous
    option, that should be used only if absolutely necessary. Remember
    that if the user has lost his or her unsaved data because you have
    enabled this option, this is your responsibility, not ours!

  * Use these settings for all users of this computer -
    Check this box if you want ActiveSaver would be used by all users
    of the computer.

Using ActiveSaver with Windows XP/2000/NT
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The administrator of Windows XP/2000/NT system may configure it to
impose various restrictions on how screensavers can be run on that
computer. Such restrictions may present problems for ActiveSaver,
too, such as:

  * If ActiveSaver is set up to run a GUI program, it may work well
    while you are testing it through the Control Panel, but may not
    work when you use it "for real": the GUI program will run, but
    it may not be visible. The reason for this problem is the security
    of Windows XP/2000/NT: it may be configured to run screensavers
    on a separate desktop, not the same one that is used to run
    regular programs. If this is the case, you can still use ActiveSaver
    to run non-GUI programs, or to perform the logoff/shutdown
    operations.

  * The OK and Cancel buttons on the warning window, displayed by

ActiveSaver before the logoff or shutdown is taking place, may
not be usable, since Windows XP/2000/NT may interpret any mouse
movement or key pressed as an indication of user's activity, and
it simply close the screen saver and return to the working desktop
before the user has an oppotunity to click on one of the buttons
or press a key. This problem does NOT occur with Windows 98/95 or
in the test mode (when you press the Test button on the Screen
Saver page of the Display Properties window).

 * For the same reason, if you set up ActiveSaver to run a program,
   and the program to be run requires user interaction in order to
   be closed, then such an action returns to the working desktop of
   Windows 2000/NT. So, if you set up Active Saver to run a program,
   wait for its closing, and then logoff or shutdown, this sequence
   would be interrupted after the user closes the program.

Uninstalling ActiveSaver
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To remove ActiveSaver from your computer, simply delete its file,
ActiveSaver.scr, from the Windows folder.

Distributing ActiveSaver
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ActiveSaver is FREE software, that may be freely copied and distributed,
as long as it is not modified in any way, and no fee is charged for its
distribution (small shipping and handling fee is acceptable).