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Introduction

Otto`s PrtScr enhances the built-in screen capture ability of Windows 3.1. When you press PrtScr or Alt-PrtScr Windows places a bitmap image of the screen or active window on the clipboard. **Otto`s PrtScr** will capture these snapshots and print them for you. You can choose to print from 1 to 6 snapshots on a page..

Prerequisites

Otto`s PrtScr requires Windows 3.1 running in Enhanced mode.

Constraints

Sufficient memory to store the screen snapshots until printed. The actual requirements vary with the video mode (VGA, SUPERVGA or True Color) and number of snapshots per page. The printer driver must support StretchDIBits().

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The OPS Display

When OPS starts it restores itself to the last position on the screen. You can start it either as an icon or an open window. If you open the icon, the window looks like this:



The title bar displays the current grid - in this case 2 across by 2 down. This also determines the number of snapshots on a printed page. If OPS is inactive, the title bar reads `:
Inactive`;

Below are a row of iconic buttons. The first 6 display graphically the current configuration and status. If a button is empty, it is not used in the current configuration. If it displays a page icon it is storing a snapshot; if the icon is grayed out, it is waiting for a snapshot.

The remaining buttons let you

- *Delete all snapshots
- *Print all snapshots
- *Get help

There are menu choices that correspond to the toolbar buttons.

Putting Otto`s PrtScr to Work

Launch the program PRTSCR.EXE however you wish. First time users will want to choose File/Configure... to set the printing margins and the snapshot grid. You can choose these options from either the System Menu or the File menu. The grid you choose determines the number of snapshots stored by OPS before printing. For example, a 2 by 2 grid would store 4 snapshots before printing. For the details on configuring OPS, see the section below.

Taking Snapshots

Once you have selected a grid you can start taking snapshots. Just hit PrtScr to snap the whole desktop and Alt-PrtScr to snap the active window. As each new snapshot is stored the next button on the button bar is activated (as well as the corresponding **Page** on the **Pages** menu).

When you have filled the grid (for example 3 snapshots for a 1 by 3 grid) OPS starts printing. It pops up a **Printer Options** dialog box that lets you confirm the printer (and change the orientation using the **Options** button). Once you choose **OK**, printing begins. If you wish, you can choose **Cancel** and go back to work.

While the OPS (and Windows) is at work printing, you can return to other applications. If you try to take more snapshots (**NOT** a good idea) OPS ignores them.

When the print job is over, the current snapshots are deleted from memory and you can start over accumulating snaps.

Managing Snaps

There are a couple of options that let you control the snapshots stored by OPS. You can click the button of an active snapshot to delete that snapshot. If you delete a snapshot in the middle, the following snaps are moved up to fill the gap. Proceeding this way you can delete all the snapshots one by one. If you press the **Del** button, you delete all the snapshots at one stroke.

Deactivating OPS

You can turn off the screen capture by choosing **File/Deactive PrtScr**. This "unhooks" OPS without closing the application. The title bar changes to read **Otto`s PrtScr :Inactive**. You can reactivate OPS by choosing **File/Activate PrtScr**. OPS always starts up active. Right clicking on the title bar/icon also toggles the current state.

Emptying the Clipboard

Under the **File** menu there is an option to empty the clipboard. In high resolution graphics modes (16 and 24 bit color), the size of a snapshot on the clipboard is often substantial. You can recover this memory if you wish by deleting the object with this menu option.

Printing

OPS stores snapshots for only one printed page at a time. The grid you establish in **File/Configure...** determines the number of snapshots. When you have `filled` the current grid, OPS prints the page.

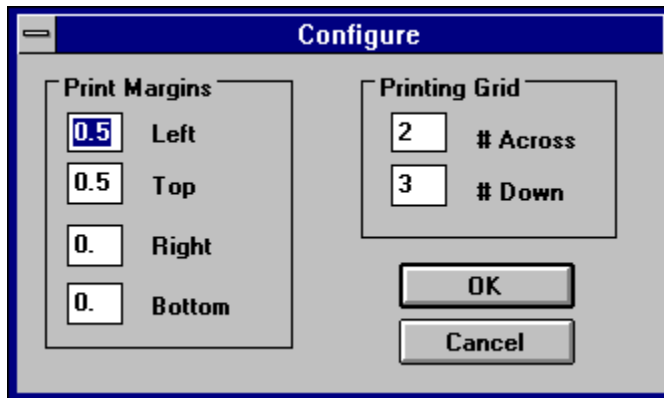
You can force OPS to print the current page, even if not full, by clicking the **Printer** icon.

The individual snapshots are scaled to fit in the grid based on the aspect ratio of the original image- You will have to experiment a bit with the printer orientation to see what works best for a given grid. I find that portrait usually works best with 1x2 and 2x3 grids, while landscape is best with 1x1 and 2x2.

If you click **Cancel** from the print dialog box, the snapshots are not deleted from memory. You can then add another snapshot, but remember that printing will be based on the current grid regardless of how many snapshots there are.

Configuring OPS

Choose **File/Configure** to set printing and the grid options. You will fill in the following dialog:



OPS stores and prints snapshots based on a grid that you specify (within limits!). You can choose a grid with :

across: 1 or 2 cells
down 1, 2 or 3

As a result you can print from 1 to 6 snapshots per page.

The margins you set affect the entire page. These margins are specified from the edge of the paper and must be greater than the printer minimum (usually .25 to .5 inch) to have an effect. For example a left margin of .125 inch is likely to be ignored as the printer minimum (say .25) is greater.

You can change the printing grid at any time without losing snapshots. But, if you reduce the number of snapshots on the grid (for example going from a 2x3 grid to a 2x2) and already have a #5 snapshot stored in memory, that fifth snapshot will never print -- unless you change the grid again.

