

ScrStart

v1.2 July 1993 Copyright John Wood

Introduction

ScrStart allows you to start your screen saver when you need to. If you're called away from your desk, simply double click the right hand mouse button, or move the mouse to a window corner, and the saver will start.

It requires Windows 3.1, and only recognises savers that are displayed in Control Panel\Desktop. (this may not be the case, but they're all I've tested it with). It works in both Standard and Enhanced mode.

If no saver is selected, a "no-entry" sign is used as the program icon, and for rather obvious reasons, nothing happens when you try to start the saver. For a valid saver, Srcstart uses its icon and displays its title underneath. Changing the screen saver in Control Panel\Desktop changes the program icon and title.

Installation and changes to your system

There are three files involved in ScrStart

Scrstart.exe - the program
Scrhook.dll - support dll
Scrstart.wri - you're reading it

Either put scrstart.exe and scrhook.dll in a directory on your path, or create an icon that calls scrstart directly. As long as scrhook.dll is in the same directory as scrstart.exe, it'll be found. As for this file, do with it as you wish.

The settings are written to win.ini under a section called, surprisingly, ScrStart. There are only a few of them and they don't take up much room.

Instructions

About

Displays an about box.

Select Corner

This leads to a sub menu where you can select the corner you want the saver to respond to. The saver will only start if the desktop is visible at your chosen corner when you move the mouse there.

Options | Save settings on exit

If selected, the current state of ScrStart is saved when the program closes. These settings are written to win.ini.

Options | Confirm saver to start

If selected, pops up a message box asking you to confirm that the saver should start. If

ignored, the box cancels itself after a minute, starting the saver automatically.

Options | Configure saver options

Starts the current screen saver in configuration mode, which displays the same dialog box shown when you select the Control Panel\Desktop|Setup button. This may not have any effect if the saver has no options to configure - eg the "Blank Screen" saver that comes with Windows 3.1.

Monitor Right Button

Double clicking the mouse over any window will start the current screen saver. This behaviour can be stopped by unchecking this option. When checked, the saver will be started no matter what window is currently active, except for CBT windows (see below). This differs from the standard screen saver behaviour which won't start the saver if a windowed DOS box is the active window. The right button and corner options are independent of each other.

Some notes :-

ScrStart attempts to detect if a Computer Based Training (CBT) module is present in the system (such as the tutorials provided with MS Works for Windows and MS Word for Windows). If it finds one, it won't start. (Some CBTs trap all key strokes. If a password is active on the saver, you can't type it in. Not helpful!). CBTs written for Windows 3.1 appear to be better behaved (well, WinTutor is anyway), and the saver will start under such conditions.

If you have any problems with CBTs (or any problems with ScrStart at all), please let me know.

Scrstart does not know about full screen dos boxes. You can click to your heart's content and it won't know anything about it.

Error messages :-

ScrStart already running.

Only a single copy of Scrstart will run at any one time.

Program fails to initialise, aborting...

Hopefully you won't see this. If you do, let me know

Failed to install hook

(see "Program fails to initialise, aborting")

Screen saver is already loaded.

Only a single copy of the current saver is run at any time. This means that if, eg, you have Control Panel | Desktop running with the saver configuration box displayed, and attempt to start the saver, the above message will be displayed.

Boring stuff.

This is Freeware. You use it entirely at your own risk. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

If the planet explodes on your using it, it's not my fault. It cost you nothing, but have you considered you may have been overcharged?

Any comments, bug reports (what they?) etc, best bet is to mail me on Compuserve at 100023,3357.

Release notes

V1.2 June 1993 - initial release to the world in general.