



KABLAM!

VERSION 1.1

by Jeffrey Schrab

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System Requirements

KABLAM! requires Windows 95. It has not been tested on Windows NT 4.00, but should work.

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Bottom Line: I am not responsible for what may happen if *KABLAM!* spouts off with your favorite anti-boss WAV at work in your boss's presence or any similar situation.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Just put the EXE wherever you want and run it. Optionally, a shortcut to the "StartUp" system folder can be added to have *KABLAM!* startup on system startup. *KABLAM!* will keep a *kablam.ini* file to keep track of its settings from run to run.

Enough Already! What Is *KABLAM!* ?

My brother was raving about a little program for his Mac called *Kaboom!*, which allowed him to attach sounds to system events and program starts as well as random timed sounds - just for noise. Since I upgraded to Windows 95 and PLUS!, I have had similar fun with system sounds - but no random sounds - just for noise. So, Delphi 2 (a development environment you should *really* try!) in hand, I whipped up *KABLAM!* to fill the void of random timed sounds.

Really, there is nothing like the theme to *The Wild Wild West* just starting up, for no reason, to brighten your day!

Operation

Once *KABLAM!* is running, an icon will appear in the “notification tray”, much like the “ear” at the top of this page. Double clicking on it will bring up the *KABLAM!* Settings Dialog. The one thing that *KABLAM!* needs is .WAV files to play. Surely you have 20-30M of .WAV files sitting around, don't you? Hit the BROWSE button and select a folder for *KABLAM!* to look for .WAV files in. Press OK, to make the dialog go away ... and that's it. *KABLAM!* should now provide hours of continually broken silence and embarrassing moments.

New Features for 1.1

Be Quiet

There are now “Be Quiet” settings that allow *KABLAM!* to be silent when certain programs are running. The big reason for this is that *KABLAM!* asks for WAV files from the file system at random times - that's what *KABLAM!* is all about. Problem: when system programs such as ScanDisk or the Disk Defragment are running, they will reset anytime the file system is interfered with; when *KABLAM!* is running, they will never complete their job. Thus the “Be Quiet” settings.

“Be Quiet” works by looking for window titles that match its ‘Be Quiet’ list. This matching is done by looking for a given substring *anywhere* within a window title. Many programs switch their window titles during execution. If care is taken in selecting a substring to set under “Be Quiet”, this shouldn't be a problem.

By default ‘ScanDisk’ and ‘Defrag’ are window titles that are scanned for.

ESC - Abort current sound

I wanted this from the beginning. I really made it too hard. There is a .EXE size baggage price to pay for using the MCI, but its worth it!

Operation Hints

Get into the habit of turning *KABLAM!* off before using the phone.

Miscellaneous

That's about it. If you use and enjoy *KABLAM!*, send me some email (j_schrab@execpc.com) and tell me what you think! Even if you don't have much to say, just drop me a line so I can put you on my update mailing list. I would *love* to know how many people are using this thing!

If you have a Windows NT 4.00 system setup, please let me know if *KABLAM!* works on it. If you find any bugs or suggestions, please email me as well.

Special Thanks to...

- ... Michael MacInnis : for pushing me just a bit more to make sure the ESC/Abort found its way into this release!
- ... Alon Yaffe : for giving me a GREAT deal of help with keyboard hooks under Win32 - which, in the end, I found out that really didn't need (but I learned A LOT!)
- ... Pete Ness : for his great freeware TTrayIcon component. Some people actually CHARGE for things like this!
- ... Jerome Tremblay : for his freeware TWindowsList component - making the “Be Quiet” settings a snap.
- ... Ahto Tanner : for his freeware UrlLabel in the email address in the About page (if you use MSIE, try it!)

... Brad Stowers : for his freeware BrowseDr component that makes directory selection so professional looking!

... Steven Schrab : my brother, the initial inspiration for *KABLAM!*, who, Macintosh backer that he is, continues to point out the deficiencies of Windows95 to me...

Future Plans

There are only two more features I would like to add to *KABLAM!* But I could use some technical help:

- *KABLAM!* should be aware of system power saving modes and "Be Quiet" when in a low power state. Because of intermittent disk access, *KABLAM!* foils the system from shutting the hard drive down.
- Remember the *Operation Hints* - "Get into the habit of turning *KABLAM!* off before using the phone"? Well, I am trying to find a way, through a MODEM, to find out if the phone is off the hook and (the MODEM) is not use for other reasons. That way, *KABLAM!* could *mute itself!* Also, the option of making the whole system quiet (CD player, system event sounds, etc.), when on the phone, could turn *KABLAM!* into something ~~actually~~ *even more useful!* I don't know if this is possible - don't get your hopes up, just yet. Any ideas would be helpful.

History

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24-APR-1996 - JDS - VERSION 1 - BETA 1
03-MAY-1996 - JDS - Fixed "one sound after menu disable". Timer
now checks for enable/disable state.
04-MAY-1996 - JDS - Added 'BrowseDr' to browse for WAV directory
Better than using OpenFileDialog! WAY TO GO!
05-MAY-1996 - JDS - Do not allow Kablam! to interrupt a current
sound from another app.
- Close form closed the app, only 'Shut Down'
should do that. Fixed.
05-SEP-1996 - JDS - Tray icon now has "nought" sign on disabled.
03-OCT-1996 - JDS - Added URLLabel for email address.
04-OCT-1996 - JDS - Added "Last Kablam!" filename to trayicon hint
05-OCT-1996 - JDS - ***** VERSION 1 RELEASE *****
25-OCT-1996 - JDS - About box URL label now puts in subject
"Kablam! Correspondence" automatically. Cool!
26-OCT-1996 - JDS - Broke up settings into 'Timing', 'WAV Path',
and 'Be Quiet'. Added help text and graphics
to new pages.
- 'Be Quiet' feature. Checks window titles for
for applications that Kablam should be quiet
for - like 'Defrag' and 'ScanDisk'. Settings
added to INI file. INI file is TOTALLY
re-written every time now.
- Minor art change in 'NoughtKablam' image and
icon.
- Smarts for first time use requiring and
guiding WAV folder setup.
- Changed external references of PATH to FOLDER ;)
INI remains the same for backwards compatibility.
- URLLabel update
- Memos in About are fine as labels.
08-NOV-1996 - JDS - Several approaches later... ESC now serves as
a WAV abort key! Used MPlayer and MCI instead
of PlaySound. Set ESC as the break key - easy
when you know how! (YIKES!)
08-NOV-1996 - JDS - ***** VERSION 1.1 RELEASE *****

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