PassKeys
version 2.1c

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CAUTION: This file contains sensitive information about PassKeys' security functions and should not be made available to users.

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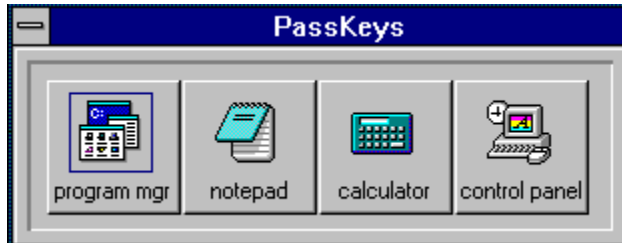**ENHANCED SECURITY**
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About:

PassKeys will enable you to selectively allow access to your computer and it's programs with Multi-Level passwords.   For instance....

In a home environment you may... Set up as many **Program Buttons** as you like and through the **Master Password,** YOU will have access to all of them.   Through the use of the individual **Button Passwords** your spouse, children, friends, guests etc. will have access to selected programs at your discretion. (i.e.,. whomever you tell the **Button Passwords** to will have access to the programs).

In a business environment, YOU, as the administrator, will have access to all **Program Buttons** that you set up through the use of the **Master Password**   Your employees(or Departments) can have access to selected programs through the **Button Passwords**.

PassKeys will allow you to set up and lock-in, your desired color & configuration and not have to worry about Groups, Icons, Colors etc., being changed in your absence.   **PassKeys** insures a uniform Desktop appearance in business and network environments and prevents data and information pilferage by restricting access to the "File Manager" and DOS Command Prompt.

Setup/Installation:

If you received a shareware version of **PassKeys** in zipped form (PASSKEYS.ZIP or PASSKEYZ.EXE), run the SETUP.EXE file located in the subdirectory where you unzipped the compressed file.   When you first run **PassKeys** you will be prompted to accept the defaults.   This prompt should be answered "Yes".

If you have received the registered version of **PassKeys**, run the SETUP program on the "Setup" disk.

Using As Shell:

In order to enable "Maximum Security", PassKeys.exe must be used as your SHELL (i.e.,. system.ini should contain the line Shell=C:\...\passkeys.exe).
With the exception of some OEM supplied software or computers, the "Shell" is generally progman.exe aka "Program Manager".   Since the primary security functions of **PassKeys** are accomplished by requiring the entering of a user-configured password prior to launching programs, and since "Program Manager" does not require passwords <u>and</u> contains the "RUN" command, it effectively nullifies **PassKeys**' security functions.

This is not to say however that with **PassKeys** as your shell you have to give up the functions or features of "Program Manager" that you like and use often since you can launch "Program Manager" from a **PassKeys** button that you have password protected.

To make **PassKeys** your shell, you need merely to Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign),choose "Configure" and enter the **Master Password**, and click once in the box labeled "Use as Shell" so that an **x** appears within the box.
<u>note...</u>if at any time you desire to return to having "Program Manager" as your shell, simply remove the x from the "Use as Windows Shell" box.

Auto-Run:

The **Auto-Run** function is provided as a replacement for Program Manager's "Startup Group".   **Program Buttons** with the **Auto-Run** function checked will launch automatically each time you start Windows.

<u>.ini files:</u>

Most WINDOWS programs make use of ".ini" files to store program information, settings and preferences. Most significantly, WINDOWS uses the files "WIN.INI" and "SYSTEM.INI" to store the settings that control the look, feel and general configuration of WINDOWS itself.

We have identified these .ini files as a possible vulnerability in the security functions of **PassKeys**.   In order to minimize this risk, please see the topic **Enhanced Security**

Configuring:

PassKeys is pre-configured to be a short (4 button wide) command bar containing the programs.... PROGRAM MANAGER, NOTEPAD, CALCULATOR. and CONTROL PANEL.

During the course of your usage of **PassKeys**, you may..... Change the default programs, add your own **Program Buttons**, add or change **Button Passwords**, change the **Master Password**, re-arrange the **Program Buttons** etc.   You may therefore at times, desire to change the look or orientation of the **PassKeys** SHELL.

There are three main appearance options, they are......**Horizontal**(default), **Vertical**(Buttons in a vertical "Tower"), and **Tile**.

Once you have determined the desired appearance for **PassKeys**, you must right click on the **PassKeys** Close button (Minus sign), select "Configure", enter the **Master Password** and select the **Horizontal, Vertical or Tile** option by clicking in the box next to the appropriate configuration. If you select **Tile**, you must also provide the **#Across**, this will configure the number of buttons across in your **PassKeys** Window.   The number of buttons down will be determined by the number of **Program Buttons** total divided by the set **#Across.**

DataStream Software STRONGLY recommends that you do not attempt to configure PassKeys through the "passkeys.ini" file since each line is linked with a password which are stored separately and in binary form.

Adding/Editing Buttons:

PassKeys comes pre-configured with **Program Buttons** for Program Manager, Notepad, Calculator, and Control Panel.   In order to change these and add **Program Buttons** for your own programs, you will...
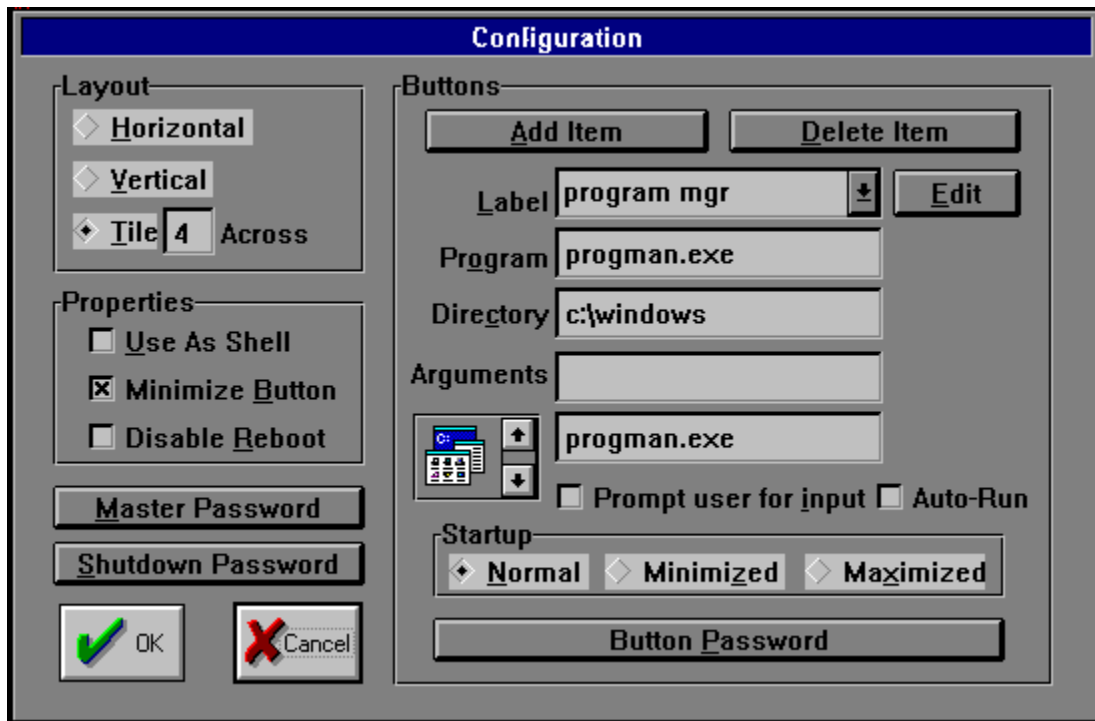
(To Change)
1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
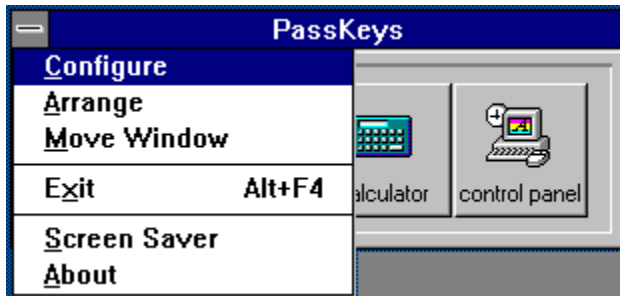
2.) Choose "Configure"
3.) Enter the **Master Password.**
4.) In the main configuration dialog box select the button name of the **Program Button** you want to change by clicking on the down arrow next to the "Label" window and selecting the name from the drop-down list and clicking on the "Edit" button beside the "Label" window.

5.) Fill in the new name and location of the desired program as well as"Arguments" (optional) and Icon Path if necessary by typing them or using the "Browse" function.

6.) In order for the **Program Button** to be protected you must click on the "Button Password" button and type in a **Button Password,** you must then tab to the "Verify Password" field and retype the same password.   You may also remove protection for a previously passworded application by checking the "No Password" option box.   (Note: the **Master Password** will also launch this program and any others).

7.) Select whether you want the program to run "Normal"(default), "Minimized" or "Maximized".
8.) Click OK.

(To Add)
1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
2.) Choose "Configure"
3.) Enter the **Master Password.**
4.) Click on the "Add Item" button.

5.) Using the dialog box, locate the program you are adding and select it by either double-clicking on the file name or clicking once on the file name and once on the "O.K." button.
6.) Supply the name for the button.   (Note, names are centered on the **Program Button**, those exceeding the width of the button will show up truncated.)

7.) If the program contains an icon, it will be displayed it the icon window, otherwise the default **PassKeys** icon will be displayed.   You may type in the name of another icon or use the "Browse Button" to locate an alternate.
8.) In order for the **Program Button** to be protected you must click on the "Edit Password" button and type in a **Button Password,** you must then tab to the "Verify Password" field and retype the same password. (Note: the **Master Password** will also launch this program and any others).
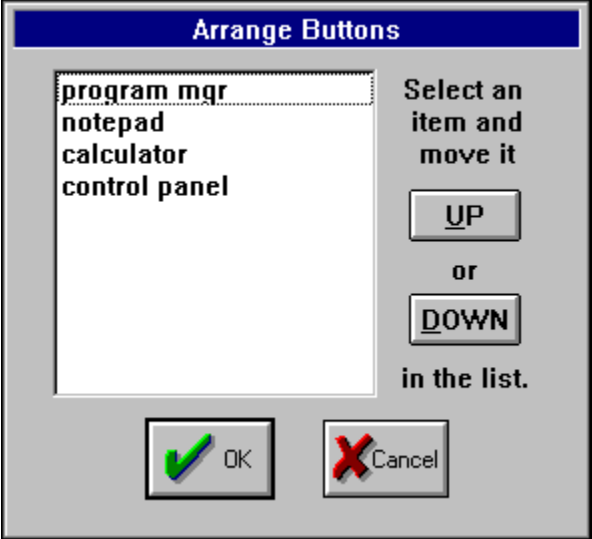

(To Delete)

1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
2.) Enter the **Master Password.**
3.) Select the button name of the **Program Button** you want to delete by clicking on the down arrow next to the "Label" window and selecting the name from the drop-down list.
4.) Click on the "Delete Item" button.
5.) Click on "Yes" to confirm the deletion.

Re-Arranging Buttons:

To Re-Arrange the buttons in your Passkeys Window......

1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus Sign)
2.) Choose Arrange.
3.) Enter the **Master Password**
4.) Select the name of the **Program Button** you wish to move.
5.) Use the Up and/or Down buttons to move the title to the desired position.
6.) Click O.K.

Arrange Buttons

program mgr
notepad
calculator
control panel

Select an item and move it

UP

or

DOWN

in the list.

✔ OK   ✗ Cancel

Passwords:

Passwords are the main function and utility of **PassKeys**.   You may have any number of **Program Buttons** within **PassKeys** and you may choose to control access to them through the use of Passwords or not.   The **Master Password** must be set in order for **Button Passwords** to take effect.

Button Passwords:

The procedure for adding/changing **Button Passwords** is as follows.

1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
2.) Enter the **Master Password.**
3.) Select the name of the desired **Program Button** by clicking on the down arrow   next to the "Button" window and selecting the name from the drop-down list.
4.) Click on the "Set Password" button.
5.) Type your new Password in the "Enter Password" box, then tab to the "Verify Password" box and re-type the same Password.   **NOTE:** Passwords can be any combination of upper or lower case alpha numeric or symbol character up to 12 characters long.   Passwords may contain spaces but may not use function keys (F1 thru F12, TAB, CTRL, or ALT)
6.) Click on "OK" as needed to close the configuration windows.

Master Password:

The procedure for adding/changing **Master Password** is as follows.

1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
2.) Enter the current **Master Password.**
3.) Click on the "Master Password" button in the main configuration window.
4.) Type your new Password in the "Enter Password" box, then tab to the "Verify Password" box and re-type the same Password.   **NOTE:** Passwords can be any combination of upper or lower case alpha numeric or symbol character up to 12 characters long.   Passwords may contain spaces but may not use function keys (F1 thru F12, TAB, CTRL, or ALT)
5.) Click on "OK" as needed to close the configuration windows.

Shutdown Password:

The procedure for adding/changing **Shutdown Password** is as follows.

1.) Click on the **PassKeys** close button (Minus sign).
2.) Enter the current **Master Password.**
3.) Click on the "Shutdown Password" button in the main configuration window.
4.) Type your new Password in the "Enter Password" box, then tab to the "Verify Password" box and re-type the same Password.   **NOTE:** Passwords can be any combination of upper or lower case alpha numeric or symbol character up to 12 characters long.   Passwords may contain spaces but may not use function keys (F1 thru F12, TAB, CTRL, or ALT)
5.) Click on "OK" as needed to close the configuration windows.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
It is VERY important that you not forget your Master Password.   The ONLY remedy for a forgotten Master Password is to be registered with DataStream Software and to have requested "Disaster Protection".

The Master Password has several functions.   #1. The Master Password is required to make any configuration changes to PassKeys.   #2. While each Program Button can be configured to use it's own unique Password, the Master Password will launch any program within Passkeys.   #3. The Master Password can be used to shut down PassKeys.   When an attempt is made to use a function that is protected by the Master Password, you will be prompted to enter it before proceeding.   For instructions on setting, See PASSWORDS

Each Button may have an associated password which will be required to run applications you have protected.   When an attempt is made to launch a password protected program, you will be prompted to enter the associated password.   For instructions on setting, See PASSWORDS

The Shutdown Password is required to shut down PassKeys.   When an attempt is made to exit Windows, you will be prompted to enter it before proceeding.   The Master Password will also shut down PassKeys.   For instructions on setting, See PASSWORDS

Enhanced Security:

Here are a few tips you can use to prevent others from circumventing PassKeys' security...

1.) In it's 6.x versions of DOS, Microsoft has included the ability to Bypass(F5), or Step Through(F8), the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS startup files.   In the event that either of these functions are used (ie. pressing the (F5) or (F8) keys during system startup), the user is left at the C:\> prompt and can run programs, edit files etc. before **PassKeys** has a chance to protect them.   In order to disable these (Fx) functions, you need to add the line **switches=/n** to the beginning of your CONFIG.SYS file.

2.) The Ctrl+C key combinations has the effect of terminating the processing of the AUTOEXEC.BAT and/or CONFIG.SYS files at the line where it is pressed.   Add the line **Break=off** to the start of your CONFIG.SYS file (but after **switches=/n)** to disable this function.

3.) The best and most effective way to prevent access to your programs from the C:\> prompt prior to Windows and **Passkeys** loading is to enable the "Password" function in your computers CMOS setup(most late-model computer BIOS/CMOS makers include a password function).   This requires a password to be entered before any startup files are processed.   Refer to your computers manual for instructions on setting up the CMOS Password.

4.) ".ini" files. Since these files are stored in text form, they can be opened and changed using any word processing program.   Windows' main ".ini" files, WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI(which includes the Shell= line) could be tampered with unless protected.   <u>**Note:**</u> **Button Passwords** the **Shutdown Password** and the <u>**Master Password**</u> which are stored separately and in binary form are not vulnerable in the ".ini" file.   In order to protect these ".ini" files you will need to make them "Read Only" files which will prevent any changes made to them from being saved.   To add the "Read Only" attribute to the ".ini" files, you need to select them from the Files list, in the Windows directory in File Manager, Click on "File" on the system menu and "Properties" in the drop down menu, click within the box in front of   "<u>R</u>ead Only" in the "Attributes" section and click O.K.   Since many Windows programs make changes to and store settings in these files during setup, we suggest that you remove the "Read Only" attributes prior to attempting to install any software.   During normal day-to-day use however, these files are not modified and may be protected.

<u>**Warning!**</u>
When used alone or in conjunction with these tips, PassKeys will keep your system safe from most prying eyes, and will discourage tampering by most users.   HOWEVER...as in any area, an educated and dedicated professional Will be able to find ways to get past even the strongest precautions.

Support:

If you have questions, suggestions or need technical support for the Shareware version of **PassKeys** you can contact the authors at the following addresses.

U.S. Mail

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VoiceMail/FAX----------(909)659-9844

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Many thanks to Computer Innovations Inc. for their input, support and help in testing and

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Registration form for **PassKeys**
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You may register PassKeys On-Line on Compuserve, (GO SWREG) Registration ID: 6876

Return this form to:

 DataStream Software
100 S. Sunrise Way....Suite 469.
   Palm Springs, Ca
            92262

Print this form using the File, Print Topic command.   Enclose check, money order or international money order drawn on a U.S. bank, in U.S. funds and made payable to DataStream Software.   (CA add Sales Tax) Registration entitles you to the latest, fully functional Registered version of **PassKeys**, a printed manual and technical support by telephone.

Please PRINT CLEARLY.

_____ Copies of **PassKeys** at $25.00 U.S. $_____

Subtotal (from above) $_____
California TAX $_____

Shipping $4 (U.S., Canada, Mexico) $_____
Overseas Shipping $6 $_____
Total (to DataStream Software) $_____

Questions, Comments or suggestions for future versions of **PassKeys**:
_____
_____
_____
_____

I would like to see previews or be a Beta Tester for other products by DataStream Software when they become available.   Yes___   No___
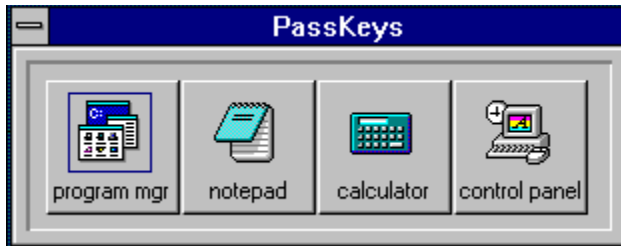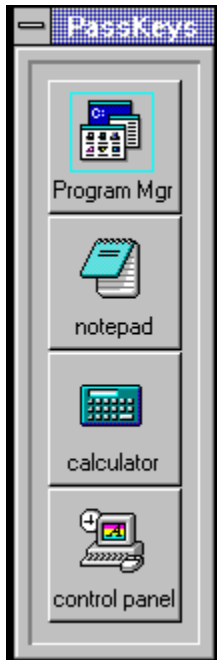
Ship to:
Name: _____

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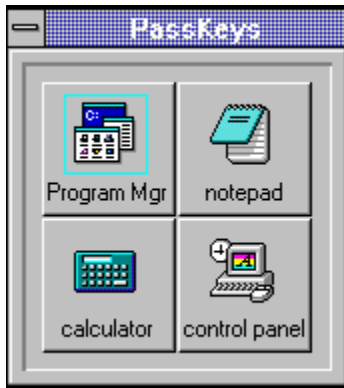**Phone: _____   DISK SIZE....3.5"_____5.25"_____**

PassKeys Horizontal (Default)

Passkeys Vertical

Passkeys Tile..#Across=2

History:

PassKeys was developed after it's authors, having spent several years in the personal and business computer-consulting field and after having been approached by business associates and fellow network administrators about the ability (or inability) to protect their Windows based networks and applications from tampering, identified a need for such a program.

Due to the fact that Windows is becoming increasingly prevalent in both the business and home computing markets.   And the fact that Windows offers a relatively easily navigable interface.   A need appears to have arisen to control access to personal and sensitive programs and information by employees, children, guests, and others.

The fact that you have purchased or downloaded this product means that you have identified a need to control the use of and access to your system and therefore have confirmed our suspicion of a need for such a product.   We hope that **PassKeys** meets your needs and expectations.

While we have endeavored to make **PassKeys** both secure and easy to use, and have tested it in as many environments and on as many systems as possible, it would be impossible for us to guarantee that the use of **PassKeys** will or could stop all tampering with your system (especially by those who make a hobby of finding and exploiting ways around this kind of program).   Therefore   we have included information on steps that can be taken to augment **PassKeys'** in securing your programs and data in the topic **Enhanced Security** .

The "Control-Alt-Delete" key combination (also known as the "Three finger salute") is used to "soft boot" or reboot computers.   This function is generally used to escape from a program that has stopped responding (Windows).   However it can also be used to break out of the operating system.   Generally, when a system is rebooted in this manner the CMOS password is bypassed. By checking the box marked "Disable Reboot" within the passkeys Configuration dialog, you can disable this key combination.