LifeSaver On-Line Help v3.01

LifeSaver is a Windows 95 configuration file backup and restore utility.   It can be used to recover from problems due to corrupt configuration files or changes to configuration files which can not be undone.   Configuration files can be modified by installing new software or hardware, or changing properties in your system configuration.   You should backup your configuration files before altering them, allowing you to restore them if you can not undo the changes.   Restoring any configuration files should only be done as a last resort if you can not manually restore them to a previous state or if they have become corrupt. LifeSaver has many useful features which are described below. The Standard features are available to registered and unregistered users. The Additional features are only available to registered users, and for a 30 day trial period to unregistered users.

Standard features:
- Backup and Restore up to seven default system underline configuration files
- Run from the command line with **scheduling programs** (i.e. System Agent)
- Add to System Agent, StartUp folder, or desktop during install.
- Smart install changes default options based on system configuration
- Restore files from the command prompt (DOS) mode with **self-generating batch file**
- Safely restore the registry files from Windows
- Quick restore with right mouse button on backup list
- Restore to an alternate directory
- Save up to 2 backups
- Enhanced reliability
- Restore individual files
- Right mouse button support (including "What's This?" help)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in on-line help
- User selectable Toolbar, Status Bar, and backup sort order
- Resizable screen for long backup names
- Rename backups at any time
- Enhanced on-line documentation

Additional features: (for registered version and 30 day trial period only)
- Backup and Restore up to 10 user defined files (with Drag and Drop support)
- Includes LHA compression (after 30 day trail period unregistered version requires PkZip and PkUnzip)
- Save up to 10 backups (reduced to 2 after 30 day trail period unless registered)
- Site licenses include (registered version only):
    - Silent install option (no user prompts required)
    - Configure default options for install (i.e. add to System Agent, add to StartUp folder, add to StartUp folder if System Agent is not running, etc.)

NOTE: After the 30 day trail period, the additional features will be disabled unless the program is registered (click here for details on how to register). Only the backup portion of the features above will be disabled, the restore options will remain enabled.   LifeSaver will continue to restore any files which were previously backed up, including those with LHA compression or custom files.

You can easily browse through this help file to read about all of the features by pressing

the   >>   button at the top of this screen or the   >   key on your keyboard.

!! WARNING - WARNING - WARNING !!
Extreme caution should be exercised when using this program to restore configuration files!   Any modifications made to the these files after a backup will be lost.   **This software is provided "AS IS".   The author accepts no responsibility for damages occurring as a direct or indirect result of using this software.**

Send comments or suggestions to: Aeroblade@aol.com
Home Page: http://members.aol.com/aeroblade

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Does LifeSaver work with WinZip?
A: No, LifeSaver will not work with WinZip.   LifeSaver <u>requires</u> LHA or PkZip and PkUnzip
      so that you can restore from the command prompt in case your registry files get
      corrupt and you can not start Windows (in which case you could not use WinZip or any
      other Windows-based compression program).   You can use WinZip to check the
      contents of a backup, and to extract files, even with LHA compression (you need to set
      the path to in the [Options] [Program Locations...] [LHA:] to: C:\Program Files\
      LifeSaver\Lha\Lha.exe).

Q: Where is the best location to save LifeSaver Backups?
A: When selecting a path to store backup files, you may use long directory names, but it
      is suggested that you use a short directory name for your <u>backup directory</u>. Using a
      short directory name is easier to find from the <u>command mode</u> in case you can not
      start windows.
      There is no advantage to saving backups to a floppy because LifeSaver creates
      backups of your configuration files and is only useful if you can access your hard drive.
      The only files you need on a floppy are those required to make a bootable disk.   As
      long as you can boot from a floppy and get to your hard drive, you can then use
      LifeSaver to restore your configuration files.

Q: How often should a backup be made?
A: The backup frequency depends on how often you make changes to your computer's
      configuration by installing new software/hardware or changing system settings.   For
      most users once or twice a week is sufficient and daily would provide extra protection.
      For users who install/test a lot of beta software daily or at startup may be required for
      maximum protection.   If you backup only one or twice a week it is recommended that
      you manually create a backup before making any changes to your system.
      Remember, when restoring configuration files, all changes made after the backup was
      made are lost.   Therefore,   it is important to keep your backups recent.

Q: How to view the contents of a backup?
A: You can see the contents of a backup by clicking on it in the backup list with the right
      mouse button.   You can even restore a file by clicking on it (see <u>quick restore</u> for more
      details).

Q: How to restore files?
A: The easiest way to restore files is to do so from Windows.   You can select which files
      to restore and where to restore them to from the Options screen.   If you choose to
      restore to an <u>alternate directory</u> you can compare the files without overwriting your

current configuration files.   To restore a single file without changing the restore options just right-click on the backup and select the file to restore (the location is the same as specified in the Options screen, see <u>quick restore</u> for details).

Q: What to do if Windows won't start?
A: To restore your configuration files after they have become corrupt and Windows won't start, you must restore from the command prompt following these steps:
   1. Start the computer in the command prompt mode
      1a.   When you see the **Starting Windows 95...** message press the **[F8]** key
      1b.   Select the **Safe mode command prompt only** option
   2. Go to the <u>backup directory</u>
   3. Type: Restore <Enter>
   4. Restart your computer
(see restoring files from the <u>command prompt (DOS) mode</u> with self-generating batch file for details)

Q: Can LifeSaver be installed more than once on the same computer?
A: Yes, you can run multiple copies of LifeSaver as long as each is installed in a different directory, and they each have different backup paths.   Each copy can then have a different scheduling frequency (i.e. one can run at startup while the other can run weekly), just in case you need additional backups.   This is only useful for users who change their   configurations very often (by installing a lot of beta software, etc.) and need to restart their computers multiple times a day.

Q: What is the difference between LHA vs. PkZip compression?
A: As far as LifeSaver is concerned there is no difference.   Both provide the same functionality for all of the features supported by LifeSaver.   PkZip is faster and more widely used than LHA, but LHA is freeware and PkZip is not.   Users who continue to use PkZip should purchase a registered copy of PkZip and PkUnzip.

Q: Why won't LifeSaver backup custom files or save more than 2 backups?
A: LifeSaver has not been <u>registered</u> and the 30 trial period is over.   These features are only available to registered users.   There is a 30 day trial period to see if you find these features useful enough to register.

Q: How to debug LifeSaver problems?
A: If LifeSaver is not functioning properly there may be a problem with the Lha or PkZip shelled process. To see if there are any error messages in the DOS shelled process, run LifeSaver with the /vo command line option using the following steps:
      - Click on the Windows 95 [Start] button,
      - then select [Run],
      - type (including quotes):   "C:\Program Files\LifeSaver\LifeSaver.exe" /vo
      - then start a backup and check the DOS window for messages.
   For details refer to the <u>command line</u> options.

General Information

LifeSaver can save from 1 to 10 backups (up to 2 for unregistered users after 30 days).   To set number of backups to save click the 'Options' button.   Once the maximum number of backups is reached, each additional backup will cause the oldest backup to be deleted automatically.   The old backups are deleted to help conserve disk space.

When selecting a path to store backup files, you may use long directory names, but it is suggested that you use a short directory name for your backup directory so that you can easily find it from the command mode in case you can not start windows.

The file name for a backup will have the format Backup##.ext, where ## can go from 00-99 and will wrap after reaching 99, and ext is lzh (for LHA compression) or zip (for PkZip compression).   The backup name can be any text that the user wants to use to describe the backup, and will default to the filename without the .lzh or .zip extension.

The list of previous backups uses the backup name, to find out the file name or contents right-click on the backup from the previous backup list (see Quick restore). By right-clicking on a backup you can: change the sort order, rename a backup, delete a backup, see the file name and contents of that backup, or select file(s) to restore.   You can click on a column header to change the sort order, and click on it again to reverse the order.   You can also resize the widths of the columns to accommodate your backup names.

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{button ,AL(`CustFiles;QuickRest;OptGen;OptBak;OptRest;CmdPrompt;RegInfo',0,`',`')}
Related Topics

Configuration Files

LifeSaver program will backup up and restore up to seven default system configuration files.   These files are grouped as follows:
- Windows registry information (System.dat, User.dat)
- Windows configuration information (Protocol.ini, System.ini, Win.ini)
- DOS configuration information (Autoexec.bat, Config.sys)

Use the Options screen to select which files to backup and restore. By right-clicking on a backup, in the list of previous backups, you can see the contents of that backup and perform a quick restore.

{button ,AL(`CustFiles;QuickRest;OptGen;OptBak;OptRest',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Options - General

Backup File Path
Set the path where the backup files will be stored.

When selecting a path to store backup files, you may use long directory names, but it is suggested that you use short directory names for your backup directory so that you can easily find it from the <u>command mode</u> in case you can not start windows (i.e. C:\BACKUP).

Max Saved Backups
The maximum number of backup files that will be stored.

This number can range from 1-10 (for registered users, up to 2 for non-registered users after the trial period expires).   Once the maximum number of backups is reached, each additional backup will cause the oldest backup to be deleted automatically.   The old backups are deleted to help conserve disk space.

Compression Type/Path
Select the type of compression to use, and the path where the required files are located.
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{button ,AL(`OptBak;OptRest;CmdLine;RegInfo;CmdPrompt',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Options - Backup

Files
Select the files to backup.

Unchecking a group is a quick way to not include any of the files in that group in your backups.

You may select up to 10 custom files to add to each backup by clicking on the Select button (for registered users only).   You can add files with the "Add" button or **drag and drop** them from a file list.

{button ,AL(`OptGen;OptRest;CmdLine;RegInfo',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Options - Restore

Files
Select the files to restore.

Unchecking a group is a quick way to not include any of the files in that group when you restore.   Since each backup may contain different files, only files contained in that backup and are selected for restoring will be restored.   These options are overridden when a user directly selects which file(s) to restore by using the Quick restore option.

To restore all the custom files check the "All custom files" box on the "Restore" tab.   To restore some of the custom files do not check the "All custom files" box, but keep the "Custom" file group checked.   You will be prompted during the restore process to select which custom files to restore (because each backup can have different custom files).

Alternate Restore Path
Select an alternate path to restore the files.

All files can be restored into an alternate directory. This allows you to look at previous configuration files without overwriting the current files.   You can even restore to a directory over a network.

{button ,AL(`OptGen;OptBak;CmdLine;QuickRest',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Custom Files (registered version only)

LifeSaver can backup up and restore up to 10 different user defined files.   To add files to the custom list:
- Click on the "Options" button
- Click on the "Backup" tab
- Check/enable the "Custom" file group
- Click on the "Select..." button
- Add files with the "Add" button or **drag and drop** them from a file list

To restore all the custom files check the "All custom files" box on the "Restore" tab.   To restore some of the custom files do not check the "All custom files" box, but keep the "Custom" file group checked.   You will be prompted during the restore process to select which custom files to restore (because each backup can have different custom files).

Custom files may reside on another computer over a network connection.

{button ,AL(`CfgFiles;OptBak;OptRest;RegInfo;CmdPrompt',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Command Line Options

LifeSaver can be run from the command line, which enables it to be run from scheduling type programs such as Microsoft's System Agent included in the Plus! pack.   This way you can regularly backup your configuration files without manually running the program, and you can be sure that you can recover files no more than a day old (if you backup once a day).

Command Line Options:

/backup [backup name] [/d###]

This will create a new backup using the settings from the Options screen.   If a backup name is omitted, then the default name will be used (the file name without the .lzh or .zip extension i.e. Backup25).

"/b" can be used instead of "/backup".

This option is used by the <u>"Backup Now"</u> shortcut.

The /d option is to set a delay, in seconds, before starting the backup.   Where ### is the number of seconds to delay the backup.   This option is helpful when running LifeSaver from the StartUp folder, where you may want to make sure all the programs in the StartUp folder have started before making a backup.   The /d command is optional.

When a LifeSaver backup is started with the /d option, it can be canceled by pressing the [Esc] key after clicking on LifeSaver in the Windows 95 Taskbar.

Example: To start a backup with a 60 second delay, the command should look like:
"C:\Program Files\LifeSaver\LifeSaver.exe" /b /d60

/restore (backup description)

This will restore the files from a backup using the settings from the Options screen.   The backup description can not omitted and must match a description in the list of previous backups.   This is to help prevent accidentally restoring the wrong files.

Debug Options:

/v   - To view the DOS shelled process.

/vo - To view the DOS shelled process and remain open until closed by the user.

{button ,AL(`OptGen;OptRest;OptBak;BakupNow',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Backup Now

The "Backup Now" icon in the LifeSaver program group will create a backup using the default backup name and options.   The user should be sure to set all of the required program options prior to using the "Backup Now" shortcut.

The "Backup Now" shortcut uses the /b <u>command line</u> option to create the backup.

{button ,AL(`Backup;CmdLine;OptBak;OptGen',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Command Prompt Mode

Using DOS based programs to compress and uncompress the files allows the user to restore these files from the command prompt without starting windows.   Therefore, configuration files can be restored even if Windows can not be started

To make it easier to restore files from the command prompt, LifeSaver automatically generates a **Restore.bat** file in the backup directory.
The usage for Restore.bat is: Restore [backup name]

> Example: Restore Backup05
> If the backup name is left blank then the program will restore your files using the most recent backup.

To use the Restore.bat from the command prompt mode:
    1. Start the computer in the command prompt mode
        1a.   When you see the **Starting Windows 95...** message press the **[F8]** key
        1b.   Select the **Safe mode command prompt only** option
    2. Go to the backup directory
    3. Type: Restore <Enter>
    4. Restart your computer

Note: LifeSaver will only restore the default system configuration files from the command prompt and not any custom files.   The Restore.bat file will restore the files you need to start Windows, where you can then restore your custom files.

{button ,AL(`CustFiles;Reliable;OptGen;OptBak;OptRest',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Quick Restore

You can see the contents of a backup by clicking on it in the backup list with the right mouse button.   You can then restore a file by clicking on it.   You can also select to restore all of the custom files (if there are any), or all of the files in the backup.   The file(s) will be restored to their default directory or to an alternate directory depending on what you selected in the options screen.

While you navigate through the list of files in a backup, the restore location for the selected file will be displayed in the status bar of the LifeSaver screen.

New in Version 2.20

The name of the backup file is displayed on the top of the Quick Restore menu.   If you override the default backup description BackupXX, then this will allow you to know which file contains the backup for the selected item.

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{button ,AL(`CustFiles;OptGen;OptRest;Backup',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Enhanced Reliability

To enhance the backup reliability, LifeSaver now checks the contents of each backup upon completion to verify that it contains all of the requested files.

LifeSaver also checks for temp disk space before backing up to ensure all of the files can be copied before compressing them.   Files are copied and then compressed to make sure that they are not accessed during the compression process.

Prior to restoring, a list of files to be restored is displayed to allow you to identify any files you may not want to restore.

New in Version 2.20

LifeSaver now automatically makes sure the registry files contain all updated information before they are backed up.   Prior to version 2.20 the help file stated "The safest way to back up the registry files is to do so immediately after starting Windows."   This is no longer required to assure a safe backup.

Restoring registry files from within Windows is now more reliable, although restoring them from the command prompt is the safest method and should be used if there are any problems restoring them from Windows.

LifeSaver checks for conflicts with your "temp" directory to make sure there will not be any problems while backing up or restoring.

New in Version 2.30

LifeSaver can now restore the registry files from within Windows.   If Windows fails to restart properly then restore from the command prompt.

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{button ,AL(`CmdPrompt',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Requirements

This program requires Windows 95, and has not been tested with any other operating system.

If you want to use PkZip compression with LifeSaver, instead of LHA compression, you must use PkZip and PkUnzip version 2.04g.   After the trial period has expired, unregistered users must use PkZip compression.   Registered users may continue to use the LHA compression which comes with LifeSaver.

LHA is copyrighted by Haruyasu Yoshizaki.

{button ,AL(`RegInfo',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

Registration Information

To register LifeSaver send US$18 to:
    JB Systems
    4880-8 Dorsey Hall Dr.
    Ellicott City, MD 21042

Be sure to include the name you want to register (case sensitive), and an e-mail address for a faster response.

To register by phone with Visa or Mastercard call our distributor:
    Bytech Business Systems
    914-354-8666 Voice (9am to 5pm USA Eastern Time, Monday-Friday)
    914-354-5433 Fax
    E-mail: Tools4You@aol.com

Technical support is provided by JB Systems at Aeroblade@aol.com ONLY, and is NOT provided by Bytech Business Systems.

After you receive your registration code, go to the menu and select 'Help' then 'About...', and type in your name and code (both are case sensitive).

To receive a copy on diskette, the cost is US$30 + S&H.

The unregistered version of LifeSaver may be used for personal use only, and may only be distributed with all of its original files.   LifeSaver may not be used in any commercial, governmental, or educational institutions without the purchase of a site-license from JB Systems at the address above.

LifeSaver includes a 30 day trial period to evaluate the additional features and to determine if you want to register.   Once you receive a registration code there will be NO REFUNDS. **To see how many days are left in the trial period, go to the menu and select 'Help' then 'About...'.**

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{button ,AL(`CustFiles;OptBak;Require',0,`',`')}   Related Topics

File name and backup name for the next Backup.   The file name will have the format Backup##.ext, where ## can go from 00-99 and will wrap after reaching 99, and ext is lzh (for LHA compression) or zip (for PkZip compression). The backup name can be any text that the user wants to use to describe the backup, and will default to the filename without the .ext extension.   To find out the file name of a previous backup right-click on the backup from the list below.

List of previous backup names to restore from.   By right-clicking on a backup you can: change the sort order, rename a backup, delete a backup, see the file name and contents of that backup, or select file(s) to restore.   You can click on a column header to change the sort order, and click on it again to reverse the order.   You can also resize the widths of the columns to accommodate your backup names.

Date and time of currently selected backup.

Version/Registration information about this program.

Backup using the file name and description on left.

Restore using the currently selected backup.

Delete the currently selected backup.

Set the and Backup/Restore options.

Stop using this fabulous program.

Open the LifeSaver help file.

Location to store backup files.   You may use long directory names, but it is suggested that you use a short directory name for your backup directory so that you can easily find it from the command mode in case you can not start windows.

The maximum number of backups which will be saved.   This number can range from 1-10.   Once the maximum number of backups is reached, each additional backup will cause the oldest backup to be deleted automatically. The old backups are deleted to help conserve disk space.

The location of the LHA or PkZip and PkUnzip files.   You must have these files to use this program. Using these DOS based programs to compress and uncompress the files allows the user to restore these files from the command prompt without starting windows, which means the configuration files can be restored even if Windows can not be started.

Select which files you wish to save in the all future backups (until you change them here).   Unchecking a group is a
quick way to not include any of the files in that group in your backups.

Select which files you wish to restore in the all future restores (until you change them here).   Unchecking a group is a quick way to not include any of the files in that group when you restore.   Since each backup may contain different files, only files contained in that backup and are selected for restoring will be restored.   These options are overridden when a user directly selects which file(s) to restore by right-clicking on the list of backups to restore from.

Choose an alternate path to restore to.   All files will be restored to this location if "Use Alternate Path" is selected. This allows you to look at previous configuration files without overwriting the current files.

Double-click or press the <Enter> key to select a path.   Press the <Insert> key to create a new directory under the current path.

List of files which start with Pk in the current path.   This is to help you find where the PkZip and PkUnzip files are located.

List of custom files to backup.   You may select up to 10 files to backup by clicking the Add button, or dragging and dropping files from a file list.

List of custom files which are in the backup you are restoring from.   Select which files to restore from this list by clicking on the file(s) while holding down the <Ctrl> key.

Add files to the custom file list.   You can also add files by dragging and dropping files from a file list.

Select all of the custom files to restore.

Delete the selected files from the custom file list.

Do not select any of the custom files to restore.

Number of custom files in the list.

Number of custom files to restore / number of files in the list.