Suspender

Version: 1.0, Date: 10/8/96

Introduction

Suspender is a very small shareware utility that allows any PC with an Advanced Power Management (APM) capable BIOS to shut down in two ways. If your PC is not APM aware Suspender will inform you and exit (at which point you may uninstall Suspender as it cannot help you).

(Another way to check if your BIOS is APM aware is to go into the BIOS setup and check if there are any phrases like "APM enable" in it. Beware that miss-setting parameters in your PC's BIOS may make it fail to boot.)

Suspender is primarily useful with battery powered PCs that do not have a utility to suspend the PC that runs under Windows 95 or NT. For example my laptop has an APM BIOS, but no suspend utility, apart from the Suspend option on the Start Menu. Suspender, when combined with a scheduler such as System Agent (that comes with the Microsoft Plus! pack) allows the PC to suspend (either to RAM or disk) after a certain period of inactivity.

How to use Suspender

Suspender is very simple. After installation, start Suspender. You will see the main dialog, which allows you to select suspension to disk or RAM and how "nice" Suspender is to other applications. ***Please note that selecting the "Just do it..." option could cause loss of data from applications that are running while Suspender attempts to suspend your system.*** The other option will try not to suspend the PC if there is any chance of data loss, or if the PC is networked and users are connected to it. (This ability is based upon Windows 95's own ability to perform these checks.) The "Just do it..." option will suspend your P.C. even if it is networked and users are conneted to it, also any data transfers will be cut off, with concomitant potential data loss.

There are two other options that if enabled will prevent suspending of your P.C. with Suspender. One option checks the raw network activity, and the other checks to see if any MS-DOS boxes are open. If these options are enabled and any network activity or MS-DOS boxes are detected (while Suspender is running) then Suspender will not suspend the P.C.

To make Suspender run in an automatic fashion (so you don't get the dialog and have to press "OK" each time it runs), add the command line switch "/run" (which is not case sensitive). This command line switch is provided primarily for use when Suspender is activated by a scheduler.

When Suspender is run it displays a dialog box that give a period in which the suspend can be cancelled. It is displayed for a default of 10 seconds (beeping each second, in case a screen saver is active) allowing the user a chance to cancel the impending suspend. You can alter this grace period if you wish and save the setting.

Notes:

- Use the "Just do it..." setting **WITH CAUTION**. There is the potential for **DATA LOSS** if this setting is used as Windows does not inform any open applications of an impending suspend. So open applications don't get a chance to tidy up before hand, such as saving data to disk, etc. Using the "Just do it..." setting means that you are relying on how well the BIOS manufacturer has written their "Save to RAM/Disk" for saving Windows' current state and restoring it. Also it will suspend your P.C. even if it is networked and users are conneted to it, also any data transfers will be *cut off*, with concomitant potential ***data loss***. On my laptop I have not experienced a problem with using "Just do it...", but that ***does not*** mean it will work on your P.C. ***Please see the disclaimer in this file.***

- Suspender only runs on Win32 platforms such as Windows 95 or Windows NT. It will not work with Windows 3.11 or Windows for WorkGroups, even under Win32s.)

- Suspender attempts to check if Advanced Power Management is installed and enabled on your computer - if it cannot detect APM it warns you and exits. If you don't have APM installed, Suspender is of no use to you.

- On some laptops (such as mine) the BIOS suspend mode settings (saving to RAM or disk) seem to override these settings in Suspender. Suspender can only *try* do what it is told, but if the BIOS settings are different then the BIOS settings are used. This is because the actual suspend utility is provided by the BIOS, not Windows, and communicating the Windows' settings to the BIOS' settings does not seem to work.

- My laptop is an Olivetti ECHOS P90S with an PheonixBIOS v4.00 (which is not their nicer laptop-specific NoteBIOS v4.0x). If you do have an Phoenix NoteBIOS v4.0x see their web page (http://www.ptltd.com). There are a couple of nice utilities called Power Panel (if your BIOS supports it, it has all sorts of useful power management options) and Battery Scope (if you have an "intelligent" battery). I strongly advise you top get them if you don't have them. My laptop unfortunately supports neither of these utilities...

Legalities

Suspender is shareware. It is **not** free. If you find Suspender useful, please send £15 (Sterling) to:

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Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has gone in to making Suspender a safe, reliable and easy-to-use program... Neither TwotWare, or any related parties (including distributors), are liable for any consequences of it's use or otherwise by any person in any way whatsoever.

Version History

Version ~ Date   Details & Future Improvements
1.0 ~ 15/8/96   First release.
                       Future Additions:
                       1. The system screen saver state so that any screen saver is woken up and then restored in case the user needs to see any info.