

Midnight

Trevor Andrews

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Midnight		
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WRITTEN BY	Trevor Andrews	November 23, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

Midnight

1.1 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

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Welcome to the AmigaGuide® Manual for Midnight

Friday 28-Oct-94  
~~~~~

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Midnight® Screen Blanking System

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Engineered by Trevor Andrews

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1.2 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

Introduction

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### TITLE

Midnight - Modular screen/mouse blanking system

### VERSION

Version 2 Revision 08

### AUTHOR

Trevor N. Andrews

### DESCRIPTION

Midnight is a modular screen blanking system designed with AmigaDOS 2.x/3.x in mind. A few of its features are listed below:

- Screen Mode selection in all modules with AGA support
- Standard 2.x Preferences interface
- Font sensitive window
- Enforcer/Mungwall Proof Code
- Public screen support
- GadTools interface
- IFF Preference file
- Separate Dameon and GUI
- Amiga Guide support (library is optional)
- NT/PT music support in every module!

Currently, the following blanker modules are available:

- ALock (Full featured security system)
  - Nightfall (Simple black screen)
  - Rainbow (Bouncing lines with 256 colours in AGA)
  - Shuffle (Slides selectable pieces around)
  - Mindmelt \*(An AfterDark inspired module)
  - PhaseFade (Fade to black)
  - Fireworks (Traditional fireworks with 256 colours in AGA)
  - Textual (Floats text around)
  - Spotlight (Your screen has just broke out of jail)
  - IceMelt \*(Screen melts like an ice cube)
  - Starfield (Prepare for space flight)
  - Random (Randomly chooses your modules)
  - Breadth (It's strange...)
  - Worms (They crawl in and they crawl out!)
-

- Aquarium ("Under the sea", are you singing along?)
- FlyingToilets (Those flying creatures are up to trouble again)
- \* Not included in this release.

Additional features include:

- Concise message signaling system
- OS friendly mouse blanker
- Support for detection of gameport
- Random blanker selection mode

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Copyright

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Commercial use of this product is strictly prohibited. Please contact us for licensing agreements.

The cost of Midnight is \$15 US (No foreign cheques) and our address is as follows:

Imagine Software, Inc.
1218 South 5th Street
Lafayette, IN 47905-1716

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Acknowledgements

~~~~~

Thanks goes out to the following people:

For their "creative" computer.

Commodore-Amiga, Inc.

For his GUI prototyping tool.

GadToolsBox release 2.0b

(C) Copyright 1992-93 Jaba Development

Written using DICE C v2.07.54R by

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For their compiler.

SAS/C Amiga Compiler

SAS Institute Inc.

For their undying support.

Jana ..... My wonderful wife whom I owe my strengths.

Matthew Wells .... Endless hours of testing.

Lego ..... The dog, with all of her energy!

Silly, Z, Fluff .. What would I do without my cats?

## 1.5 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

### Installation & Upgrades

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· AmigaDOS 2.0 is the only requirement, however, we recommend 2.1 or higher
with a hard drive to take full advantage of all the features.

Quick -- "To see what it's like..."

Double click on Bprefs.

Double click on Midnight and set your preferences,

see [Menus](#), [Gadgets](#), or [Shell interface](#)

Workbench Installation:

Drag [BPrefs](#) to your "SYS:WBStartup" drawer.

Drag Midnight, the preference software, to your "SYS:Prefs" drawer.

Drag the Blankers drawer to any desired location, such as "WORK:".

Place Midnight.guide or Midnight.reference into a manual drawer of choice.

See "Quick", above.

Shell Installation:

Users wishing to install Midnight via the command line interface should be familiar with Workbench enough to translate the above procedure to fit their particular needs.

Updating your Registered Copy from a Newer Demo Version.

The only difference between the "Demo" versions and a full paying registered version is the executable "BPrefs". In most cases the version of BPrefs will remain the same so you can just extract everything except BPrefs from the Demo version. When major updates come along I will send you a letter on how to upgrade. Usually you can just grab the Demo upgrade off your local network or send me a disk. Only certain upgrades will require payment, namely updates to BPrefs.

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Menus

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Project

Open O ... Open preferences from an external file.

Save As... A ... Save preferences to an external file.

-----

About ? ... Some general information and version data.

-----

Quit Q ... Exit/Cancel without saving.

Edit

Default D ... Reset to defaults.

Last Saved L ... Restore from ENVARC: (See SAVE **gadget**)

Restore R ... Restore from ENV: (See USE **gadget**)

Settings

Save Icons? I ... When saving preferences, also create an icon.

Select Font F ... Choose which font you wish to use.

---

## 1.7 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

Gadgets

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Name HotKey Description

Min I* Sets minutes till time to save/blank the screen.

Sec E* Sets seconds till time to save/blank the screen.

Time M Time in seconds till blanking of the mouse pointer.

Keys K Number of key prsses till blanking of the mouse.

Auto A Commodity style key definition to auto screen blank.

Toggle O Commodity style key definition to toggle screen blanking.

Note: A "Display/Beep" will happen when blanking is OFF.

Test T Test the currently selected blanker module.

Editor D Execute preference editor for selected blanker module.

Guide G Starts AmigaGuide® with the selected blanker's help guide.

Save S Saves preferences to ENV: & ENVARC: as Sys/Midnight.prefs

Use U Saves preferences just to ENV:Sys/Midnight.prefs

Cancel C Exit/Cancel without saving.

About ? Some general information and version data.

Blankers B*, UP/DOWN ARROW Selects blanker module.

LEFT/RIGHT ARROW {Directory Requester Gadget}

HELP {Starts built in AmigaGuide® manual}

TAB {Directory String Gadget}

* Slider gadget hotkeys may be used with SHIFT to alter thier direction of slide.

Ghosted gadgets will sometimes appear to WB2.0 (V37) users to indicate that the option is unavailable. These users should upgrade to WB2.1

to take advantage of additional features.

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Shell Interface

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FROM,EDIT/S,USE/S,SAVE/S,PUBSCREEN/K:

Please refer to the [AmigaDOS Reference](#) section.

## 1.9 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

BPrefs, daemon

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Performs all internal operations...

I developed this software as a daemon/preference program to remove the need of having both residing in memory all the time, such as a commodity would have done. This seems to be trivial on systems with lots of memory. However, to respect low memory users the GUI/preference code does not have to "hang around" all the time, just run it when needed.

If you change your keyboard type, you will need to run (reset) BPrefs!

Please refer to the [AmigaDOS Reference](#) section.

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ALock, security system

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ALock is a limited multi-user security system for your Amiga. It is designed to be a stand alone package (which may be placed after IPrefs in your Startup-Sequence) or used with the screen saver Midnight as a console lock. Please refer to it's documentation for a full list of features and abilities.

To see its AmigaGuide® help file:

1. Startup the Midnight preference editor.
2. Select ALock from the blanker module list.
3. Tap the Guide **gadget** button.

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AmigaDOS Reference

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MIDNIGHT

Format: MIDNIGHT [FROM <filename>] [filename]

[EDIT] [USE] [SAVE] [PUBSCREEN <screen>]

Template: FROM,EDIT/S,USE/S,SAVE/S,PUBSCREEN/K:

Purpose: To specify different settings for screen and mouse blanking.

Required: AmigaDOS 2.0 or higher.

Optional: AmigaGuide Library. (Recommended)

Path: SYS:Prefs/Midnight

Specification:

MIDNIGHT without any arguments or with the EDIT argument opens the Midnight editor. The FROM argument lets you specify a file to open. This must be a file that was previously saved with the "Save As" menu item of the Midnight editor. PUBSCREEN is used to specify an alternative screen to open on.

NOTE: If using saved preferences from icon, make sure Midnight is in your Workbench's path.

BPREFS

Format: BPREFS [QUIT] [KEY]

Template: QUIT/S,KEY/S (KEY is for registered users only)

Purpose: Daemon to implement different settings for screen and mouse blanking.

Required: AmigaDOS 2.0 or higher.

Optional: (nothing)

Path: SYS:WBStartup/BPrefs

Specification:

BPREFS takes as arguments QUIT and KEY (only for registered users).

QUIT...Forces BPrefs to shut down and exit.

KEY....Authentication Encryption Key report.

NOTE: If you change your keyboard type, you will need to run (reset) BPrefs!

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Technical Notes

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1. Pre amigaguide.library (V34.11) had a bug which caused an enforcer hit when it was called from inside most software using it. To remove this enforcer hit, simply, update your library to V34.11.
2. Some modules make use of the reqtools.library (V38+) to allow you to select screen mode and number of colours (AGA support). This library may be found in Fred Fish's Public Domain collection. If this library can not be found the standard asl.library (V38+) screen mode requester will be used. WB2.0 (V37) users should update to WB2.1 (V38) to take full advantage of all the features.
3. The Mouse Blanker and Random options are disabled in the DEMO version. BPrefs has subtle priority henderences as well. There is a small

window which will "pop" up every ten minutes.

4. There is a "Fonts" directory in the archive that contains a font called rose (pt size 12) that I found PD. It has a lowered baseline so that underscores look "normal". This is the font I use for my Screen Text. It's included for your enjoyment.

5. Watch for MORE blanker modules!

## 1.13 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

### Revision History

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This section is dedicated to Midnight and BPrefs revision / changes log.

Changes to blanker modules can be found in their AmigaGuide® documentation.

As this product is still developing, I apologize for the lack of detail and for any "blank" spots or typos found in its documentation.

· Denotes a bug, - a modified feature, and + an addition to the package.

o Midnight 0.07 - First public release (10.5.94)

Midnight 2.08 - Major update (21.10.94)

· Increased stack size of a child task that caused a Mungwall hit.

· 100% Enforcer/Mungwall proof code. See BPrefs 2.09 Major Update below.

- The ghosted gadgets have been removed when the window is "busy".

+ Font selection added under settings.

+ Added ability to snapshot ALL window locations.

+ Created sound FX and Imagine logo at startup.

+ Music support (NT/PT) in all modules!

+ Security routine added to prevent non-Midnight software from using our blanker modules. See BPrefs 2.09 Major Update below.

o BPrefs 0.07 - First Public release (10.5.94)

BPrefs 0.08 - Minor update (29.5.94)

· Fixed a bug with concurrent process control. The problem was with detecting when a blanker module closed prematurely.

BPrefs 2.09 - Major update (28.10.94)

+ Version 0.07 and 0.08 users **MUST update** to 2.09 in order to use any of the new blankers! This is because I implemented a security routine to keep non-Midnight software from using our blanker modules.

· With Mungwall and Enforcer running a hit was reported during the termination of a blanker module. This was caused by not calling CurrentDir(NULL) just before spawning the new blanker process.

This is evidently needed by the exiting code found in SAS/C compilers.

Registered BPrefs 0.08 users should not be too concerned over this, as it only shows up as a "dangling pointer" problem under the memory diagnostics program Mungwall.

- Part of the problem with detecting when a blanker module closed prematurely I forgot to toggle a switch to allow a new blanker to start afterwards. You will see in pre-version 2.09 that if a module fails to open for memory reasons that one never opens again, this is fixed this time around!
- The bringing of the module to front every so often was fixed.

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To-Do List

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- \*1. Finish documentation!
- 2. Write some truly wonderful blanker modules!
- \*Aquarium, just you wait. (Still needs more work)
- \*3. Add font selection to menu bar under settings.  
It's font sensitive but not font selective...
- \*4. Add ability to snapshot all window locations.
- 5. Add colour gadgets to the new gadget strip in the preference editor.
- \*6. Music/Audio support.
- 7. Work on resizing all GUIs.
- 8. Add Locale support.
- 9. Reduce file sizes by using shared libraries?
- 10. Add more reqtools.library support for 2.0 users?
- \* Finished in this release!

## 1.15 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

Order Form

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United States

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Commercial use of this product is strictly prohibited. Please contact us for licensing agreements.

I would like to become a registered user of "Midnight". Please send me a disk containing the latest (personalized) registered release.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amiga: _____ Version of Kickstart: _____

Country: _____ Version of Workbench: _____

Phone: _____ Acquired from: _____

E-Mail: _____

The cost of Midnight is \$15 US (No foreign cheques)

I have read the license and distribution details and agree.

(Date) (Signature)

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Writing Custom Modules

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1. No detaching from calling process.
2. Must recognize and handle EDIT/S, PUBSCREEN/K, FONT/K, SIZE/K/N shell parameters.
3. Load and save preferences from current directory as  
"{Executable's\_Name}.prefs"

4. Follow Ctrl-C, Ctrl-D, and Ctrl-E rules as follows:

C ... Exit (Close down and leave!)

D ... Stop Blanking (Wait for C or E)

E ... Resume Blanking (Bring your screen to front. Wait for C or D)

5. Maintain blanker's screen as the front most screen during blanking.

6. Blank mouse pointer, if necessary.

7. Build "{Executable's\_Name}.guide" to be placed in .MAN directory.

8. Maintain task's priority in preferences program. (Remember CPU!)

Thorough source code examples may be obtained if you wish to develop modules for use with our system.

## 1.17 Midnight AmigaGuide User Manual

### Music Support

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Support for (NT/PT) Noise/ProTracker musical modules is incorporated into most screen saver modules. If you have trouble with a certain module sounding "correctly" try using a module converter (found in most PD libraries) to convert it to NoiseTracker or ProTracker format.

· Because music modules can be large memory hogs, they will be loaded during screen blanking and unloaded when not.

· If your music module does not play? You probably lack enough memory or the file is not in the correct file format.

· To turn off the playing of music modules go to the blankers **editor** and from the musical note gadget erase the directory and file names.

The following files you have received are part of the public domain archives called Aminet. They were taken from ftp.cdrom.com in the aminet/mods/misc directory. Imagine Software takes no credit or responsibility for them.

Directory "/Blankers/.MAN"

mod.RideOfValkyries 62368

mod.DanceOfSwans 78630

mod.DanceOfReedPipes 77464

3 files - 431 blocks used

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Roadmap

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### Acknowledgments



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