

WinBlank

Toshiba Screen Blanker for Windows 3.0/3.1

Version 1.0, 3/20/92

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This program is shareware and is not in the public domain. There are distribution requirements, and licensing rules. This program required a substantial amount of my time to write and your support is required if upgrades and improvements are to be made. If you find this program useful please send \$15 to:

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Also please read the licensing and distribution information at the end of this file.

INTRODUCTION:

WinBlank was written to replace the automatic screen blanking feature which is built in to battery powered Toshiba notebook and laptop computers. The Toshiba is capable of shutting down its display backlighting/plasma display after a preset period of time to conserve battery power. This is extremely important because the display can account for over 50% of the computer's energy budget. Unfortunately the built-in timeout feature was not written with Windows 3.0/3.1 or a mouse in mind. Currently the display can only be reactivated by pressing a key on the keyboard which is extremely irritating under Windows when the mouse is the primary input device. Also the display timeout only functions when the machine is running on battery power and while this makes sense for battery conservation issues, one often wants their display to blank even while on AC power so that prying eyes can't observe your work during periods of inactivity. To correct these deficiencies I decided to write a native Windows application for controlling the display backlighting of Toshiba computers. WinBlank will allow you to set the timeout interval for your display and after that timeout interval has passed WinBlank will access the Toshiba hardware I/O registers to turn off the fluorescent backlighting/plasma display and then wait for a user input event to occur. WinBlank then monitors the input stream using an integrated Windows message filter and re-activates the display when the user causes any input event to occur. Thus WinBlank will respond to mouse movements, mouse button clicks,

keyboard events, or any other input device which is integrated into Windows.

WinBlank currently supports the following features:

- Automatically configures itself for the majority of Toshiba laptop/notebook computers including the T1600, T1200XE, T2000, T2000SX, T2000Sx, T2200SX, T3300SL, T4400SX , and the T3100SX.
- Can be turned on and off without exiting the application by touching a button in the program's window.
- Display timeout is configurable in 1 minute increments from 1 minute to 9999 minutes.
- Responds to the keyboard, mouse, and mouse buttons.
- Is a native windows application compatible with Standard and Enhanced mode under Windows 3.0/3.1.

WinBlank does not run under real mode which precludes its use on T1000 series computers. This restriction is forced on me by the compiler I am using. I am currently testing a new version which will relax this restriction.

INSTALLATION:

First copy the two main program files, WinBlank.exe and WinBldll.dll to a permanent place on your hard disk. It is important that WinBldll.dll is in the same directory as WinBlank.exe or in your main Windows directory. You may then place an icon for WinBlank on your Program Manager desktop either by selecting "New" and then "Program Item" in the "File" menu of the Program Manager or by running the Windows setup program in the "Main" program group.

WINDOWS ENHANCED MODE:

The instructions for installing WinBlank under Windows 3.0/3.1 Enhanced mode are the same as in standard mode except that it is incompatible with two of the Windows virtual device drivers. WinBatt, WinTosh, and the Toshiba AutoResume driver are also incompatible with these drivers. If you are using '386 Enhanced mode then you will need to edit the file "system.ini" in your main Windows directory. You will need to insert a semicolon before the lines "device = *int13" and "device=*wdctrl" IF THEY EXIST in the [386Enh] section of this file. For Example:

locate and change:

```
[386Enh]
...
device = *int13
device = *wdctrl
```

to:

```
[386Enh]
...
;device = *int13
;device = *wdctrl
```

This will comment out the lines and prevent the int13 and wdctrl drivers from loading.

INSTRUCTIONS:

WinBlank will automatically configure itself to run on your Toshiba computer. To load the utility double click on its icon. You may then turn the utility on and off and set the timeout interval from the program's main window. To clean off your desktop you may "minimize" the program to your desktop. Closing the application removes the timeout feature. To eliminate conflicts between WinBlank and the built-in display blanker please set the display timeout to "disable" using the Toshiba pop-up window from DOS.

If you want the program to run automatically every time you start Windows then you must edit the "win.ini" file in your main windows directory and add the full DOS path to the "load =" (for loading the program minimized) or "run=" (for running the program as a window). For example:

```
run = C:\BIN\WINPROGS\WinBlank.exe
or
load = C:\BIN\WINPROGS\WinBlank.exe
```

If you want to "load" or "run" multiple programs then you must put a space between program items. In Windows 3.1 you simply drag the WinBlank icon to the "StartUp" group on your Program Manager desktop.

Once WinBlank is running the display backlighting will switch itself off after the computer has been left dormant for the entire timeout interval. You may "wake up" the computer by touching any key, moving the mouse, or pressing the mouse button. WinBlank does not absorb these events it simply watches them so that if you press a key that key will be passed on to whichever application you are running.

I have WinBlank preloaded along with the Windows Clock, WinBatt, and WinTosh every time I open Windows so that I always have access to these utilities. Together they take up <100KB of memory and they help integrate the Toshiba more closely with the Windows environment.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

I have also implemented the following utilities in an effort to bring all of

the Toshiba's special features into the Windows 3.0/3.1 environment:

WinTosh: (Available now for T2000SX, T2000SXe) Toshiba control panel for Windows 3.0 which allows you to set all of the special features of your Toshiba computer including Modem On/Off, Speaker On/Off, Battery Alarm On/Off, Hard disk power down time, Display power down time, Boot/Resume mode, Sleep mode On/Off, etc... Currently works only with T2000SX and T2000SXe computers but will be expanded shortly to function with the entire line of Toshiba computers. \$15.

WinBatt: (Available now) A Toshiba battery monitor for Windows 3.0/3.1 which provides a continuous graphical display of the status of the internal batteries. The utility is compatible with all Toshiba battery operated computers including both one and two battery units. The program also features "dynamic icons" so that the battery status is continuously reflected in the program's icon when the program is minimized to the Windows desktop. \$20.

WinChad: (Yet to be completed) VChad like program for Windows 3.0 to control the computer's display palette and to load and save palettes from disk.

DISTRIBUTION:

You may receive updated versions of this software from any of the following locations:

- 1) The Toshiba America Computer Systems Division bulletin board at 1-714-837-4408
- 2) By mail to registered owners: \$5 for updates (US addresses), or \$20 for new owners (includes license).
- 3) By Email free to registered owners who have access to the internet.
- 4) By anonymous FTP from cica.cica.indiana.edu in the pub/pc/win3/utils directory (or possibly in the pub/pc/win3/misc directory).

LICENSING:

You are authorized to use this software on a trial basis for a period 30 days from the date that it is installed on your computer. After that period you must purchase a valid licensed version from me (F. Scott Porter) or you must remove WinBlank from your system. You are free to distribute this program in its original zipped form with all of its files intact (WinBlank.Txt, WinBlank.Wri, WinBlank.exe, WinBldll.dll, Readme.txt) as long as you

charge no more than a reasonable copying fee.

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