

OnExit: Run Programs on Windows Shutdown.

by Paul Butcher
Version 1.0

Introduction

OnExit is a small utility which allows you to run programs when Windows shuts down. This would be useful, for example, if you wanted to run a backup program every time you exit windows, or a disc compactor, or an image or mirror style program, etc.

OnExit is free to all "personal" users (although I'm not about to complain if you feel like contributing to a poor student). Any commercial or governmental organisation wishing to use OnExit should contact the author to arrange a licensing deal. Source code is available on request.

OnExit may be distributed freely, as long as this file is distributed unchanged along with the program.

OnExit is supplied "as is" with no warranty expressed or implied. The author has done his best to make sure the program is bug free, and works as intended, but if it trashes your hard disc, that's your problem (it is free after all).

Installation

To install OnExit, simply copy the "onexit.exe" file to your hard disc. You may, if you wish, install it in Program Manager in the usual way. You will probably want to place the program in either the "Load=" or "Run=" lines in win.ini.

Configuration

When OnExit is running, it displays a list of programs that will be executed on shutdown (this list is initially empty). A sequence of buttons runs along the left hand side of the window, and a checkbox is at the bottom of the window.

To add an item to the list, click on the "Add" button (or press the Insert key, or the key combination Alt+A). A dialog box will appear in which you should type the command line used to invoke the program. Note that this version of OnExit doesn't support file associations (e.g. you cannot give a data file, and automatically invoke the program associated with that data file).

To delete an item from the list, first select the item that you wish to delete, and click on the "Delete" button (or press the Delete key, or the key combination Alt+D).

Ordinarily, OnExit displays an icon when minimized. If you want to hide this icon, check the "Hide when minimized" box. Note that this means you may no longer double click on the icon to restore OnExit. Instead, you must start OnExit a second time (this will not result in two copies of OnExit running - instead the second instance restores the original instance).

What happens when Windows exits?

If OnExit is running when Windows attempts to exit, OnExit refuses to allow Windows to exit, and instead starts up the specified programs. OnExit then waits until these programs have terminated, at which time it shuts windows down.

There are two points to note about this sequence.

- I. The specified programs **won't** execute if OnExit isn't running when Windows shuts down. Note that this provides a useful means of disabling OnExit - simply shut it down before exiting Windows.
- II. After OnExit has started the specified programs, Windows **won't** automatically shut down after those programs have terminated if OnExit is no longer running at that time. Again, this provides a useful means of avoiding termination if you wish.

Note for Norton Desktop for Windows Users

If you have "Save configuration on exit" selected, and OnExit is running, Norton Desktop will save its configuration twice each time you exit Windows (once when you select "Exit", and once when Windows actually exits). Unfortunately there is no easy solution to this problem, except not selecting "Save configuration on exit".

Contacting the Author

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