

ADIOS Ver 3.4

The concept behind ADIOS is a simple utility toolbar which remains permanently on top of all other windows and is therefore always available. In original idea it was to provide a rapid exit from windows, together with the capability of restarting windows (useful when those GPF's persist <g>) or a complete machine reboot.

Through earlier beta test editions the utility took form to add in the additional functionality you see in Version 3.4 today. So what can ADIOS do ?

Exit : (Leave Windows Immediately)

This button when activated by clicking with the left mouse button will immediately close down and exit from Windows. This is conditional that you have no running tasks which ignore a request to close (A running Win-Dos app will ignore this request for example, but we can easily deal with that using the Kill button (see later)).

Restart : (Unload Windows and come straight back)

This button when activated by clicking with the left mouse button will immediately close down everything, exit and restart Windows. This is particularly useful if the environment becomes unstable (General Protection Faults (GPF)) or you make a change to Windows configuration (system.ini for example). The same constraints apply as with Exit in that a running task may choose to ignore the request to shutdown.

Doscmd : (Unload Windows run a Dos Command and come back)

This button when activated by clicking with the left mouse button again exits windows but this time runs a user specified DOS command (and optional parameters) before again automatically restarting Windows. This function is particularly useful for running low level diagnostics tools which may not be allowed in a WIN-DOS session. Activating the button with no text in the innermost edit box (The main data entry box) will invoke a Select browse for .exe or .com files to run. If the file is known the cursor may be placed in the innermost window and the command + path typed in (Optional Parameters go in the second Edit box, which forms the bottom right field on the screen).

Boot : (Unload Windows and reboot the PC)

This button when activated by clicking with the left mouse button again exits windows this time causing a complete system reboot. This option is for use in the event the system becomes very unstable requiring a complete memory clear-down.

Exec : ('Run' a Windows or DOS executable(s))

This button when activated by clicking with the left mouse button allows a user to run a Windows or Dos executable. As with Doscmd if there are no commands entered into the main Edit window (the innermost one) ADIOS brings up the Select browse for mouse assisted selection. Parameters in this instance can be passed as part of the same command line in the first edit box so anything in the second (bottom right hand corner) Edit field will be ignored. ADIOS is a drag/drop client and as such can receive files as objects dragged over from a drag/drop server such as File Manager (Winfile.exe) in Windows. Dragging over multiple .exe/.com files will see them all actioned sequentially when dropped. ADIOS thus adds value to File Manager operation.

KILL : (Terminate task (FORCE option required for extreme prejudice !)

Clicking this button with the left mouse button down, causes ADIOS to (if the main Edit window is empty) pop up a series of 'Kill This ?' boxes each corresponding to a registered task currently running. You may select YES to kill the task No to move to the next one or CANCEL to end the Kill operation. If the task is not removed type the keyword 'FORCE' into the second edit box (the bottom right corner one). This invokes a more abrupt termination capability. (N.B. You can manually type in a valid task name in the first edit box (left to right), this should correspond to an active Window task (i.e a task module, usually but not always, the filename without extension such as WINFILE (File Manager) for example)).

Success will be indicated by the relevant task window and associated procedures terminating. The standard (i.e non-FORCE) option should allow the task to free it's resources before terminating. Caution is advised with the FORCE option as this is deliberately impolite in it's methods. FORCE should therefore only be used as a last resort (i.e my apps really hung !) as unsaved data is likely to be lost !

Useful KILLTASK Target task module names :

Progman = Program Manager (Exec 'c:\windows\progman.exe' to relaunch)

Winoldap = ALL WIN DOS SESSIONS (Ever had a hung session - 'Kill' it ...)

Printman = Print Manager running riot - not any more ...

You are now ready to add ADIOS to your Startup group under Program Manager. Click on the 'run minimise' checkbox as you add the Program Item 'Adios' to load it in iconised form as Windows starts up. You are now ready to restart Windows and begin using ADIOS !

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If you find ADIOS useful and wish to receive future updated versions together with other Windows/OS2/NT utilities contact the ID below to obtain our address and forward £10.00.

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