WINGUARD DOCUMENTATION (winguard.wri):

This is an abbreviated documentation file, for the 'ShareWare version of WinGuard; more complete documentation is available to registered users (please read the text file, register.wri, for registration information).

If you have questions, please contact WinGuard's author:

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OVERVIEW OF WINGUARD:

WinGuard can protect any computer running Windows 3.1 from having any of its Program Manager groups or items rearranged or damaged (accidentally or intentionally). These protections would probably be the most useful to someone who is in charge of a number of computers at a school or business, or for a network manager, though a parent might wish to prevent little fingers on a mouse from dragging all of the Program Manager icons into a (not so) nice "happy face"! WinGuard can allow the automatic setting of any one of seven different protection levels (actually, eight, including a "zero protection" setting).

Level 1 will "dim" the Save Settings on Exit command in the Program Manager Options menu, preventing the desktop from being permanently rearranged. Under this protection level, spatial modifications to Program Manager can still be made, but it becomes impossible to save the changes. Therefore, the next time that Windows is started, it will come up with the original desktop layout intact. Note, though, that Level 1 does not protect against either the creation or deletion of groups, nor does it protect against the creation, deletion, or moving of individual items, or against changes to their properties.

Level 2 will prevent the creation of new Program Manager groups, or the deletion of current groups, as well as maintaining the protection offered by Level 1. When an attempt is made to use the File New, Move, Copy, or Delete commands while the focus is on a group, it will be found that they are "dimmed", as will be the entire Properties box. No protection is provided against any changes to the individual program items or to their properties, though, under Level 2.

Level 3 incorporates the safeguards of Level 2, plus it will also prevent the creation or deletion of Program Manager items. If an attempt is made to use the File New, Move, Copy, or Delete commands, it will be found that they are "dimmed". Note, however, that Level 3 does not prevent the changing of any item's properties.

Level 4 prevents modifications to the command line (which will be "dimmed") for any program item in the Properties dialog box. Level 4 carries over all of the protection features of Levels 1, 2, and 3, as well.

Level 5 will protect against the changing of any program item properties, by "dimming" the New, Move, Copy, and Delete commands in the File menu, as well as all of the spaces in the Properties dialog box.

Level 6 will "dim" the Run line in the File menu, thus preventing one from starting a program not already present as an icon in Program Manager. The only functional commands in the File menu will be Open, Properties, and Exit Windows, though the Properties option is only informational in function, since the entire Properties dialog box will be "dimmed".

Level 7 removes the entire File menu from Program Manager, as well as keeping as "dimmed" the Save Settings on Exit command in the Options menu. This does provide the maximum level of protection against Program Manager changes, but it also creates one problem: Since the entire File menu will have been removed, it becomes impossible to exit from Windows by the normal means, and it is not a good practice to simply turn off or to reboot the computer while still in Windows, especially if any programs with unsaved information are running. However, WinGuard has in its own File menu an "Exit Windows" command, so that it will still be possible to exit from Windows safely, via WinGuard. This procedure, of course, requires using a password to start WinGuard first, to then exit from Windows, so WinGuard should probably be installed as an icon, so that it is accessible (even if, with Level 7, Program Manager's own File menu is not).

WinGuard includes in its File menu the Open and Run commands, so that, if the File menu is removed from Program Manager (by selecting Protection Level 7, or by manual edit), access to these commands is still available to an authorized user. WinGuard also, in its File menu, allows access to File Manager, the Control Panel, Windows Setup, and the PIF Editor, so that icons for these "sensitive" programs can be safely removed from Program Manager's window, yet they would still be available to an authorized user. Thus, it can be seen that WinGuard can serve as a "security shell", allowing the transfer of much of Program Manager's file access to itself.

In order to restrict access to it to only authorized users, WinGuard can only be run by entering a password. This password is chosen during the WinGuard installation process, but it can also be changed from within WinGuard itself. In addition, all of WinGuard's utility files are installed in a "hidden" directory, to help prevent WinGuard's protections from being circumvented. In these ways, WinGuard can help prevent damage to Program Manager, and a computer's files, by a "guest user", while still providing full access to unrestricted programs via the Windows interface.

SHAREWARE REMINDER:

This is an unregistered copy of WinGuard, distributed as 'ShareWare', for evaluation purposes only. You are entitled to install WinGuard on one computer, and to 'test-drive' the program for a period of 14 days. However, after this evaluation period you must either register WinGuard or uninstall it, removing it from that computer. See the text file 'register.wri' for details.

INSTALLING WINGUARD:

Install WinGuard (from within Windows) by running its installation program, install.exe, by using the Program Manager Run line (in its File menu), or by double-clicking on install.exe in File Manager.

Although WinGuard will make its own backup copy, it is strongly recommended that the user make a backup copy of progman.ini (in the Windows directory) before executing the installation program, just as a precaution.

Note that ALL WinGuard files (except, perhaps, for the text files, packing.lst, register.wri, and winguard.wri) MUST be present on the SAME disk, OR in the SAME directory, during the installation OR uninstallation processes.

RUNNING WINGUARD:

Run WinGuard (from within Windows) as winguard.exe, in the Windows directory; it is suggested that winguard.exe be installed as an icon in Program Manager. It is recommended that the user read all of the Help menu screens, for a better "feel" for WinGuard's operation, before actually trying any of the protection level buttons.

UNINSTALLING WINGUARD:

WinGuard can be uninstalled most easily (from within Windows) by running its uninstallation program, uninstal.exe, by using the run line in Program Manager's File menu, or by double-clicking on uninstal.exe in File Manager.

Note that ALL WinGuard files (except, perhaps, for the text files, packing.lst, register.wri, and winguard.wri) MUST be present on the SAME disk, OR in the SAME directory, during the installation OR uninstallation processes.

WINGUARD PROGRAM DISCLAIMER:

While every effort has been made to write and test the WinGuard program so that it should be safe to use on any computer with Windows 3.1 installed, the use of WinGuard is at the risk of the user. Nonetheless, if any problem does occur, the user is encouraged to contact WinGuard's author, who will try to assist in correcting any problem.

WINGUARD COPYRIGHT:

WinGuard is copyrighted (1992) by its author, Frederick Wasti.