

**S.O.S. Personal Edition
Version 1.0**

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Documentation

S.O.S. (Save Our Screens) Personal Edition is a customizable photo screen saver for Microsoft Windows 3.1. Using S.O.S. Personal, you can create a screen saver using up to 12 user-definable Windows bitmap files (.BMPs), organized into groups of four called "Episodes."

The basic S.O.S. Personal screen saver (shareware version) includes the first Episode, allowing you to define four bitmaps in your screen saver. Episodes 2 and 3, included with registration, give you the capability of adding four more bitmaps each. The Professional Edition includes Episodes 2 and 3 and adds support for numerous other graphic file formats such as .RLE, .DIB, .PCX, .GIF, .TGA, .TIF, .JPG, RAS, and .PIC.

The legal stuff...

OMBUDSMAN

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DISCLAIMER

The program described in this documentation are guaranteed to do absolutely nothing! It has, however, in my experience performed essentially as described herein. The author will not be responsible for any loss or damages caused through the use of this program. No warranty, express or implied, is provided for this software's performance, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose.

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You may evaluate this program for up to 30 days on a free trial basis. After 30 days, you should register your use of this program. The registration fee is \$14.95 for the Personal Edition; you may also purchase the Professional Edition for \$24.95.

To register, select the "About" button from the configuration screen, then select the "Register" button. Fill in the information fields, then hit the "Print" button to print the registration form. Mail with your payment to the address below, or call or send Email

with credit card information. You may also register on-line on CompuServe by entering "GO SWREG" and registering under ID# 3455 (Personal Edition) or # 3456 (Professional Edition).

Send comments/registrations to:

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CIS 72330,1776 (I haunt the IBMSYS and IBMPRO forums)

With that out of the way...

Welcome to S.O.S. Personal Edition, the easy-to-use screen saver for Microsoft Windows.

INSTALLATION

The installation program copies the screen saver module to your Windows directory, and this documentation file (SOSPERS.WRI) to a directory of your choice. If no installation program (SETUP.EXE) is present, copy the screen saver module (SOSPERS.SCR) to your Windows directory. There must also be a copy of VBRUN300.DLL (the Visual Basic runtime library) installed in your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.

Before using S.O.S. Personal for the first time, it must be configured. If you want to display 256-color bitmaps, you'll need to load the appropriate driver.

Setting Up Your Computer to Work with 256 Colors

1. For SuperVGA (SVGA) video, there is no single clear standard to define how software can "talk" to your computer's video hardware. Microsoft Windows communicates with the video hardware through a "driver" - a file which acts as a translator between Windows and your video card.
2. For this screensaver to work in 256 color mode, you must have the appropriate 256-color video driver installed in Windows. To do this, you should consult the manual that came with your video card. Most cards sold today come with a diskette which contains Microsoft Windows drivers.
3. The basic procedure is to start the Windows Setup program, which can be found in the Main program group. Start the program by double-clicking the Windows Setup icon.
4. Select Change System Settings... from the Options menu. The first setting, Display, is the one you need to change. Click the arrow that appears to the right of the currently listed display drive. A drop-down list box will appear listing several drivers. Select the appropriate 256 color driver (as listed in your video card manual). If in doubt, select the "generic" SuperVGA 640x480 256 colors driver. Then click the OK button and restart Windows.

5. A 386 PC with 4MB of RAM minimum is suggested for using the screen saver in 256-color mode. Using 24-bit (True Color) images with the screen saver is NOT recommended because of the extreme memory requirements placed on the system by such images.

Activating the Screen Saver

1. From the Program Manager, start the Control Panel by double-clicking its icon (normally found in the Main program group). Double-click the Desktop icon.
2. Locate the section entitled Screen Saver. From the pull-down list box, select the *SOSPersonal* screen saver. You can select a Delay time to determine how long Windows will wait before activating the screen saver.
3. Click the Setup... button to define the display interval between pictures once the screen saver is activated.
4. Click the button labeled "Episode 1" to activate the Image Sequencer used to define the pictures you want added to your screen saver. You can type the file name and path of each bitmap in the input box provided, or click the Browse button next to each box to select your file from a dialog box. Click OK to confirm your file selections.
5. After verifying that your four files are displayed in the box next to the "Episode 1" button, click OK to exit the Configuration Screen.
6. Click the OK button on the Desktop and you're all set!

The screen saver will automatically activate after a period of inactivity equal to the Delay time you specified in the Control Panel.