S.O.S. Personal Edition
Version 1.1

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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 with user-definable Windows bitmap files (.BMPs).

The basic S.O.S. Personal screen saver (shareware version) includes the support for 4 bitmap files. The registered version supports an unlimited number of bitmaps.

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 these programs 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 $19.95.   The Professional Edition includes unlimited bitmap support and adds support for numerous other graphic file formats such as .RLE, .DIB, .PCX, .GIF, .TGA, .TIF, .JPG, RAS, and .PIC.

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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 you're installing the BBS version, there is no installation program. You will need to copy the file SOSPERSW.SCR **to your Windows directory, and copy** CMDIALOG.VBX, COMMDLG.DLL, **and** DFINFO2.VBX **to your Windows system directory. There should also be a copy of the file** VBRUN300.DLL **(the Visual Basic runtime library) in your Windows system directory (this last file may not be included in the archive; it is commonly available on most BBSs and on-line services).**

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 int he Control Panel.