VBlank

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COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : VBlank		
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VBlank V1.01 - Manual

1.2   VBlank/Synopsis

NAME

SYS:WBStartup/VBlank

Synopsis

VBlank

CX_PRIORITY/N/K =<System Priority>

CX_POPKEY/K =<Hot Key Description String>

CX_POPUP/S =<No parameter>
BLANKKEY/K =<Hot Key Description String>
SECONDS=TIMEOUT/N/K =<1 - 3600>
BLANKMODE/N/K =<1 - 3>
JOYSTICK/S =<YES | NO>

1.3   VBlank/Description

Description
A Screenblanker for the Merlin GFX Card wich uses the
VESA powermanagement. It runs only under Amiga OS
Release 2.04 or newer. Needs the MUI User-
Interface.

1.4   VBlank/Copyright

Copyright
Copyright 1995 by the Author.
VBlank V1.01 is freely distributable.
VBlank V1.01 is free to be spread on public-domain and
shareware disks especially on Fred Fish's AmigaLibDisks,
as long as they are sold for a reasonable charge that is
less than US $6 or DM 8.- .
VBlank V1.01 may be distributed on freely available
CD-ROM. This CD-ROM should not be used for commercial
obstinacles like professional copyiing. The price of
the CD-ROM is not important.
For use in commercial products the permission of the
authors is required.
VBlank V1.01 may be copied and distributed via
electronic networks such as the Internet, also it may be
held available on anonymous ftp-servers, mail-boxes or
BBS's.
VBlank V1.01 may not, or is not allowed to be used by
any military institution or any civil institution which
makes any research or products which is used by military
institutions.
The Copyright is still by the Author.
The author is not responsible for anything which may
happen to you, while using VBlank. Especially for
any harware problems.

1.5   VBlank/Author & Support

Author & Support

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IRC: Quacks

SUPPORT FTP ADDRESS:

ftp.uni-paderborn.de [131.234.2.32] anonymous access.

(Thus any AmiNet site around the world)

Please first refer to KNOWN PROBLEMS

below, before you contact me for a Bug-report, any

comment is welcomed of course. Feel free to send a

donation, some flowers or a postcard.

1.6   VBlank/Purpose & Theory

Purpose & Theory

VBlank is not yet another screenblanker. VBlank is the first

screenblanker wich supports the VESA powermanagement for the

Merlin GFX Card.

VBlank recognizes the following modes:

Mode/Status HSync VSync Video Mode

"Stand by" off on blank (mode 1)

"Suspend" on off blank (mode 2)

"Off" off off blank (mode 3)

1.7   VBlank/Starting

Starting

VBlank 1.01 is a COMMODITY, therefore it only runs

under WB Release 2.0 (V37.175) and newer.

A Commodity is usually started in the "SYS:WBStartup"

drawer. So it will be automatically started on the

workbench startup (LoadWB, usually in "S:Startup-Sequence").

To get VBlank started without rebooting now, double-click

the icon. If the Tool Types weren't changed yet, a window

shows up. Double-click once more, if the window doesn't

show up.

This is the Config Window of VBlank.

Now click on the Gadget 'Hide' or the 'Close-Gadget' to

close the window.

VBlank is now started. After 60 seconds the screen will be

blanked, of course only when the user doesn't touch the

keyboard or the mouse (or other Input-event's occure).

You may start VBlank from the CLI or another Shell. For

example you can start VBlank in the S:User-Startup:

Run >NIL: <NIL: VBlank

VBlank supports ReadArgs().

For a small help on the command line arguments, start

VBlank with a '?' as Parameter.

1.8   VBlank/Arguments

Arguments

As every good Commodity, VBlank supports Tool Type entries.

Click the VBlank.info and press "Right Amiga i" (or use the

Workbench Menu Item 'Information') to change or add a Tool

Type entry.

In fact this isn't necessary, as it do supports

Save Config , which does save all parameters

into the Tool Types of the icon. You must start VBlank from

the Workbench to enable this feature.

In the ToolType list there are (per default) entered:

DONOTWAIT # Tell WB to not wait on a return

CX_PRIORITY=0 # Priority in "commodities.library"'s queue

CX_POPUP # Show up the window on start

CX_POPKEY=shift F9 # Config Window Hot Key

BLANKKEY=shift F10 # Immediate Blank Hot Key

TIMEOUT=60 # Time after which VBlank blanks

BLANKMODE=2 # The VESA Blankingmode

JOYSTICK=NO # Enables Joystick support

These Tool Types are the normal way to give arguments for

Commodities and pure Workbench programs. Please refer also

to your AmigaDOS Manual (Section Workbench Programms

especially chapter "The WBStartup Drawer") to get an idea of

the Tool Types entries.

1.9   VBlank/Tool Types

Tool Types

DONOTWAIT

When started from WBStartup, let WB know that it doesn't

have to wait for VBlank. Is not a Tool Type entry for

VBlank, but for te WB.

CX_PRIORITY=<-128 - 129>

Priority in "commodities.library"'s input-queue

CX_POPUP=<NO>

When VBlank is started, the Config Window

may show up when set any (!) other String than 'NO' is

used.

CX_POPKEY=<Hot Key>

Please see below for the Hotkeys. The

hot key opens the Config Window of VBlank.

BLANKKEY=<Hot Key>

Please see below for the Hotkeys. The

hot key immediatly blanks the screen.

TIMEOUT=<1 - 3600>

This is the timeout counter in seconds. During this

time NO input from the user must occur in order to start

the blanker. Usual time is about 60 secs.

BLANKMODE= <1 - 3>

Currently VBlank supports the following Vesa modes:

Mode/Status HSync VSync Video Mode

"Stand by" off on blank (mode 1)

"Suspend" on off blank (mode 2)

"Off" off off blank (mode 3)

JOYSTICK=<YES | NO>

Toggles the joystick support. Detects joystick

movements as user-activity.

NOTE:

The Tool Type Entries should be written in upper-cases.

NOTE:

For compatibility reasons, I also support the Tool Type

'SECONDS' , which is equal to 'TIMEOUT'. If you use the

Save Config option,'TIMEOUT' is used.

1.10 VBlank/Hot Keys

Hot Key

Refer to your AmigaDOS Manual (Section The Extras Programs,

The Commodities Drawer) to get a valid list of the available

hot keys, the following may obsolete on a new

"commodities.library" version.

The Hot Keys can be edited with the String-Gadgets in the

Config Window of VBlank. The syntax and

correctness is checked.

One word for typing the Hot Keys:

In the String-Gadget a description of the Hot Key in

textform is beeing asked, not the Hot Key himself. Thus the

Hot Key 'left Amiga Key + q' would be typed in as 'lcommand

q' (all ten chars inclusive the space). After the Key was

added to the Commodities Queue, the Hot Key can be activated

by pressing and holding the left Amiga Key followed by

pressing and releasing the 'q' Key and releasing the left

Amiga Key.

SYNOPSIS: [<qualifier> [<qualifier>...]] <key>

Qualifier keywords (Press and hold one or more qualifier)

alt either Alt key

ralt right Alt key

lalt left Alt key

shift either Shift key

rshift right Shift key

lshift left Shift key

capslock Caps Lock key

rcommand right Amiga key

lcommand left Amiga key

control Control key

numericpad Enables the use of a key on the numeric keypad

rbutton Click (and hold) the right mouse button

midbutton Click (and hold) the middle mouse button

(only avail for mice with a connected third button!)

leftbutton Click (and hold) the left mouse button

newprefs Preferences changed

diskremoved Disk removed

diskinserted Disk inserted

Keys (to be pressed and released, only ONE Key can be chosen)

a .. z, 0 .. 9, etc. Normal keys

f1 .. f10 Function keys

up, down, left, right Cursor keys

help Help key

del Delete key

return Return key

enter Enter key

(MUST be combined with 'numericpad'!)

backspace Backspace key

esc Escape key

space Space key

comma Comma key

upstroke Upstroke key

Examples

lalt ralt return

rcommand f10

alt x

lalt numericpad enter

NOTE: Choose your hotkeys carefully, because

Commodities have a high priority in the input events

chain (i.e. will override existing definitions). Also

some hotkeys don't make sense or do collide with other

tools or functions of the WB.

NOTE: The Workbench screen (or the default PubScreen,

if this one has activated the Shanghai-mode) will be

moved to front before starting the tool via HotKey.

NOTE: When a combination of qualifiers and keys is

illegal, VBlank will start, but the Hot Key won't work.

Example for illegal combinations:

lalt a b # Two keys specified

control rcommand lcommand # Reboots the System, Oops!

lbutton # No key specified

If you edit the Hot Key's in the Config Window,

the Combination will be checked. If invalid, the old Hot

Key is still used.

NOTE: Due to a bug in the commodities library, it is

impossible to use a Mousebutton w/o a Qualifier and a

Key.(ParseIX() doesn't set

the ix_QualMask field right)

NOTE: The hot key description strings have been changed

under Release 3.0 of Workbench.

1.11   VBlank/Config Window

Config Window

When the CX_POPUP is set and VBlank is being

started or when the hot key was pressed, a window shows

up on the Workbench. Normally, the workbench is moved

to the front.

You will see some Gadgets.

The values inside the Text-Gadgets are via default set

to the supplied Arguments in the Tool Types or

CLI-Parameters. On a wrong Enter, the value will be

reset to the old value.

On a an enter in the hot key gadgets, the entered string

will be checked and if the string is not valid as hot

key, the old or the default string will be returned.

You will notice, that some Gadget have names with one

character underlined. The underlined character refers

to the key on the keyboard and will alter the entry.

Use Shift to alter the entry in the other direction.

Gadgets:

Keys in bold type are short-cuts. With them

you can access the gadgets with the keyboard w/o moving

the mouse. In Slider- and Cycle-Gadgets, the short-cut

key will move the slider to the right, use Shift and the

key to move the slider to the left.

[T]imeout [P]op Key [V]esa Mode

[H]ide [B]lank [Q]uit

menu items:

Menu items can also be used via the keyboard, use the

shown Command Keys.

Project-Menu:

Load Config : Only available on Workbench-Start (either

Double-Click or Sys:WBStartup-drawer). Loads the

Configuration stored in the Tool Types in the Icon.

Save Config: Only available on Workbench-Start. Saves

the actual (!) configuration in the Tool Types of the

Icon. This will overwrite all existing Tool Type

Entries. It's no longer necessary to edit the Tool Type

Entries.

About: Shows up the version and Copyright.

Hide: Hides the Config Window.

Quit: Exit VBlank.

Edit Menu:

Reset To Defaults: Resets all parameters to buildt-in Default Values.

Overview

1.12   VBlank/Config Window/Options

Config Windows/Options

Options:

[T]imeout [P]op Key [V]esa Mode

Overview Config Window

1.13   VBlank/Rexx Interface

Arexx Interface

VBlank offers you an Arexx Interface to communicate with

VBlank without opening the Edit Window. This allows you to

temporarily disable the blanker, to open the Config Window,

and of course to quit the blanker.

This is usefull, when a programm is started, which does not

like VBlank as a screenblanker.

The similarities to the commands to those in the Commodities

Exchange Tool are done for purpose.

The ARexx-port is called 'VBLANK' and does have the

following commands:

OPENWINDOW - Openes the Config Window of VBlank.

CLOSEWINDOW - Closes the Config Window, if it was open.

ENABLE - Switches the blanker on. From now on all preferences

will be active.

DISABLE - Switches the blanker off. The blanker will not be

startet. The Rexx-Port will be left accessable.

This point is important for games and other

programms, which do not like screenblankers

popping up a screen to the front.

BLANK - Immediately starts the blanker.

The MUI system offers you other commands:

QUIT - Stops VBlank completely.

HIDE - Close or iconify the Config Window.

SHOW - Open the Config Window.

INFO - Shows you some Information about VBlank,

please read the MUI-Dokumentation/ARexx.

HELP - Shows all Rexx-Commands of VBlank (needs an

output window, ie. CLI)

SHOW and HIDE do only function in the presumed way when the

Config Window was already opened once. Elsewise only the

Icon will be opened and closed. Onced opened, the Config

Window will be iconified with HIDE. VBlank be closed with

QUIT, but the Icon will be de-iconified, the Window

re-opened and then everything will be shut down. Looks like

a Bug in MUI, it isnt, I want MUI when it is really needed,

not before.

1.14   VBlank/Config Window/Pop Key

Config Window/Pop Key

[P]op Key=<Hot Key>

Please see below for the Hotkeys.

The hot key opens the Config Window of VBlank.

Overview Config Window

1.15   VBlank/Config Window/Blank Key

Config Window/Blank Key

Blank [K]ey=<Hot Key>

Please see below for the Hotkeys.

The hot key immediatly blanks the screen.

Overview Config Window

1.16   VBlank/Config Window/Timeout

Config Window/Timeout

[T]imeout: <1 - 3600>

This is the timeout counter in seconds. During this

time NO input from the user must occur in order to start

the blanker. Usual time is about 60 secs.

Overview Config Window

1.17   VBlank/Config Window/Vesa Mode

Config Window/Vesa Mode

[V]esa Mode: <1 - 3>

Currently VBlank supports the following Vesa modes:

Mode/Status HSync VSync Video Mode

"On" on on active (mode 0)

"Stand by" off on blank (mode 1)

"Suspend" on off blank (mode 2)

"Off" off off blank (mode 3)

Overview Config Window

1.18   VBlank/Config Window/Joystick

Config Window/Joystick

[J]oystick: <Yes | No>

Toggles the ckeck for joystick activity. Only usefull

for some rare purpose, ie. games which are system

conformant, but don't like a screen popping up (or you

will loose some highscores :-)

Overview Config Window

1.19   VBlank/Config Window/Blank

Config Window/Blank

[B]lank:

Blank immediately. All the new entered values will be

activated.

Overview Config Window

1.20   VBlank/Config Window/Hide

Config Window/Hide

[H]ide:

Hide the window. All the new entered values will be

acivated on the next blank. Of course VBlank is still

active.

Overview Config Window

1.21   VBlank/Config Window/Quit

Config Window/Quit

[Q]uit:

Exit VBlank. (Use 'Hide' to close the 'Config Window')

Overview Config Window

1.22   VBlank/Commodities Exchange

Commodities Exchange

With the Exchange Tool, you can temporarily stop VBlank

with DISABLE, restart it with ENABLE, remove VBlank with

KILL (as would do a Quit in the Config Window), SHOW up

the Config Window, and HIDE the Config Window.

The Exchange Tool is a comfort way to remove or

dis/enable VBlank.

Please refer to the AmigaDOS Manual (Section AmigaDOS

Reference and Workbench Programms) for further docs on

Exchange Tool.

1.23   VBlank/Known Problems

Known Problems

We do know of some problems and strange behaviours, some of

them aren't strange anymore, when you read this:

- When a disk is inserted, VBlank closes the screen

(dis-blanks). This is normal. Disk-replacement is

detected as an input Event. As all input events shall

disable the Blanker this one should, too. And this

event is obvious, the user is alive :-)

- The window doesn't open if the hotkey is pressed.

Perhaps you have supplied a wrong hotkey description.

Use the Commodities Exchange Tool to open the Edit Window.

The Hot Key will appear in the Gadget 'Pop Key'. You

can test the hotkey there. If an incorrect hotkey was

submitted, the old hotkey will reappear.

- VBlank shows up the window though the Tool Type CX_POPUP

is set to 'NO'. This happens when VBlank is started

twice. (Double-click (or call from CLI) = start,

another double-click (or call from CLI) opens the

window). Please do also check the entries in the MUI

Preferences.

1.24   VBlank/MUI

MUI

MUI is a shareware product worth using. It can be found on

the AmiNet or other PD- and Shareware series.

Without registering MUI the only feature which is not

available is that you can't save but change the preferences.

Thus MUI _is_ usable even without registration.

Please do read the file 'ReadMe.MUI', which

should be in the Archive.

1.25   VBlank/Credits

Credits

Matthias 'tron' Scheler and Markus 'ill' Illenser for there

ASwarm II (VBlank uses many parts of the source).

Michael 'berti' Brakemeier for his ideas.