

Session Guru!

This program was written using Microsoft C/C++ v7.00 and especially the MFC. It was above all a training experience and an incentive to discover C++ and Windows SDK.

Thus, it is a Try... Whether it is a Nice Try, or not, I don't know, as a user, you should tell. To learn more about the status of this release (things are moving so fast in the computer industry!) you should check the [Release Number](#), it will give you a good idea of whether it is safe or not to use this software according to your computer experience level. From a general point of view, be aware that it is better to [test](#) separately the compatibility of each program or document that you wish to install. To be fully informed, I would suggest that you have a look at the [Copyright notice](#), check the [Session Guru! benefits](#) verify [compatibility](#), and browse through the [List of commands](#).

Copyright

Session Guru! is a [Freeware](#), it means that you can freely use this software, make as many copies as you want and **GIVE** them away, provided you do not modify the presentation, or the composition of the package. My goal is to supply Microsoft Windows™ users with a useful (at least I hope so!) tool, for FREE. If you like this product, make a copy for your friends and colleagues.

On the other hand : The commercial use of this product is not permitted by the author. In other words no person, nor company, is allowed to make profits with this product without the prior written permission of the author. This copyright applies to all countries.

Copyright © Pierre-Eric Colin, 1993.

2 rue Servien
92190 Meudon
France.

E-Mail : CompuServe 100121,2155

PS : as of today, I am unemployed...

Release number

You can check the release number by clicking in the [About...](#) button of the main window. It is important to check that the miscellaneous [files installed](#) by Session Guru! belong to the same release set.

List of files installed by the program

The session files, created by Session Guru! use the following extension : **.SGU**

In the program folder, you will find the following files :

[SGURU_10.EXE](#)

[SGURU_10.HLP](#)

[SGURU_10.LOG](#)

In the Windows directory, you will also find the file named:

[SGURU.INI](#)

In addition, Session Guru! inserts one (1) line in the `WIN.INI` file, it is located in the `[EXTENSIONS]` section, and it is here to register the .SGU files with the `SGURU_10.EXE` program. It should look like this :

[EXTENSIONS]

...

...

...

sgu=c:\...\...\ \...\SGURU_10.EXE ^.SGU

Session Guru! benefits

Session Guru! is a very simple software. I often use my computer with several programs interacting (a word processor, a spreadsheet and a database, etc.), and thus I launch each program, open the needed documents and after these operations, I can work. It can be a heavy procedure in case you use many programs. It can be a nightmare if you have a wide range of activities that brings you to change several times a day of programs sets. Each program set is a session, a session can hold as many programs and documents as the memory of your PC can.

The idea beyond Session Guru! is providing a flexible tool to set up and launch sessions in a snap.

By extension, and because a computer can be shared by several users or because you might need several different sessions, Session Guru! provides the interface needed to store, retrieve and edit your sessions.

Once a session is loaded (either retrieved from disk or created from scratch) clicking the [Run](#) button will launch all the programs and documents of the session.

The way I use it : I have made a group in the Program Manager called "Sessions", and added to this group the various sessions that I need, whenever I need a given configuration of my PC, I just *double click* the icon of the session, it launches the program (Session Guru!) and the session is loaded. If it is needed I can modify the session (Add or Remove programs or documents) and then I just click on Run to set up my environment.

Open...

This button is used to retrieve a session from disk. It can load files previously saved by means of the [Save as...](#) command (with a .SGU extension), but also text files (with a .TXT extension) and more widely, any kind (.* extension) of text file of this type :

FullPathname\Filename followed by <Carriage return + Line feed>

This command will bring up a common Windows Open dialog, if you don't know how to use it, please refer to your Microsoft Windows™ documentation.

Save as...

This button is used to store the session currently displayed by the Session Guru! window on disk in order to use it later. This command will bring up a common Windows Save as dialog, if you don't know how to use it, please refer to your Microsoft Windows™ documentation

Add...

This button will let you insert a new item in the list of programs and documents to launch. You can pick a Program file (*.EXE, *.COM, *.PIF, *.BAT) but also document files (.XLS, .DOC, .BMP, .CAL, .HLP etc.) Session Guru! will search your system in order to find the file creator. If Session Guru! does not succeed in matching a program to your document it will make an attempt to open the file with the Microsoft Windows™ Notepad. In some cases, this options will work, in many it will generate unpredictable results, you should check the log file [SGURU 10.LOG](#) to understand what happened. The add command brings up a common Windows Open dialog, if you don't know how to use it, please refer to your Microsoft Windows™ documentation. Session Guru! supports the Drag and Drop feature as a client. Thus you can drag files from any Drag and Drop server (the **File Manager** for instance) to the Session Guru! window, Session Guru! will behave exactly as if these files were added manually.

Run

This button launches all the programs and opens all the documents in the list. During the Run process, a log file called [SGURU 10.LOG](#), is generated. This file records a return value for each application launched, if this return value is greater than 32, then everything worked fine, else, something went wrong. In order to know what, see the [Error codes index](#).

Delete

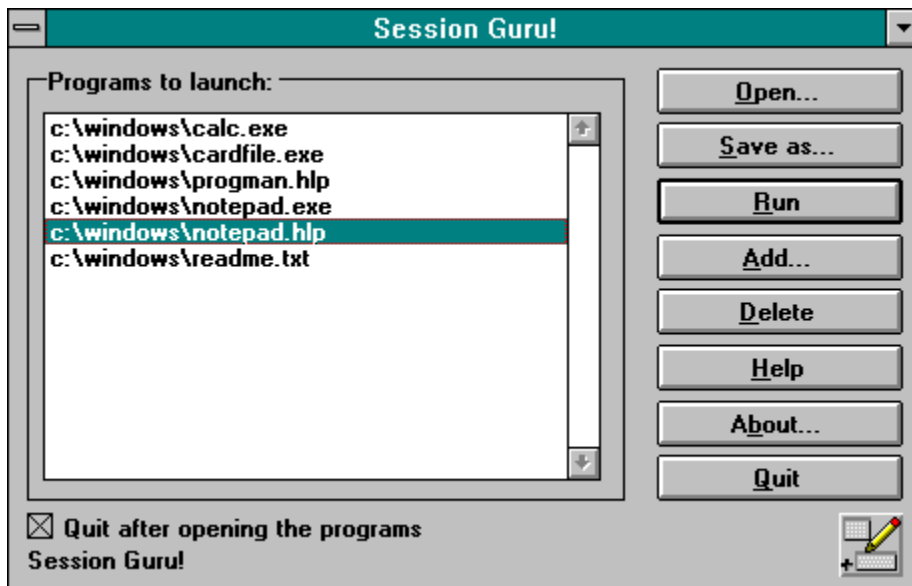
This button lets you remove from the list a program or document that you do not want to launch. You have to select an item in the list and then click Delete. If no item is selected then this button does nothing.

One more detail, Delete does not remove the program from the disk, it removes the name from the list.

Starting with release 1.2, a new feature lets you delete a whole session in a single **delete** command. You just have to hold pressed the **<Ctrl>** key while you click the delete button and the whole list will be gone. If this list has been modified, you will be given an opportunity to save your changes.

Session Guru! features

All the features of Session Guru! are accessible through the main window. Just move the mouse pointer on the image below and click on the buttons and various areas of the dialog to get the details of the features.



Testing your sessions

Each program installed by Session Guru! can bring in several styles of problems. The first cause would be the lack of memory, it may happen also that a program is incompatible with another program in the session (low probability), may be a program has a special running convention unknown to Session Guru! or may be it is not compatible with Microsoft Windows™ (could be!) or more simply, may be the sprite running the machine is in a bad mood, who knows?...

My experience shows that it is wiser to add programs to the session after a serious test process. I recommend that you add the items in the list **one by one**, testing each time. I know that this is not fun and that it is a time consuming process... same as backing up your disks... until your hard drive crashes!

1) Start with a blank list, then, Add the file you want to put in your session, then, Run. Check the return value in the log file, if everything is OK, step #1 is completed. If not, the error codes will tell you what went wrong.

2) Open the session in which you plan to add the program (or document), Add the program to the list and Run the session. Check your log file as in step #1. Then go to then **Program Manager** and activate the **About...** item in the ? menu, to check if the system has sufficient resources left. if everything is OK, step #2 is completed.

3) You can now Add your program to the session and Save as a new session. Step #3 is completed, you can use your session.

If you reached step #3 you are a happy user and I reached my goal. You can now launch your session in a single operation.

In addition, if you are trying to open a document, you must take care of a few other things :

- * Take care with programs that cannot be launched more than once (don't try to launch them several times).
- * Take care with single documents programs (don't try to open several documents).
- * Use the file extensions as defined in the [EXTENSIONS] section of the Win.ini file.

Very Important Notice : During the test process, you must not open documents without backups into your programs, in case of compatibility problems, system could crash, ending in a loss of data.

Index of error codes

- 0** System was out of memory, executable file was corrupt, or relocations were invalid.
- 2** File was not found.
- 3** Path was not found.
- 5** Attempt was made to dynamically link to a task, or there was a sharing or network-protection error.
- 6** Library required separate data segments for each task.
- 8** There was insufficient memory to start the application.
- 10** Windows version was incorrect.
- 11** Executable file was invalid. Either it was not a Windows application or there was an error in the .EXE image.
- 12** Application was designed for a different operating system.
- 13** Application was designed for MS-DOS 4.0.
- 14** Type of executable file was unknown.
- 15** Attempt was made to load a real-mode application (developed for an earlier version of Windows).
- 16** Attempt was made to load a second instance of an executable file containing multiple data segments that were not marked read-only.
- 19** Attempt was made to load a compressed executable file. The file must be decompressed before it can be loaded.
- 20** Dynamic-link library (DLL) file was invalid. One of the DLLs required to run this application was corrupt.
- 21** Application requires Microsoft Windows 32-bit extensions.

Freeware

Free software... The author gives you the software if you promise to bless his name ten times a day until the end of times !

SGURU_10.EXE

The program file.

SGURU_10.HLP

The help file that you are currently using.

About...

Gives you useful information about the author (a wonderful person indeed!) but also about the software such as release number and date.

Quit

Quite self explanatory, ends up with Session Guru! and return to the Program Manager. This quit does not close the programs or documents launched by Session Guru!

Compatibility

Until now, no compatibility problems is known except that Session Guru! needs a 386 or better and Microsoft Windows 3.1.

Help

This is a direct access to the document that you are currently browsing..

List of Programs / Documents

In this list Session Guru! displays the path names and names of the programs and documents that will be launched by the **Run** command.

SGURU_10.LOG

An ordinary log file reporting the results of the last **Run** command. This file is in text format and can be read with any word processor (from Notepad to the most sophisticated)

SGURU.INI

This file holds miscellaneous parameters used by the program. This file is created automatically if it does not exist. It will always be in the Windows directory.

Quit after openong the Programs

If this check box is checked, Session Guru! quits automatically after launching the set of programs. If it is not checked, the Session Guru! window becomes the top most window once the session has been launched.

Selected file

This file is selected, its name appears highlighted. You will **add** new items in the session before this one, and this item will be the target of the **delete** command.

