
Mr. Burns

Version 1.00

The Productivity Management System

Installation and User's Guide

Esm
Software

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Introduction to Mr. Burns

What is Mr. Burns

Mr. Burns is a Productivity Management Software package that monitors the activity of any PC running Microsoft Windows. This program is ideal for keeping track of the amount of time that you spend on your computer, detecting malicious use of your computer, or monitoring the productivity of others. Because the program runs hidden in the background, the user is unaffected and unaware of the presence of Mr. Burns. The following lists some of the information provided by Mr. Burns:

- Names and command lines of programs that were run (including time started and stopped)
- Which applications were active, and when
- Amount of time the computer was left idle
- Number of Keystrokes hit

All of this information is discretely saved to compact “audit” files, and can only be viewed and decoded with the Mr. Burns Administration program.

Installation

Installing Mr. Burns

A complete Mr. Burns package should contain the following files:

MRBURNS.EXE

The Main Executable Program

BURNSDLL.DLL

A Windows DLL used by MRBURNS.EXE

MRBADMIN.EXE

A utility program used to configure, view and convert the audit files created by Mr. Burns

ORDER.WRI

Order form for additional copies of Mr. Burns (in Microsoft Write format).

GUIDE.WRI

The User Guide in Microsoft Windows Write format.

README.TXT

Last minute update information.

The Mr. Burns program is installed by copying the files MRBURNS.EXE, MRBADMIN.EXE and BURNSDLL.DLL into either a new or existing directory of any name. The program MRBADMIN.EXE is used to setup the other programs and can be removed after setup. The name or placement of the directory in which these programs reside is unimportant. However, it is IMPORTANT that these files are all placed in the SAME directory.

After executing MRBURNS.EXE the audit files TASKINFO.1 and VERBOSE.1 will be created in the same directory where MRBURNS.EXE resides. These files contain all the information gathered during the work session. See the **User Logs** section for information on reading and interpreting these audit log files.

Configuring Mr. Burns

Once the files have been copied, the program can be configured using the Mr. Burns Administration program. To configure the program, copy the file MRBADMIN.EXE

into the same directory that MRBURNS.EXE and BURNSDLL.DLL are located. Run MRBADMIN.EXE. This program displays a dialog box with a number of options:

- Selecting the **Load Automatically at Startup** check box sets Mr. Burns to be run automatically every time Windows is started.
- Select **Configure Mr. Burns**. Check the **Enable Verbose Listing** check box if you want a detailed audit of user activity. See the section on **User Logs** for more information on verbose listings. Selecting the verbose listing enables a number of check boxes. Select which information you wish to log. **Note:** The verbose listing can produce large log files. Make sure that the computer that is being monitored has the space available, or be sure to remove the log file VERBOSE . 1 from the system often.
- If the program is not presently running, the **Run Now** button will be enabled and the **Stop** button will be disabled. Pressing **Run Now** will start Mr. Burns immediately. **NOTE:** You must still select the **Run Automatically at Startup** button if you want Mr. Burns to restart automatically the next time that Windows is run.

Once the program is configured the file MRBADMIN.EXE can be deleted.

Uninstalling Mr. Burns

You can prevent Mr. Burns from performing its monitoring duties without installing it simply by unchecking the **Run Automatically at Startup** option using the Mr. Burns Administration program. If you want to remove the program entirely do the following:

- . Run MRBADMIN.EXE.
- . Uncheck the **Run Automatically at Startup** option.
- . If the **Stop** Button in Mr. Burns Administration program is enabled (not grayed), hit the stop button so that it is grayed.
- . Quit the Administration program.
- . Delete the following files: MRBURNS.EXE, BURNSDLL.DLL, BURNS.INI, TASKLIST.1, and VERBOSE.1

User Logs

The information gathered by Mr. Burns is compressed and written into two files. The first file `TASKLIST.1` contains a summary of the user session and is always created. The file `VERBOSE.1` is created only when the user selects the **Enable Detailed Logging** option (see **Configuring the program**).

These files can only be viewed by converting them to a readable text file using `MRBADMIN.EXE` (Mr. Burns Administration utility included in the package.)

Note: The audit files do not have to be viewed on the same machine that they were created on. They can be copied and viewed at another time, on a different system.

Viewing the Audit Logs

The audit logs can only be viewed or converted to plain text format using the Mr. Burns Administration utility. To view or convert a file:

- . Select **View/Convert file**.
- . Select **Load File**.
- . Using the **File Selection** dialog box, select the file that you want to load.
- . Press OK

At this point the contents of the file will be converted to a readable form and the information will appear in the window. Once the file is loaded, it can be viewed or saved to a text file.

To save to a text file (that can be printed using an application such as Notepad), select the **Convert Button** and enter the name of the destination file when prompted. Once the file `TASKLIST.1` or `VERBOSE.1` is copied or viewed, it can be deleted from its original directory. Since the file contains daily summaries, its size will increase with the number of days. Once deleted a new (empty) version of the file will be created.

TASKLIST.1

The file `TASKLIST.1` contains a *daily* summary of the user session and is always created

by Mr. Burns. The file contains a list of all the programs that were run, how many times they were run, the amount of time the program was active and how much time that program was actually used.

The following is a sample of a decoded TASKLIST.1 file:

```
-----  
Wednesday, June 14, 1995  
-----  
PROGMAN      Times Ran = 1    Keystrokes = 7  
              Running = 01:34:07  Active = 00:00:15  Used = 00:00:15  
  
CLOCK        Times Ran = 1    Keystrokes = 0  
              Running = 01:34:06  Active = 00:00:00  Used = 00:00:00  
  
WINFILE      Times Ran = 1    Keystrokes = 0  
              Running = 01:33:55  Active = 00:00:11  Used = 00:00:11  
  
WRITE        Times Ran = 1    Keystrokes = 2642  
              Running = 01:33:42  Active = 01:11:56  Used = 00:56:44  
  
SOL          Times Ran = 1    Keystrokes = 0  
              Running = 00:21:38  Active = 00:21:38  Used = 00:21:38
```

Note that the information is formatted in the following manner:

(1) Program Name, (2) Number of times executed, (3) Number of keystrokes hit, (4) Time running (both as a foreground and background application) (5) Time Active (foreground) and (6) The time that it was used (Time Active - Idle Time).

Calculating Time Used and Idle Time

Time used is calculated by subtracting the Idle Time from the time that the application was active. An application is considered to be idle if the user does not hit a key or click on the mouse button for more than five minutes.

Important Points:

- Although Mr. Burns is capable of determining when an DOS application is run using the DOS shell capability of Windows, it is not able to count the keystrokes.
- DOS applications are called OLDWINAPP.

- Screen Savers never report any Time Used or Time Active since they always run in the foreground. It is only necessary to record the amount of time that it was running.
- The name of the program is not necessarily the application's executable file name. The name of the executable can be changed very easily by renaming the file, the name of the program cannot. The user can log the names of the executables by setting the **Save Command Line Option** when using a verbose listing.

VERBOSE.1

A detailed listing of the user's session is available in the VERBOSE.1 file if the administrator selected the **Enable Detailed Listing** option when configuring Mr. Burns. The following is a sample of each of the types of events that can be reported.

```
-----
Wednesday, June 14, 1995
-----
09:20:12PM   PROGMAN   Started   Cmd Line = <none>
09:20:12PM   PROGMAN   Deactivated
09:20:13PM   CLOCK    Started   Cmd Line = <none>
09:20:13PM   CLOCK    Activated
09:20:13PM   CLOCK    Deactivated
09:20:16PM   PROGMAN   Activated
09:20:24PM   WINFILE  Started   Cmd Line = <none>
09:20:24PM   WINFILE  Activated
09:20:24PM   PROGMAN   Deactivated
09:20:35PM   WRITE    Started   Cmd Line =
      C:\BURNS\MRBURNS\GUIDE.WRI
09:20:35PM   WRITE    Activated
09:20:35PM   WINFILE  Deactivated
09:31:10PM   PROGMAN   Activated
09:31:10PM   WRITE    Deactivated
09:31:17PM   SOL      Started   Cmd Line = <none>
09:31:17PM   SOL      Activated
09:31:17PM   PROGMAN   Deactivated
09:52:55PM   SOL      Stopped
09:52:56PM   WRITE    Activated
10:29:00PM   WRITE    Idle    00:15:12
10:54:17PM   WRITE    Stopped
```

10:54:17PM	WINFILE	Activated
10:54:19PM	WINFILE	Stopped
10:54:19PM	PROGMAN	Activated

Each listing starts with the time the event occurred followed by the name of the program. This is followed by the event that occurred at the time. Possible events include:

Started: An application was launched

*If the **Save Command Line** option is selected the command line that was used to launch the application is given.*

Stopped: An application has been terminated:

Activated: An application has been activated. (Brought to the foreground)

Deactivated: An application has been deactivated. (No longer the foreground application)

Idle: Idle time has been reported by Mr. Burns. This is followed by the amount of time the computer was idle.

From these two sample files the system administrator is able to determine exactly what has occurred during the user's work session. From the previous sample files it can be seen that the user was running the Windows Program Manager (PROGMAN), has the clock (CLOCK) running in the background, used the File Manager (WINFILE) to load a file ("GUIDE.WRI") into Microsoft Write (WRITE), and interrupted the editing session with a brief (20min, 38sec) game of Solitaire (SOL).

Troubleshooting Guide

The program does not restart automatically when Windows starts.

- *Make sure the check box **Load Automatically at Startup** is checked.*
*See section **Configuring the Program**.*

I get the error message regarding "Mr. Burns" every time Windows is started.

- *The files **MRBURNS.EXE** and **BURNS.DLL** are either not in the same directory or **MRBADMIN.EXE** was not run from the same directory as those files. Run **MRBURNS.EXE** again, uncheck and check the check box **Load Automatically at Startup**.*

The file TASKLIST.1 is created but the file the file VERBOSE.1 is not.

-
- *Make sure the **Enable Detailed Listing** check box in the **Configure Mr. Burns** dialog box is checked.*

Contacting Esm Software

If you have an problems, questions, or comments, please feel free to contact Esm Software.

Esm Software can be reached on the Internet at **Esm.Software@netaxis.qc.ca** or by mail:

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