

Welcome to Omniquad Desktop Surveillance

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Omniquad Desktop Surveillance - a versatile tool for peace of mind

Omniquad Desktop Surveillance offers a unique approach to the problem of access control, prevention of, or investigation into, use/misuse of computer equipment and software. Instead of merely obstructing the user's actions, one of the oldest prevention methods known: the prospect of being watched and 'found out' - is applied.

The program is the software equivalent of a surveillance camera and works by recording desktop activity. Yet it may operate in two modes; either by displaying warning signs in order to discourage misuse, or as secretly monitoring activity.

While the application can store days of recordings, the settings can be tailored virtually for any situation. For example, recording can be activated at certain chosen times only, when running specified applications or on log-on to the Internet.

This program is the only tool available to address not only the issues of web browsing but also newsgroups and IRC at the same time. The program recording can be activated as soon as you visit certain WWW sites or specific IRC channels.

Desktop Surveillance can also be remotely controlled, either via local network or the Internet, and in both cases it is possible to remotely observe activity on the local desktop in real time.

The program can be applied in a manifold of situations - for example to discourage employees in your office from visiting certain WWW sites, doing anything else they are not supposed to do, or maybe to secretly find out what your PC is being used for in your absence.

General Settings

This section determines general program settings

Session Path - Determines the root directory for recording all sessions. This should be a folder which is not easily accessible. If your workstation is on the Local Area Network, you can specify a network drive. Every session will be saved into a new sub-directory

Reserve Disk Space Specifies the minimum disk space (in bytes) that Desktop Surveillance will leave for the system.

Register Task Name This is what the user can see in the task list. It is recommended that you enter a meaningless name, such as 'ODS' etc, so that only you can easily detect that the Desktop Surveillance is running

Disable Task Switching Choosing this option makes it impossible for the user to terminate the program from the task list or even determine if it is running.

Allow termination from Task Manager

Enables user to terminate the program from the Task Manager. This setting has little effect, since Windows 95 will terminate the program after 3 tries anyway

Recording Times

The **Recording Times** section lets you configure when Desktop Surveillance will start and stop recording activity. Recording will start if **any** of the conditions is true and terminate when the condition is false

Always Selecting this option means that recording will start immediately when Surveillance Agent is loaded. Enable this setting if you want to keep recording everything that happens from the moment the computer logs on to Windows. Enabling this option automatically overrides all other settings in this section

If the user name is - recording will be activated only on the specified user name (and the program will keep recording until you terminate the Windows session)

On Time - will activate recording at time specified. Use HH:MM format (and the program will keep recording until you terminate the Windows session)

Trigger List when Desktop Surveillance Agent is running in the background, it will periodically check all the applications and processes currently running. If any of the programs loaded matches entry on your application trigger list, the recording will be activated immediately. If user exits the application, the recording will stop.

You don't have to enter the exact name of the application you want to add to the trigger list, all you have to enter is a part of the application's name (as it would appear in the application's window caption or in Windows Task List). Since some programs don't show any windows and are not on the task list, you may click on the 'List Active' button to see a list of all active processes

For example, if you want to record only when user is using the Notepad program, you can add text **notepa** to the Trigger List (the last letter 'a' is omitted intentionally to show you exactly what the program does). When the Desktop Surveillance Agent loads, it will periodically check all the running applications. Because no applications in the process list have text **notepa**, the entry will be not matched and nothing will happen. But when the user starts Notepad, there will be a new item in the Windows task list, for example **Untitled Notepad**. When the Agent makes next task list comparison, it will match **notepa** with **Untitled Notepad** and trigger recording. The same applies to entering parts of a document name into the trigger list. You could enter document name keywords, such as **prohibit**. When the user browsing the Internet, he or she would visit the following several sites, but in none of them the specified word would appear. As the user is visiting different WWW sites (say using application Internet Browser), the task windows would keep changing:

Internet Browser (<http://www.worldhistory.com>)

Internet Browser (<http://www.omniquad.com>)

Internet Browser (<http://www.downloadsoftware.com/newdownloads>)

None of the tasks contain word **prohibit**, so nothing will happen, But when the user visits for example site

Internet Browser (<http://www.prohibitedrinks.com>), the Surveillance Agent would start recording because the window task name contains the word **prohibit**

If you want to record everything when the Internet Browser application is running, regardless of sites visited, you enter the word **Internet** or **Browser** into the trigger list.

The Trigger list is a very useful feature, it monitors not only the applications that appear in the Task List but also all running processes, thus giving you flexibility in specifying the recording times

Working Modes

Desktop Surveillance can operate in two modes:

Secret Surveillance

The user is not aware that everything he or she does is or can be recorded. The situation can be compared to a hidden security surveillance camera

Surveillance with Warnings (Prevention)

The user is warned that any activity can be recorded. You can use this mode to discourage the user from doing something he or she is not supposed to do.

To enable the Prevention mode, apply any of the settings below:

Warning:

A text message appears when the Surveillance Agent is loaded into memory so as to inform the user that any activity may be recorded.

Show Animated Icon

Enabling this option will show a 'moving eye' indicator in the task area, so that the user is kept aware of the monitoring process

Playback

To playback any recording simply browse to the folder which corresponds to the session name and click on the 'View Session' button. Ensure that you double-click on the folder, so that you will see opened folder icon. Use the on-screen buttons to navigate through the playback

Network

Remote Surveillance requires your computer to be a part of a network running TCP protocol, such as Intranet or Internet. When entering the remote workstation's name, you can specify either the workstation's computer name or its IP address.

To find out the computer name, open Network settings in Control Panel and click on the **Identification** tab. The workstation's IP address can be obtained from the TCP protocol settings in the **Configuration** tab

If you enable Remote Surveillance option, the following facilities will be enabled:

- **Remote Activation**

You can activate recording on a remote workstation. This will override any recording settings on the workstation in question

- **Remote Deactivation**

You can deactivate recording on a remote workstation. This also overrides any surveillance settings on that workstation

- **View**

You can monitor activity on the remote workstation in real time

In all cases, the remote workstation has to have the Desktop Surveillance loaded

Before you enable the Remote Surveillance option, you should consider associated security risks

Sample Run

Follow these step-by-step instructions to create and replay a simple recording.

- In the **General Settings** tab, select a folder to save all the recordings and make sure that **Allow Termination from Task Manager** option is enabled. In the **Register Task Name**, enter text 'My Test Recording' (without the quotes)
- In the **Recording Times** tab, enable **Always** option (in this test, we want to record everything all the time)
- In the **Accuracy** tab, set the snap interval to **0 minutes 3 seconds**. This is not appropriate setting for a real recording because it utilises a lot of system resources and will slow your computer down (but it is adequate for this test, since we just want to see how it all works)
- In the **About** tab, enable the **Debug Window** option
- Now click **OK**, let the program exit and restart the computer)so that the Surveillance Agent will start with new settings
- When Windows loads again, there will be a warning message telling you that Desktop Surveillance has been activated. There will be another small window showing you the status. Within a few seconds, the window's text should be 'recording active'
- For the next few minutes, work with a few different applications, edit some documents or browse the Internet
- Now, use Windows explorer to go back to the folder where you specified to save the recordings. A new sub-folder should be there, and its name would be a combination of date and time when the recording session has started. If you check the contents of the folder, you will see that every few seconds there is a new file appearing (these files are actual screen shots saved at regular intervals)
- Press CTRL-ALT_DEL , end task 'My Test Recording'. Open Desktop Surveillance from the Start Menu
- In the **Playback** tab, select the folder with a session name and click the 'View Session' button (make sure that you double-click on the folder, so that you will see the opened icon)
- Now you can replay the entire recording. Instead of your real desktop, you will see what was the desktop's contents at the time of the recording

Advanced Settings

Making the user unable to alter surveillance settings

Disabling task switching. If this option is enabled, user will be not able to terminate Desktop Surveillance from the task list or even check if it's active (Win95 only). You should also remove any process listing programs, since they also offer facility to list running tasks and terminate them. You may also make use of system policies to disable registry-editing facilities and file browsing - see Windows resource kit for more information

How gets the Desktop Surveillance load into memory?

The executable file is called from the \Run section in the registry. As the parameter file, the program will always look for the parameter file with the same name, for example command **spn /r** will look for parameter filename **spn.cfg** This is the default way the program loads, you may customise it if you need to make the program more hidden from users

