

Screen Saver Activate version 1.2.4b for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0
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Shareware notice:

Ssactivate is a copyrighted commercial product, distributed as shareware. This means that you may use the program for a reasonable length of time to insure that it meets your requirements, but beyond that evaluation period, we require that you pay a registration fee of \$10 U.S. Until Ssactivate is registered, a popup dialog will appear each time the program is run.

Registration:

You can register directly with the author by using credit card, check or money order. If you are a CompuServe subscriber, you can register through the SWREG system (GO SWREG, Registration ID: 8459). There is a \$5 U.S. shipping fee if you want an official distribution diskette. The registration fee grants a single-user license for Ssactivate which is good for any minor-level updates we release for that major version. Minor-level updates are those in which the leftmost digit in the version does not change. The license allows the user to install Ssactivate on as many machines as he/she wishes, as long as it is running on only one machine at any given time. Once you have registered, we will provide you with a Product ID, which will allow you to license your copy of Ssactivate.

Redistribution:

Feel free to share the unregistered version of this program with others. We ask that you only redistribute the original unmodified archive instead of the individual files within the archive. The archive is located in the REDIST directory if installing from the floppy disk version. You may also post the archive to any BBS or other online service.

Description and basic operation:

Ssactivate allows for immediate activation of the currently selected screen saver by either a single mouse click or a configurable keyboard hot-key. Ssactivate places an icon in the Taskbar Notification Area or System Tray(Systray) as it also known, located at the right or bottom of the Taskbar. Clicking on the icon with the left mouse button will either activate the currently selected screen saver or toggle the screen saver state between enabled and disabled, depending on how you have Ssactivate configured. Clicking with the right mouse button will bring up a menu with selections to activate the screen saver, bring up the *Screen Saver Properties* page, configure Ssactivate and toggle the screen saver state. In an unlicensed copy of Ssactivate, there is a *Register* selection on the menu for bringing up the Registration dialog box which will allow the user to license the software.

When the screen saver is disabled or there is no screen saver selected, the Ssactivate icon will have a red circle and diagonal line over it. When the screen saver is disabled with Ssactivate, it is disabled for that session only or until you reenable it. If you have an Energy Star compliant video controller, Ssactivate will also disable the "Low-power shutdown" and "Shut-off monitor" options for that hardware. If you have disabled the screen saver with Ssactivate and go to the Screen Saver Properties, it will show "(None)" as the screen saver name, but unless you press the OK button, the setting is not permanent.

If you have the password option selected for the screen saver, this setting will remain in effect when Ssactivate launches the screen saver. When running Windows NT, you may notice a short delay after the screen saver is activated before the security is enabled. This also occurs when the screen saver is activated after the configured time-out period, so it appears this behavior is by design.

Install information:

To install Ssactivate, extract all of the files from the archive file SSACVT.ZIP into a temporary subdirectory of your choice or to a floppy drive; then run INSTALL.EXE.

If you are installing from the diskette version of the program; just run INSTALL.EXE which is in the root directory of the distribution diskette.

If you want to perform a manual installation, just extract the executable file named ssactvat.exe from the archive and rename it to ssactivate.exe, then place the file in whatever location you wish.

Once Ssactivate is installed, it will be available for any login on the machine as long as the user has permissions for the directory in which it is installed. You will not have to reinstall it for each login.

Uninstall information:

If you allowed the installation procedure to create a folder in the 'Start menu', there will be an item for uninstalling Ssactivate, which can be used to perform an automated uninstall. If you did not allow for the creation of a folder or you performed a manual install, there is a batch file named SSA-DEL.BAT located in the SYSTEM directory of your main Windows 95 directory or in the SYSTEM32 directory of your main Windows NT directory. Run this batch file with the quoted directory name where Ssactivate is installed.

Configuration:

To configure Ssactivate, click with the right mouse button on the Ssactivate icon and select the *Configure* menu item. This will bring up a dialog which contains all configurable options of Ssactivate. All settings in this dialog will be preserved between sessions. In addition, they will be saved on a per-user login basis*, with the exception of the 'Automatic start' option.

Hot-key:

The activation hot-key can be any combination of Shift, Ctrl, Alt and any printable key.

The number pad keys can be used as the hot-key with the limitation that Shift cannot be a modifier for the numeric keys and Alt cannot be a modifier for the 'period' key. Also note that Num-Lock must be 'ON' in order to select any number pad key. Function keys F1 through F12 with the exception of F10 can also be used with no limitation on modifiers. The hot-key can be disabled completely.

Automatic start:

The 'Run at start up' option sets Ssactivate to launch at each logon for all users. If you wish to have it launch on a per-user basis, add an entry to the 'Start up' folder for each user's login that you wish it to run under*.

If you move the executable ssactivate.exe after configuring for 'Run at start up', you will need to manually run Ssactivate once and the configuration will be updated to reflect the new location of ssactivate.exe.

*Note: On Windows NT, each user's settings are separately saved automatically. On Windows 95, you must have the 'User Profiles' option configured to save program settings for each user's login. To configure the 'User Profiles' option, open the 'Passwords' icon in the control panel and select the 'User Profiles' tab.

Left mouse button action:

The left mouse button can be configured to either activate the screen saver or toggle the screen saver state between enabled and disabled. The tooltip which is displayed when the mouse cursor is over the Ssactivate icon will give an indication of how the left mouse button is configured. For example, if the left button is configured to activate the screen saver and the screen saver is enabled, then the tooltip will be 'Click to blank screen'. If the left button is configured to toggle the screen saver state and the screen saver is enabled, the tooltip will be 'Click to disable the screen saver'.

Icon type:

Normally, Ssactivate's icon is a representation of a video monitor with a black screen when the screen saver is enabled and the same icon with a red circle and diagonal line when disabled. In order to support users with monochrome monitors, Ssactivate has an option to use a different set of icons for these users. When the 'monochrome' option is selected, the enabled icon is still a video monitor with a black screen, but the disabled icon is a video monitor with a white screen. This should provide

maximum contrast on any monochrome display.

Other options:

There is a option in the 'Configure ssactivate' dialog for adjusting the 'Activation delay'. This option is only needed and valid under Windows NT. This is the amount of time that Ssactivate waits before activating the screen saver. This delay is necessary to allow time for the user to release the keys when using the hot-key or to allow for any minor movements of the mouse after clicking on the icon. The delay can be any value from 25 through 2000 milliseconds. The default of 25ms will usually work but the keys must be released fairly quickly. Experiment with this setting to find what works best for you.

Preserving the settings:

You do not have to manually save these settings between sessions, as they will be saved on program exit and restored the next time Ssactivate is executed. The program settings are saved in the Current User section of the registry, which allows each individual with an account on a given machine to have personalized settings.

Note: Early 1.2.x versions of Ssactivate have a bug which causes these settings not to be saved between sessions unless it is manually closed via it's menu or by performing an End Task from the Task List. This problem has been corrected as of 1.2.31 for Windows 95, 1.2.3 for Windows NT and the settings are saved no matter how it is terminated.

Combatibility information:

Ssactivate version 1.2.4b will run only under Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 and higher. *Note:* As of the time of the release of Ssactivate 1.2.4b (5/16/1996), Windows NT 4.0 is in Beta release and we cannot guarantee the operation of Ssactivate under that environment, although we have not experienced any problems so far. When Windows NT 4.0 is released as retail, we will make any neccessary changes to Ssactivate and will fully support it.

If you use Windows NT 3.5/3.51, version 1.2.3 of Ssactivate is available for that environment. Ssactivate 1.2.4b will not run under Win32s and will not run under the Shell Technology Preview for Windows NT 3.51.

Under Windows NT, we have discovered that if either the 'Default screen saver' or 'Blank screen(16-bit)' screen saver is selected and password protection is not enabled and you then activate the screen saver with Ssactivate, the screen will unblank and the security window will appear after the timeout period selected in the control panel. The screen saver will not reactivate. This does not seem to occur if the password protection is enabled. We have determined that this only occurs with these two screen savers. We have available an equivalent screen saver which corrects this problem. This screen saver is included in the distribution archive and is available on our BBS(see below). The file's name is Blankscr.scr, simply copy it the subdirectory SYSTEM32 under your main Windows NT directory and select it through the control panel as 'Do Nothing Screen Saver'.

Files included in the archive:

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| SSACTVAT.TXT | Brief description of the program. |
| README.TXT | This file.. Brief installation instructions. |
| SSACTVAT.EXE | The main executable file. |
| SSACTREG.TXT | Registration form and instructions. |
| SSACTVAT.WRI | Main program information file. |
| HISTORY.TXT | Ssactivate release history. |
| INSTALL.EXE | Installation program. |
| INSTALL.INF | Installation configuration file. |
| INSTHELP.DLL | Support file needed by the installation program. |
| BLANKSCR.SCR | Replacement 'blank screen' screen saver. |
| YESNO.COM | Used during program uninstall procedure. |
| UNINST.ICO | Uninstall icon. |

Problems or comments:

Any reports of problems or comments relating to Ssactivate are welcome and appreciated. Feel free to contact us by any of the methods listed below.

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