

The Beautimous BM Baffler

Version 1.0

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Virtually everyone has a BM to deal with at work. This program is primarily to use to exact retribution against such bothersome creatures, although it would also be fun to use against a friend.

Disclaimer: The creator of this software assumes absolutely no responsibility whatsoever for any damage or negative results that occur due to using this program. This includes but is not limited to lost data, lost manhours, lost jobs, monitors flying through windows, bloody noses, etc. By using this program, the user (you) are assuming full responsibility aware of the above and any other possible negative consequence of using this program. The user (you) shall not use this program unless he/she is going to take full personal responsibility of the outcome. Furthermore, the user (you) agrees not to distribute or otherwise share the bbb executable without it being bundled with this document.

This program is Freeware. If you do use it I would appreciate you sending me an email with your comments, suggestions or bug reports to kdavis@castlegate.net

All that being put aside this program can provide hours of priceless entertainment. BBB (Beautimous BM Baffler) will generate error messages on a BM's computer of your choosing. It can also randomly launch a program of your choosing on said BM's computer. Just imagine of the viewing pleasure you will enjoy when said BM is wondering why Excel keeps randomly launching on his computer and when he starts writing all of these error messages down to report to the computer help desk (who of course thinks he is a lunatic).

Well, you get the idea. Now to explain the utilization and features of BBB. Firstly I feel that the top priority is to mention the "stealth" features of the program. That is, the features that keep the BM from being suspicious and to minimize the risk to the jokester (you) of getting caught.

1. The program name is "setup.exe". This is to minimize suspicion because the typical method of invoking the program on a BM's computer is to stick in a floppy with the required files and use the Run... menu selection in the start menu. You would then type in a:setup.exe. If the BM happens to stumble upon this entry (which is saved) in the Run... listbox he will not necessarily be alarmed since this is a very common file name.
2. The program has the ability to store settings. This way you can run it on your own computer, set up the parameters that you want to and then invoke the program on the target BM's computer by simply running setup.exe with no other interaction and getting the heck out of Dodge. To access the options

screen where you can predefine parameters that will be saved, use the command switch o as follows: "setup.exe o"

3. The program is obviously hidden so the BM can't see it. However it does show up in the task list so that it can be terminated. The creator has deviously named it msgvx32 so that it appears to be some sort of system process and nobody would really know what it is.
4. The program has a timeout period. That is after a certain period of time it will terminate itself so that there is no trace of it on the BM's system. This timeout period is defined by the number of times the program checks to see if it should produce a bogus error by the frequency it will check for such errors to be produced. The default value is about 900 seconds (or 15 minutes). This can be changed by accessing the options screen (see #2, above) The total time that BBB will run on the target BM's machine before terminating is the above defined timeout period plus your delay period (see #5, below)
5. There is a time delay that can be adjusted. This parameter is adjusted through the options screen (see #2, above). This will allow you to set up a delay before the first potential error message will be produced. This is good if you want to avoid a pattern of when error messages seem to occur (like everytime the BM comes back from the John). It would also happen to be useful if the BM was voluntarily allowing you to use his computer for some reason or you were accessing a computer in a common area. You could slip the disk and probably be able to invoke the program with an option to begin generating errors in about 30 minutes without arousing too much suspicion. The default value is 5 minutes.

Now on to operation tips and other important information.

This program requires Windows 95 and the Visual Basic 5.0 Runtime MSVBVM50.DLL to run. Make sure you have version 05.00.4319 (SP2) or later or the program might not run. You can check your version by right-clicking on MSVBVM50.DLL in explorer, selecting Properties, and then click on the version tab (remember default settings in explorer hide dll files so you may have to change that setting). At the time of the writing of this document, the proper Visual Basic 5.0 runtime files can be downloaded at the following sites:

<ftp://ftp.simtel.net/pub/simtelnet/win95/dll/vb5run97.zip>
<ftp://mirrors.aol.com/pub/simtelnet/win95/dll/vb5run97.zip>
<ftp://ftp.tas.gov.au/pub/simtelnet/win95/dll/vb5run97.zip>

Fortunately, this file and the file setup.exe (the executable for BBB) and bbb.ini (the settings file) will just squeeze onto a single floppy disk. However, if you are sure that the target BM's system has the file MSVBVM50.DLL in the c:\windows\system directory (you could probably safely copy this file into the target BM's c:\windows\system directory with no notice), it would be much faster to rely on the executable to access this file on the BM's hard drive and to not copy this file on the floppy. This is because if the file is also on

the floppy, the executable will find the file on the floppy first and access it. If this happens, it will take possibly up to 45 seconds for the program to launch so plan your timing accordingly.

If you define a program to be launched, BBB will check to see if that is a valid program on the system it is running. If it is not, it will simply ignore this request. If the target BM's machine has a program you would like to randomly launch which you do not have access to on another computer, you have an option to force implementation. Go ahead and enter the path in the options screen and when you get a prompt that the file doesn't exist, click on "Save anyway and Exit".

If you bring up the options screen, you will notice that there are 8 messages that you can customize to your own devious messages. To the right hand side you will see a line and on one side of the line you will see the words "One Line" and on the other side you will see the words "Two Lines". This tells you which messages are one line and two lines long and approximately where the break is. This is important since if you put enough text only for one line on a message that is two lines long, the message will not look good when it pops up.

There is also some relationship between the custom messages and the # of different messages in the options screen. Your range of # of different messages is from 5 to 20. The first eight messages used are the custom messages. If you pick 8 for the # of different messages, the only messages that will appear are the shown custom messages. If you pick 5 for the # of different messages, the first five custom messages will be used.

You will also see an option to activate a screen saver. When checked this option will cause BBB to occasionally activate the "Scrolling Marquee" screen saver which is a standard Windows 95 screen saver. This should be quite entertaining particularly if the target BM has a password on the screen saver.

If you implement the change color option, BBB will change color once if your number of times to check for an error is less than or equal to 60 and twice if more than 60. The item it will change color on is described as "3D Objects" in the Display Properties - Appearance tab. The BM's normal color will be restored upon rebooting.

Recommended usage is to create a floppy with you required files. The minimum requirement is the two files setup.exe and bbb.ini. You may have to add MSVBVM50.DLL as previously mentioned. After creating this disk, setup the desired parameters by utilizing the options screen (run "setup.exe o"). You can save your settings without running BBB by clicking the "Save Settings" button followed by clicking on the "Quit" button. All your settings will be saved in the bbb.ini file and will be implemented the next time BBB is ran. If you use this method, you may wish to double check that the settings were saved properly by revisiting the options screen. If you do run BBB on your system to "fake out" a target BM to minimize the amount of suspicion or just to verify your settings, you can terminate the program by hitting CTRL-ALT-DEL and select the entry shown as msgv32 and click on End Task. Now you have things setup on the floppy. All you have to do is wait until your target BM has left their computer and the screen saver has not kicked in yet.

Make sure you know they won't come back for a minute or two (a lookout is useful). And slip your floppy in, click on the start button, select Run..., and type in "a:setup.exe" (no quotes).

One nice thing is that after you have done it once, the entry "a:setup.exe" is saved in the run listing so the next time you do it all you'll have to do either hit the Enter key or click the drop down box and select "a:setup.exe". This make getting on and off the BM's computer a little faster.

Something worth noting is that if you do use the floppy technique, BBB seems to consistently access the floppy drive of the BM's computer when it activates the screen saver (assuming you have that option selected) This may actually add to the confusion of the BM. There is very little chance that this would arouse any suspicion.

Also on one machine I have noticed that when BBB tries to terminate, a "blue screen" error will appear asking for a floppy in drive A: It appears that if the BM inserts any floppy and/or selects the cancel option, that the system is restored to normal. I have no idea how to fix this. If anyone does please contact me.

Have Fun!

History

Version

- 1.0 Initial release
- 1.1 Added splash screen on initial use and details in Word document on specific version of MSVBVM50.DLL that is required and where to get it.