

Configuring the logoff screensaver

WinExit is a screen saver that logs the current user off after the specified time has elapsed. This is necessary in a lab environment for two reasons:

- If CAD applications are used which require a license server and there are not enough licenses available for every computer in the lab, the following problem can occur. Assume a group of students sit down and start using the software - one for each license purchased. All the licenses are currently being used, no problem. Then two get up without closing the application and two more students walk in to use that software, but they don't sit down at the same two computers. There should be a license available for each of them, but instead they are locked out by the license server because two workstations have the application running, but unused.
- A second reason a logoff screensaver needs to be used is that policies in NT4 don't catch everything, especially printers. Microsoft included a catch-all to handle these oversights. A workstation can be configured to discard all changes when the user logs out, such as printers being deleted.

It can be configured and tested like any other screensaver. WinExit displays a dialog box in which it displays the countdown timer and a user-defined message. When the countdown timer reaches zero, the log off process is initiated. When activated, WinExit beeps, indicating that the logoff process is about to begin, and displays the logoff dialog box. If no action is taken and the countdown timer reaches zero, the system will initiate the log off procedure. You can abort the process before the countdown timer reaches zero by either moving the mouse pointer over the dialog box or pressing any key on the keyboard.

Download it here: [WinExit.scr](http://lachesis.coe.ttu.edu/ppp/winexit.scr), and configure as follows:

1. Right-click the Winexit.scr file, and then click Install
2. Start RegEdit32 (Start → Run → Regedt32.exe)
3. Open the following key: HKEY_Local_Machine\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\IniFileMappings\Control.ini
4. On the Security menu, click Permissions.
5. In the Name box, click Everyone, and then click Special Access in the Type of Access box.
6. Click to select the Set Value and Create Subkey check boxes.
7. Quit Registry Editor, and then restart the computer.

When configuring the logoff screensaver, good settings are:

- Set activation time to 5 minutes. In a busy lab environment, any less and it will not activate.
- Set Time To Log Off to 30 seconds.
- Set the Logoff Message to something like +++ Click CANCEL to abort logoff +++
- Check the Force Application Termination checkbox. Otherwise, any applications with unsaved data will cause the logoff process to halt indefinitely.

***NOTE: Since the Force Application Termination setting must be used, it will cause any unsaved work to be discarded. Let your users know (possibly post a sign) that they are responsible for saving their work.**