

SwazBlanker

David Swasbrook

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

SwazBlanker

1.1 SwazBlanker (01.02.95)

SWAZBLANKER : Documentation Contents

=====

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Disclaimer

Legal information

Shareware

Shareware information

Requirements

What you needed

Introduction

Introduction to SwazBlanker

Installation

How to install SwazBlanker

Usage

How to use SwazBlanker

Special Thanks

Thankyou for your ideas/support

History

A very brief history of SwazBlanker

Additional Documents:

Programmers Programming information

1.2 disclaimer

SwazBlanker/Disclaimer
=====

I hereby reject any liability or responsibility for these or any other consequences from the use of SwazBlanker whatsoever. This includes, but is not limited to, damage to your equipment, to your data, personal injuries, financial loss or any other kinds of side effects.

Although SwazBlanker has been tested thoroughly on several different machines, I cannot rule out the possibility that SwazBlanker:

- o is somehow incompatible to your equipment
- o has bugs that show up on your equipment
- o does not do what it is supposed to do on your equipment

It is your responsibility to take any precautions necessary to protect yourself from these or any other effects. I explicitly reject any liability or responsibility from the consequences of you using SwazBlanker.

Swaz.

1.3 Shareware distribution info...

SwazBlanker/Shareware
=====

SwazBlanker is SHAREWARE. The program may be freely distributed and copied, as long as the following conditions are fulfilled:

- o The sales price must not be higher than the cost of an (empty) disk plus a nominal copying fee plus costs for shipping. The total price must not be higher than 5 US\$.
 - o All parts of the program and the documentation must be complete. The distribution of single parts or incomplete subsets of the original distribution is NOT ALLOWED.
 - o SwazBlanker or parts of it may not be sold in combination with or as part of commercial software.
 - o Program and documentation may not be changed in any way.
-

- o Permission has been given for distribution through Aminet and Fred Fish.

SwazBlanker is shareware, this means I request those users, who use SwazBlanker, to send me the shareware fee of 10 US\$ (or any other contributions gratefully accepted) to the following address:

Postal: David Swasbrook,
PO Box 54134,
Bucklands Beach,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

See also [email](#) and [www](#) addresses

Please include the following information in your registration:

- o your name, address (electronic mail addresses preferred)
- o your Amiga model(s)
- o Kickstart and Workbench versions
- o the SwazBlanker version number

I assure you that the information you send me will be treated confidentially.

I will try and inform everybody, who has registered with me as described above, when a new version of SwazBlanker becomes available.

If you have sent a shareware donation, if possible, you will receive an update through mail (preferably email).

Thank you very much in advance !

1.4 Contacting the author...

SwazBlanker/Author
=====

I can be contacted via the following media:

Postal: David Swasbrook,
PO Box 54134,
Bucklands Beach,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

Email: swaz@iconz.co.nz

Internet Relay Chat: #amiga:Swaz

World Wide Web: <http://iconz.co.nz/~msd/swaz.html>

1.5 Whats needed to run SwazBlanker

SwazBlanker/Requirements

=====

The following are required for SwazBlanker to run:

- o Kickstart V39 or higher
- o
 swazblanker.library
 version 41.113 or higher
- o
 matrix.library
 version 23.2103 or higher
- o
 textfield.gadget
 version 2.0 or higher
- o
 tabs.gadget
 version 42.0 or higher.

1.6 SwazBlanker Library

SwazBlanker/swazblanker.library

=====

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- o Another library for your libs drawer :)
- o swazblanker.library provides general purpose blanker routines, plus several crucial routines for writing SwazBlanker compatible blanker modules.
- o Programming documentation is included with the SwazBlanker distribution :

```
include:clib/swazblanker_protos.h
include:libraries/swazblanker.h
include:pragmas/swazblanker_pragmas.h
include:proto/swazblanker.h
include:SwazBlanker.doc
include:SwazBlanker_lib.fd
```

1.7 Matrix Library

SwazBlanker/matrix.library
=====

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- o Yet another library to put in your LIBS: drawer.
- o Matrix.library provides general purpose routines which are commonly used through out my programs. Some of the key features are the GUI, preferences, and IFF routines.
- o The name "matrix" came from "The Matrix" - The computer system used by the TimeLords (Re: Dr Who).
- o Please contact me if you'd like programming documentation.

1.8 Text Field Gadget Class

SwazBlanker/textfield.gadget
=====

Copyright ©1995 Mark Thomas, All Rights Reserved.

The textfield class allows you create an area on your screen for text entry. The class supports a number of features including unlimited or limited size text entry, specifying the font and style to use, specifying the colors for different parts (text, background, and lines), two types of borders (with option to invert the borders for a total of 4 types of borders) or no border, text left/center/right justification, vertical centering, IntuiText labels, attached Images, line spacing, limited character acceptance, insertion or block cursor, cursor blinking speed or no blinking, read-only mode, modified buffer flag, lined paper, cut/copy/paste/erase while editing or program-matically, undo buffer, and settable word delimiter characters for word wrapping.

Mark Thomas
1515 Royal Crest Dr. #3259
Austin, TX 78741

mthomas@zilker.net

1.9 Tabs Gadget Class

SwazBlanker/tabs.gadget
=====

Copyright ©1994 Commodore Amiga, All Rights Reserved.

1.10 introduction

SwazBlanker/Introduction

=====

SwazBlanker is a modular screen/mouse blanker providing the following fetures:

- o Blanking of the screen when computer is inactive
- o Blanking of the mouse pointer when you are typing
- o Screen can be blanked by pressing a hotkey
- o Several different blanker modules are provided
- o Auto-sense
 - reblanking/unblanking
 - when blanker
 - screen is not visible.
- o
 - OverBlanking
 - if blanker is not receiving CPU

Other features:

App Window
Drop icons into the preferences window

Arexx
Send commands via arexx

Commodities
Standard commodities interface

Locale
Interface available in different languages

Task Management
Monitoring of CPU usage of a blanker

1.11 Monitoring the CPU usage of a blanker...

SwazBlanker/Task Management

=====

The blanker task is managed by SwazBlanker. If the blanker module uses too much CPU time or is unable to gain enough CPU time (other tasks at higher priority may be using it all) then SwazBlanker will shutdown the blanker module and perform the

Normal
blanking

method of a standard blank screen.

1.12 installation

SwazBlanker/Installation
=====

Double click on the "install" icon.

1.13 How to use SwazBlanker

SwazBlanker/Usage
=====

Ok, assuming you have already
installed
SwazBlanker
it now needs to be configured.

You may wish to change the
CLI Args and Tool Types
before
running SwazBlanker.

Double Click on the SwazBlanker icon, if you have set
CX_POPUP
or if
SwazBlanker is already running the
preferences window
should be displayed.

If not then double click again and the window should appear.

1.14 Preferences window...

SwazBlanker/Preferences Window
=====

This is where you configure SwazBlanker and the blanker modules.
Simply change the settings to suit your preferences and save. A brief
outline on what each gadget in the window does it listed below:

Options

Module Path - sets the path to where you store your blanker modules.
This may also be set by dropping a drawer icon into the
preferences window. See
AppWindow

- support.
Default : Path as set in the tooltypes.
- Font - this is the font that you would like to use for the gadgets in SwazBlanker and the Blanker Module interfaces.
Default : Screen default font.
- Sounds - turns sound effects on or off.
Default : Off.
- Reblanking - if set then if while blanking the blankers screen is not visible the blankers screen will be made visible. If this is not set then the blanker will be stopped.
See Reblanking for more details.
Default : Off.
- Caps Lock - if ticked, then the blanker will not unblank while the caps lock key is down.
Default : Off.
- Timeout - sets the number of minutes:seconds of inactivity before the screen is blanked using the desired blanking method as you have selected in the listview.
Default : 3 minutes.
- Keys - this is the number of key-presses required before the mouse pointer is blanked. See KeyBlanking.
Default : Off.
- Blankers
- Listview - This is a list of available blanker methods.
- Mode - The "Mode" button lets you choose what action is performed when you double click on a blanker module in the listview:
Configure brings up the configuration window for the blanker
Test tests the banker
-

Information
displays information about the blanker chosen

There are also a few
Keyboard Shortcuts and Special Keys
for additional
features that you may wish to know about.

1.15 Keyboard Shortcuts and Special Keys

SwazBlanker/Keyboard Shortcuts and Special Keys
=====

Each gadget has a key equivalent (this is shown by placing a
"_" character under the letter that is equivalent to selecting
the gadget. Additionally the following keys may be used in the
preferences interface:

ARROW KEYS

Moves you up and down the
list of blanker methods

.

RETURN

Performs the currently selected mode on the selected blanker
method.

SPACE

Toggles the state of the tick box for the highlighted module.

HELP

This will show you the SwazBlanker.guide (this document).
If you have moved this from the original place it was
installed you will need to set the
HELPPFILE tootlype
to
refer to the correct filename and path.

DEL

This deletes the currently selected blanker module from the disk.
You can only get the module back if you re-install SwazBlanker. To
use this feature you need to set the
DELETABLEMODULES tootlype
to YES.

1.16 Blanking the mouse pointer after X many keypresses

SwazBlanker/KeyBlanking
=====

Ever been typing away and found the mouse pointer in the way?

Well here is the solution - you may configure the number of keypresses after which the mouse pointer will be blanked until it is moved again.

You may configure the number of keypresses between 1 and 10 or if you do not wish to have this feature enabled you may set it to Off.

1.17 What happens when no CPU cycles left for blanker?

SwazBlanker/Overblanking

=====

To ensure that a blanker module receives enough CPU time to perform its blanking SwazBlanker monitors how much time the blanker module receives. If this is not enough SwazBlanker will blank the screen completely until such a time that the blanker module starts receiving enough CPU time to run effectively.

See also

Reblanking

1.18 What happens when the blankers screen is not visible?

SwazBlanker/Reblanking

=====

During the blanking process the blankers screen may become obscured by another screen :- another task may open its screen or make its screen visible when a certain event occurs.

This causes problems with the actual screen blanker, as its screen is no longer visible. To solve this SwazBlanker has a "reblank" option. Every few seconds SwazBlanker checks to make sure that the blankers screen is visible on the display. If the screen is not visible then one of two actions follows:

- o If "reblank" is set then the blankers screen will be brought to the front of the display to make it visible, and blanking continues normally.
- o If "reblank" is not set then the blanker will be stopped and SwazBlanker waits for the
 inactivity
 timeout to occur.

See

preferences configuration

for setting the "reblank" option.

See also

Overblanking

1.19 Caps Lock feature...

SwazBlanker/Caps Lock Feature

=====

This enables a blanker method to continue while you are moving the mouse and/or typing. This is intended to be used with blankers that are to be interactive, Eg. There might be a space-invader blanker, and if you have caps lock down you can have a game. Its just an idea, currently there are no interactive blankers for SwazBlanker.

1.20 Sound effects...

SwazBlanker/Sound Effects

=====

Sound effects are played through an external player daemon such as UPD or MSD. The following sound id's are currently used, all start with the class name of "SwazBlanker/" :

BlankerFail - played when the blanker failure method is invoked.

BlankerOn - played when a blanker method is invoked.

BlankerOff - when a blanker method has finished this sound is played.

MouseHidden - if the mouse pointer is blanked by SwazBlanker then this sound will be played.

Acknowledgements

UPD - Universal Player Daemon

(C) Copyright 1991 Jonas Petersson & Absolut Software (aka Sirius Soft)

MSD - Matrix Sound Daemon

(C) Copyright 1992-94 David Swasbrook.

1.21 Configuring a blanker method...

SwazBlanker/Listview Mode : Configure

=====

When you double click on a blanker method in the listview SwazBlanker will ask the selected method to open its preferences window. ↔
The internal blanker methods do not require configuration.

1.22 Testing a blanker method...

```
SwazBlanker/Listview Mode : Test
=====
```

When you double click on a blanker method in the listview SwazBlanker will use the selected method to blank the screen.

1.23 Information about a blanker method...

```
SwazBlanker/Listview Mode : Information
=====
```

When you double click on a blanker method in the listview SwazBlanker will display the information it knows about the method. ↔

Name
Name of the blanker module.

Description
A brief one line description about the blanker.

Author
Name of the author of the blanker.

Email
This is the email address for contacting the author of the blanker.

System
A description of system requirements for the blanker. This should tell you the minimum required kickstart and CPU and also the expected CPU load (Low, Medium, High).

Notes
A more detailed description about the blanker. This should tell you what the blanker does, and perhaps how it is achieved etc.

1.24 Definition Of Inactivity

SwazBlanker/Definition Of Inactivity

=====

SwazBlanker defines a state of inactivity as being a failure of occurrence of any

activity
for a duration of
preferred timeout.

1.25 Definition Of Activity

SwazBlanker/Definition Of Activity

=====

SwazBlanker defines a state of activity as being events such as a keypress or a mouse movement. If no activity occurs for the length of timeout as set in the preferences, then a state of

inactivity
has been attained and the screen should be blanked using the
preferred blanking method as set in the
listview

.

1.26 Description of modules listview...

SwazBlanker/Module List-View

=====

This lists the available modules. There are two blankers built into SwazBlanker, these are separated in the listview by a horizontal-bar to distinguish them from the

disk based blankers
. Additionally the disk
based modules have a checkbox gadget beside them in the listview, if the checkbox is ticked then the module is available for
random
selection.

The highlighted blanker will be used for blanking the screen when

inactivity
occurs.

Double clicking on an entry in the listview will invoke the action specified by the "Mode" cycle gadget:

Configure
brings up the configuration window for the blanker

```

    Test
    tests the banker

```

```

    Information
    displays information about the blanker chosen

```

Under the standard SwazBlanker installation the listview should contain the following list of blanker methods:

```

Normal
Just a normal blank screen

```

```

Random
Picks a ticked module randomly

```

Alerts	Displays gurus randomly
Dimmer	Dimms the screen
Gravity	Bouncing balls
Headlines	Prints funny messages on the screen
Labyrinth	Solves a maze
Lines	Colorful line bouncing around
Melt	Melts the current screen
Mig	Colorful screen color cycling
Pattern	More colorful screen color cycling
Plazma	Color cycling plazma
Pyro	Fireworks explosions
Quotes	Prints quotes to screen
Rainfall	A raining blanker
Shuffle	Shuffles the screen around
SkyLine	A City SkyLine at night
Spliner	Nice color splines
Stars	3D rotating starfield
Swarmer	Bees attacking wasps
Toasters	Usual flying toasters blanker
Worms	Worms eating the screen

1.27 Normal

```

SwazBlanker/Internal Blanker : Normal
=====

```

This is probably the most effective screen blanker method to date. It makes the screen go blank, which is after-all what a screen blanker is supposed to do.

1.28 Random

SwazBlanker/Internal Blanker : Random

=====

This picks a disk based blanker at random from the
listview

Only ticked blankers can be chosen for the blanker, they are also
chosen without replacement so you can have a different blanker each
time.

If no blankers are ticked then the
Normal
blanker will be used.

1.29 Disk based blanker...

SwazBlanker/Disk Based Blankers

=====

These are Blanker Modules which are themselves executable programs.
They may be run externally to SwazBlanker from workbench. If this
is done then they will bring up their configuration interface.

1.30 Application window features...

SwazBlanker/App Window

=====

You may drop a drawer icon into the SwazBlanker
preferences window

This will set the ModulePath to this directory and the
listview
will be
updated to reflect the blanker modules found in that path.

1.31 Commodities interface

SwazBlanker/Commodities Support

=====

SwazBlanker is a commodity and supports standard commodities features.

The following
command line arguments or tooltypes
are available:

CX_POPKEY

CX_POPUP

CX_PRIORITY

1.32 Command Line Arguments and Tool Types

SwazBlanker/CLI Arguments and Tool Types

=====

SwazBlanker accepts the following either as Command Line Arguments if run from CLI or as ToolTypes if you are running SwazBlanker from Workbench or the WBStartup drawer.

CX_POPKEY=<string>

This is the string describing the key combination that will show the SwazBlanker preferences interface

Default = None.

CX_POPUP=<yes|no>

If set to YES then the SwazBlanker preferences interface will be opened as soon as SwazBlanker is run.

Default = NO.

CX_PRIORITY=<number>

This sets the priority of the commodities broker.
Default = 0.

BLANKKEY=<string>

This is the string describing the key combination that will tell SwazBlanker to blank the screen and mouse pointer.
Default = Never.

DEFBLANKERPATH=<path>

This sets the default path to the blanker modules. This gets set to where you installed the blanker modules when you ran the install script. The setting in preferences will override this setting.

Default = "blankers".

DOCPATH=<path>

This sets the path to the documentation. This gets set to where you installed the SwazBlanker documentation when you ran the install script.

Default = "docs".

HELPPFILE=<filename>

This is the name of the help file. It will be searched for

initially in the DOCPATH (see above).
Default = "SwazBlanker.guide".

DELETABLEMODULES=<yes|no>

If set to YES then then you may delete modules from your disk by pressing DEL in the preferences window when a module is selected.

Default = NO.

1.33 How to use SwazBlanker via Arexx...

SwazBlanker/Arexx

=====

SwazBlanker adds an arexx port to the system named "SwazBlanker" you may use the following commands to control certain features:

BLANK	- do the preferred blank method
BLANK Normal	- blank using the normal blanker.
BLANK Random	- blank using a random blanker.
BLANK <filename>	- blank using a specified blanker module.
BLANKMOUSE	- blank the mouse pointer [Not implemented]
DISABLE	- disable SwazBlanker [Not implemented]
ENABLE	- enable SwazBlanker [Not implemented]
HIDE	- hides the about window.
QUIT	- will try to remove SwazBlanker from the system.
SHOW	- displays the SwazBlanker about window.
UNBLANK	- cease blanking

Examples:

o To blank the screen send the "BLANK" command:

```
rx ' address SwazBlanker BLANK
```

o To show the SwazBlanker preferences interface:

```
rx ' address SwazBlanker SHOW
```

1.34 Language support...

SwazBlanker/Locale
=====

The SwazBlanker interface supports locale, the built in language is english.

Translations available:

suomi - translated by Osma Ahvenlampi

The SwazBlankerCatalog.cd has been provided so you may make your own catalog translation files.

1.35 List of contributors

SwazBlanker/Contributors
=====

Beta testing and ideas supplied by:

Andreas Otte
Barry McConnell
Daryl Jay
Derek Seaman
Edward Lawford
Jim Huls
Ken Krebs
Luke Chastain
Marcel Offermans
Michael Lorant
Osma Ahvenlampi (plus designing all the icons)
Sam Yee

1.36 history

SwazBlanker/History Information
=====

`2.6' o Aminet release.

`2.5' o Changed name to SwazBlanker since someone else has written a modular screen blanker called Blankers Server. This should avoid any confusion between the two programs.

- o Fixed spelling mistakes in SwazBlanker.guide
 - o Setting DOCPATH/K and HELPFILE/K now works.
 - o Now writes a ANNO chunk to the prefs file. This just consists of the version string.
 - o Unblanking improved, will keep requesting that the blanker module
-

- abort until it aborts. Also when a blanker is to abort its task priority is raised to the same level of the server.
 - o Key blanking enabled, only works with amiga screen modes.
 - o The 'Test' button working in blanker module interfaces, need to work on the sensitivity of it somewhat.
 - o Can delete modules by pressing DEL
 - o Finally tracked down bug in Quotes text layout engine.
- '2.4'
- o Localization now consists of a separate catalog for each blanker.
 - o Will need to rename BlankerServer as the name now conflicts with another blanker system.
- '2.3'
- o General beta distribution version
- '2.2'
- o New rewrite of BlankerServer main program and all blanker modules. Now have a blankerserver.library as well.
- '2.1'
- o General beta distribution version
- '2.0'
- o Initial rewrite from original BlankerServer.

1.37 Index...

SWAZBLANKER : Documentation Index

=====

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Contacting the author

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Standard commodities interface

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Configuration

Labyrinth	Solves a maze
Lines	Colorful line bouncing around
Melt	Melts the current screen
Mig	Colorful screen color cycling
Pattern	More colorful screen color cycling
Plazma	Color cycling plazma
Pyro	Fireworks explosions
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