

HOW TO OPEN AND SHUT THE WINDOWS IN 95

No one suggested this topic, but it needs to be available to you. If you don't have Windows 95 yet, save this article for when you do (and you probably will at some point).

Windows 95 is a terrific program, with lots of bells and whistles, and it is relatively trouble-free. As Sandy Wirth (W9BTN) observes, Windows 95 has finally reached the ease in use achieved long ago in Mac computers. There is no doubt that Windows 95 is a big improvement over Windows 3.1, and there are lots of people who like it, including me.

However, there are some things not to like about Windows 95. First, contrary to what Microsoft's public relations folks once told us, Windows 95 is NOT an operating system (as is MS-DOS 6.22, for example). It is just a large integrated series of GUI (Graphical User Interface) programs that sit on top of the MS-DOS 7 operating system that really controls your computer. Nevertheless, even though Windows 95 is not the true "chief" in your system, it tries to control all the action from the moment your machine is turned on. It does this by hiding DOS and refusing to let you work in DOS, except through a "DOS Window". Some DOS programs won't work properly in the DOS Window of Windows 95, probably because Windows 95 is still there in the background, controlling the action.

In addition, those of us who are making a transition from DOS and Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 feel much more secure if we are controlling things, instead relinquishing control to a GUI. In Windows 3.1, for example, if we wanted to work in DOS we could, because the machine booted into DOS. Then if we wanted to work in Windows, we simply typed WIN at the command prompt, and Windows 3.1 started. On exiting Windows, we were placed back in DOS. Why can't we do that in Windows 95? Well, folks, we can!

The machine I am using to write this article has Windows 95 on it. When I turn on the power, it boots into DOS; Windows 95 is not loaded. If I want to load it, I type WIN at the command prompt and it starts. If I am finished with Windows 95, I shut it down and return to the command prompt of DOS.

The balance of this article will be instructions on how to modify Windows 95 yourself to achieve the same end. Once done, it is trouble-free, and it restores control to you, the user. You lose nothing in the process, and you will love it. The process consists of renaming two files, and doing a bit of minor editing of a third. Take heart; you can do it.

In the instructions that follow, click means click with the LEFT mouse button. If the right button is to be clicked instead, it will be so stated. To begin, turn on your machine and let Windows 95 start. Then:

A. RENAME LOGOS.SYS to LOGOS.OLD:

1. Right click on Start, then right click on Explore.
2. Find the WINDOWS folder in the left panel, and click on it. The right panel will now show the folders and files in the WINDOWS folder.
3. Scroll down in the right panel until you find the file named LOGOS.SYS.
4. Click on LOGOS.SYS to highlight it.
5. Click File on the Exploring-Windows toolbar.
6. Click Rename.
7. Edit LOGOS.SYS to read LOGOS.OLD and press the enter key.

B. RENAME LOGOW.SYS to LOGOW.OLD:

1. Click on LOGOW.SYS to highlight it (this should be the next file in the list, below LOGOS.OLD).
2. Click File on the Exploring-Windows toolbar.
3. Click Rename.
4. Edit LOGOW.SYS to read LOGOW.OLD and press the enter key.

C. EDIT MSDOS.SYS:

1. In the left panel, scroll up to the root folder (directory). This is the one with (C:) in its label. Click it.
2. Click View on the Exploring toolbar.
3. Click Options.
4. In the View tab, make sure Show All Files is selected; if not, click on the button to select it.
5. Scroll down in the right panel until you find the file MSDOS.SYS. Right click it and select Properties from the menu.
6. Deselect Read-only and Hidden, then click OK.
7. Click File, then Open With, then select Notepad and click OK.
8. In the [Options] section, add the lines BootGUI=0 and Logo=0 (those are zeros, not the letter O!). If either line is already present, just edit it to change the 1 to a zero.
9. Click File; click Save.
10. Click File; click Exit.
11. Right click MSDOS.SYS, then Properties, and reset the attributes to Read-only and Hidden. Click OK.
12. Click the X in the upper right corner of the Explorer toolbar to close it.

D. FINISH UP

1. Reboot your machine; it should boot into the old familiar DOS command prompt (C:>).
2. If you have an AUTOEXEC.BAT file in the root directory, open it with any text (ASCII) editor such as the DOS Edit program, and make sure the PATH has at least the following three elements in it (the order really doesn't matter). The elements are labeled here for clarity; don't type in the 1 , etc.

PATH=c:\DOS;c:\WINDOWS;c:\WINDOWS\COMMAND
 1 2 3

If you don't have an AUTOEXEC .BAT file, create it and add the above.

3. You are finished. Reboot again. Type WIN at the command prompt and you will get Windows 95. Shut down Windows 95 and you will be in DOS and can run almost any DOS program. The only ones that you are prevented from using are those that use direct disk access, such as some of the programs in PC Tools and Norton Utilities. Some of these would damage the file structure if allowed to run. Fortunately, the DOS underneath Windows 95 will stop the system if this type of program is started, a good safety measure.

That's it. The first file you renamed was a bitmap picture shown during the shutdown process. The second file was another bitmap showing "Please wait..." during shutdown. Logo=0 removes the Windows 95 logo so you can see what is happening during processing of AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS. BootGUI=0 tells the machine not to boot Windows 95 on startup. You are back in control.

Finally, if you just love having Windows 95 boot up automatically when you turn on your machine, simply add the three letters (WIN) as the last line of your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. That will do it. But later, when you shut down Windows 95, you will exit into DOS. Happy computing