PC Bedtime Monitor
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PC Bedtime Monitor

By
The Integration Wizard, Inc.

Usage and Installation Manual

Part One: Overview

Who should be using this program?

This program is for the parent of a kid with a computer. As we all know, this means a kid who has trouble focusing on their math homework for 20 minutes but who can play Conquer Online™ or IM their friends until 4:00am or later with no trouble at all.

This program works on a Windows platform, which means you can't install it on a Linux or a Mac. It also won't run on Xbox, Playstation or Nintendo – this is for PC's.

Some of the instructions are kind of cloak and dagger. Rest assured, with 20 minutes of your having installed the program, your kid will know them better than you. The goal here was to create something to restrict someone who knows more about what they are doing than you do, which is essentially any kid over ten on a PC.

Don't feel bad – my grandfather was 83 and actually sweating as my four year old showed him how to program the VCR, and that was 11 years ago.   The technology is going to pass you by – there is nothing you can do about it, but you still have kids to raise, they still need to get to bed at a decent hour, and defying you is still more interesting than the best show on television.

Why not just tell the kid to go to bed?

Here's the rub – you want your kid to have a computer because it is something they are going to have to embrace and be a part of their lives until the next evolution of that technology comes around. We had pocket calculators and our parents railed that it was going to make us 'forget math,' but we used them to come up with computers, and our kids will be using computers to come up with the next thing that we can never imagine.

A computer is a lot more addictive than a calculator. It is also a lot more quiet. Your daughter can try and call her friends on the phone at 3:00am and may or may not get away with it, depending on how loud she talks and how loud the phone rings. However, an IM is quiet, the keyboard is quiet and any kid could do it all night and not get caught – as many do.

Even I can get so wound up in a Utopia™ war that I am willing to wake up at 4:30am when my army returns to see how the battle is going and send my troops back out. I am an adult, however, so I am not going to do that the day before I have a career-changing meeting or have to take a certification test.

They are kids, and computers are more interesting to them than TV was to us at their age.   What this program is, then, is a way to get them to use it at regular hours, by making the thing so frustrating to use that they turn it off.

Or, after twenty warnings, it turns the PC off. This means it gives your child time to enter a code from you to extend his bedtime, or to save what they've been working on.

Part Two: Installation

There are two programs that are included with this program:

The first is BedTime, which is installed with the BedTime.msi on your child's computer. Download the BedTime.msi from the download page of the Integration Wizard's website and then click on it to activate the procedure.

We recommend installing it to its default location, and setting it up with the 'Allow Everyone To Use It' option. When installing, follow the steps and just keep clicking, 'Next,' until it is finished, then 'Finish'.

The program won't popup or put itself on the desktop or the Program Files list. By design, it is difficult to find and doesn't show itself in the running programs.

Use Windows Explorer to navigate to the program's root directory, which is the directory that the program told you it was installing to.

Look for the icon:
Its description will be 'Application'. I am intentionally not listing the name or the installation path for the reasons described in the Overview.

Double click the Application and you will see the following:

Your child's bedtime is the first time entry, 'The latest the PC should be on'. Select the time from the dropdowns. The selections are all hours – you can insert minutes if you would prefer 10:13 to 10:00. Select the AM or PM according.

'When they can start using it' is the time in the morning after which they can start using their PC. This keeps your child from just 'waiting until midnight' or rebooting the PC. Any time between the first time entry and the second, if the PC is on, it will go into "It's time for bed" mode.

Once you enter the times you want, click 'Start', and the program will disappear and, until you use the Monitor program, it will never reappear again.

At the 'Latest' time, the program will activate with a form that says, "It's time for bed!", and a verbal message. The form can't be minimized and it sits over all other programs. If your child clicks the 'X' button to kill it, it comes back in about 20 seconds.

When it has done this 20 times, it shuts down the PC without further warning. If your child restarts the PC, it will shut off again.

That is it – the program is installed!

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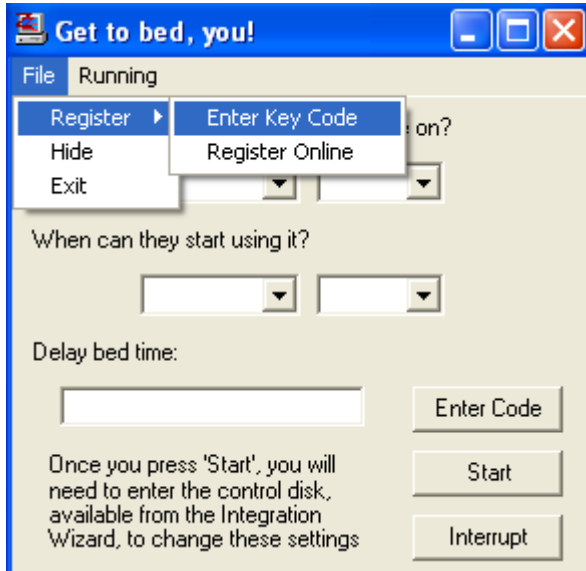All rights reserved

Installing the .Net Framework:

You may receive a message that you need to install the .Net Framework to run the program. This is not the same as the .Net Environment. You must intentionally install this program, which you must download over the Internet to use.

Go to http://www.asp.net and click the Download Version 1.1 option in the upper right hand corner. This will take you to a download page. Step Two on this page is the option to download and install the .Net Framework.

There are other places to get the framework, however, this one is the easiest. Once you have ever downloaded the framework, it works for every .Net program.

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http://www.integrationwizard.com

Part Three: Using the Program

We are assuming for this part that the program is running, it has activated once and your child is pretty upset about it.

Registering the Program:
There are two ways to register the program. In order to do either one, you will have to buy the program.

When you pay online, you will be directed to a page where you can obtain a Key Code. Click File/Register/Enter Key Code and you will see a form where you can enter the Key Code. This registers the program, and then you can just let the program run.
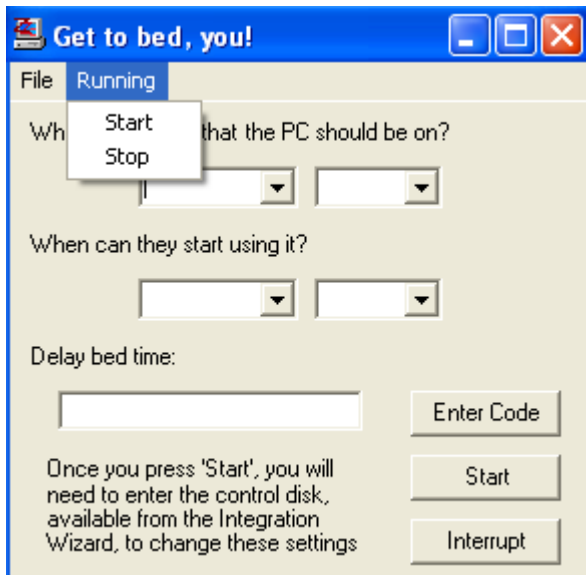
If you called the office to give us a credit card or paid us by check, you can register online. Do this by clicking 'Register Online,' where you can enter the phone number you gave us when you bought the program. Again, you will only have to do this one time.

If you do not register the program in 14 days, it will pop up and ask you to register it, until you register or uninstall it.

The Hide Feature:
The Hide feature allows you to put the program back in invisible mode, once you interrupt it or after you 'Delay Bed Time'.

Running:

This feature allows you to run the program in visible mode, so that you can watch it do what it is supposed to do.

Its features are self-explanatory. You must enter time values in the program and have clicked Start to save them at least once.

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Delay Bed Time:

Once in a while you are going to want to let your child stay up late.

To do this, you must enter an extension code under 'Delay Bed Time,' and click Enter Code.

In order to use this feature, you must buy the program, at which point you will receive the Monitor program. In that program, which comes with its own manual, you click 'Activate' to make this program appear, and then click 'Make Code.' The program creates the code, then you copy and paste it to this program.

This value isn't saved to anything but RAM, meaning that once the PC is rebooted for any reason, the update is lost, so that these extensions aren't permanent.