

DeskSave 8.2

(c) 1998-2008 Thorsten Blauhut

DeskSave is a user-friendly tool to save and restore the icon layout of the desktop.

Features:

- Saves the desktop icon layout according to user and screen resolution
- Restoring works properly, even if 'Auto Arrange' or 'Align to Grid' (Windows XP/Vista) is activated
- Accepts command line parameters
- Auto restore after resolution change, program start or resume from standby/hibernation
- Auto save at logoff
- Unicode support, layouts are saved UTF-8 encoded
- Starts with Windows, if desired
- Saves icon layouts to files
- Undo after restoration
- Provides backups of icon layouts
- Optional portable mode, leaves no traces on the system
- Supports multiple displays
- Supports English and German language
- Optional shell extension for the desktop, thereby easy access to functions without background process (32 bit only)
- Very small size (DeskSave.exe: 81 KB, Shell extension: 75 KB)
- No setup routine, just unpack the archive and DeskSave is ready
- Easy deletion of all saved primary layouts, backups settings, DeskSave is completely removable
- Supports Windows 98, 2000, XP and Vista, 32 and 64 bit

Installation/Uninstallation

Just unpack the archive **dsksve8.zip**, DeskSave.exe is ready immediately.

DeskSave can completely be removed from the computer with **Remove Traces**, see "Options".

DeskSave can be run in two different modes:

- **Standard mode**: when starting **without** command line parameters, it creates a system tray icon by which its menu can be accessed.
- **Command line mode**: when starting **with** command line parameters, there will be no system tray icon and DeskSave terminates immediately after execution.

In addition, in a 32 bit environment DeskSave optionally installs a shell extension so that its functions can be reached through the context menu of the desktop.

Standard mode

DeskSave can save **one** primary layout per screen resolution. A primary layout is saved to a .dsv file according to the user in [LOCAL_APPDATA]/TBlauchut/DeskSave/Layouts. Additionally a desktop icon layout can be saved to a .dsv file at any other place.

By clicking the system tray icon the following menu is opened:

Save Primary layout

The desktop icon layout for the current screen resolution is saved as primary layout.

If this layout differs from the currently saved primary layout, DeskSave creates a timestamped backup of the currently saved primary layout for later restoration in case of mistake.

Restore Primary layout

If a layout was saved for the current screen resolution, each icon on the desktop for which position data can be found is moved to the saved position.

'Auto Arrange' and 'Align to Grid' (Windows XP/Vista) are turned off before restoration takes place. If the layout was saved with 'Align to Grid' on, the grid is turned on again after restoration.

Before restoring the layout, DeskSave creates a timestamped backup of the current desktop icon layout, if the position of at least on icon on the desktop is different from the saved position.

In addition, if **Undo after restore** is activated, DeskSave allows immediately undoing the restoration.

Save to file...

Saves the desktop icon layout to a .dsv file.

Restore from file...

Restores the desktop icon layout according to the selected .dsv file.

Files exported by DeskSave 7.x can not be loaded by DeskSave 8.x. Such 7.x files can be converted into 8.x files by the DeskSave File Converter, which can be found on <http://www.desksave.de>.

Backup archive

Allows returning to a previous icon layout in case the layout was mixed up by e.g. restoring from the wrong .dsv file.

In a submenu the ten most recently created layout backups for the current screen resolution can be found, ordered by time of creation.

There are two different types of backups:

- **S**

The backup was created before saving a primary layout and represents a previously saved primary layout.

- **R**

The backup was created before restoring the layout and represents a previously visible desktop icon layout.

Options

The settings are saved to **Options.ini** [LOCAL_APPDATA]\TBlauhut/DeskSave. (Except for the portable mode, see below)

Auto restore after

DeskSave can automatically restore the primary layout when started, when Windows resumes from standby or hibernation and when screen resolution changes. There will **no** backup be created in these cases!

Confirmation before

It is recommended to at least activate the confirmation before saving, in order not to overwrite a primary layout by mistake.

Vista: Icon size after restoration

Defines the icon size after restoration. Available in Windows Vista only.

Additional

- **Start with Windows**

DeskSave starts after Windows has booted up.

- **Undo after restore**

DeskSave allows undoing the restoration.

- **Notification after saving**

Self-explanatory, to be unchecked, if no user interaction is desired.

- **Transparent confirmations**

Relevant confirmations are displayed transparently in order to get a better view onto the desktop.

- **Save at logoff**

DeskSave automatically saves a new primary layout when the user logs off from the system.

- **No splash screen**

DeskSave does not show a splash screen at start.

- **Install/Uninstall shell extension**

If the shell extension is installed, DeskSave is accessible through the context menu of the desktop.

- **Remove traces**

Deletes all saved primary layouts, backups and settings. DeskSave terminates afterwards.

Language

Choose between English or German.

Command line mode

All actions invoked by command line parameters are executed **without** prior confirmation, no matter which settings have been made. If the settings are to be considered anyway, the parameter **/dlg** has to be passed as well.

After a successful execution 0 is returned as exit code.

DeskSave can be started with the following command line parameters:

/s

Saves the desktop icon layout for the current screen resolution as primary layout. Does not create a system tray icon.

/r

Restores the desktop icon layout according to the saved primary layout. Does not create a system tray icon.

/sf filename

Saves the desktop icon layout to a .dsv file. Does not create a system tray icon.

/rf filename

Restores the desktop icon layout according to a .dsv file. Does not create a system tray icon.

/t

A system tray icon is created.

/nosplash

DeskSave does not show a splash screen at start.

/port

Starts DeskSave in portable mode. DeskSave does not leave any traces on the system, which may e.g. be useful when starting from a USB flash drive. Settings are saved to **Options.ini** in the directory from which DeskSave was started, provided that there is write permission for this directory.

The batch file **DeskSavePortable.bat** can be used to easily start DeskSave in portable mode, command line parameters can also be passed to this batch file.

Examples:

DeskSave /s saves the desktop icon layout as primary layout without confirmation

DeskSave /s /dlg as above, with confirmation

DeskSave /rf MyLayout.dsv restores the desktop icon layout according to MyLayout.dsv

DeskSave /rf MyLayout.dsv /port as above, however without leaving traces on the system

DeskSave /nosplash /port starts without splash screen in portable mode with system tray icon

Shell extension (32 bit only)

Administrator privileges are **not** necessary to use DeskSave, except for **installing** or **uninstalling** the shell extension. Once the shell extension is turned on, it works **without** administrator privileges!

The shell extension integrates the DeskSave menu into the desktop's context menu, which is accessed by right click on the desktop's background.

The options dialog reached from the shell extension is reduced to the appropriate options.

If only DeskSave's shell extension is used (i.e. no system tray icon is visible), auto restore at resolution change of course does not work!

In order to make the shell extension work, the DeskSaveShellEx.dll has to be in the same directory as DeskSave.exe, which is the case after the archive is unpacked. The DSRegShellEx.exe, which is needed to install and uninstall the shell extension, is required there, too.

To hide the DeskSave icon in the context menu of the desktop the value **NoShellExIcon=1** has to be added to **Options.ini** (see "Options") manually.

Miscellaneous

In order to transfer all primary layouts, backups and settings from one computer to another one, the directory [LOCAL_APPDATA]/TBlauhut/DeskSave has to be copied. In an English version of Windows XP this can be C:\Documents and Settings\username\Local Settings\Application Data.

In Windows 98/ME there is no directory [LOCAL_APPDATA], DeskSave uses [APPDATA] here.

When the user logs on to systems with Windows XP (and higher?) (e.g. after the computer was locked or resumed from hibernation) it might occur, that Windows mixes up the desktop icon layout that was just automatically restored by DeskSave. Therefore DeskSave is waiting 200 milliseconds before **automatically restoring** the icon layout. If on a slow system 200 milliseconds is too short, the delay can be extended by manually adding the value **DelayAutoRest=x** to the **Options.ini** (see "Options"), where **x** is the delay in milliseconds. With **DelayAutoRest=0** the delay can completely be switched off.

There is a known issue, for which at the moment there is no solution:

If prior to restoration the icons were auto arranged or arranged by name, type etc., they will at first be positioned correctly, but after a desktop refresh or booting up, Windows will move them back to the old, automatically assigned places. There is a workaround for this problem:

After restoration, use the mouse to move at least one icon, then all icon positions are fixed again.

The following files can be found in the archive **dsksave8.zip**:

DeskSave.exe	- the actual application
DeskSaveShellEx.dll	- the shell extension
DSRegShellEx.exe	- used by DeskSave.exe to install/uninstall the shell extension
DeskSavePortable.bat	- Batch file for portable mode
dsksave_pad.xml	- Information about DeskSave
ReadMe.pdf	- English manual
LiesMich.pdf	- German manual
License.pdf	- English license terms
Lizenz.pdf	- German license terms

DeskSave 8.0 is freeware and may be used and copied free of charge.

For detailed licensing information see 'License.pdf'!

Thorsten Blauhut

info@DeskSave.de

<http://www.DeskSave.de>