Scheduled Shutdown Deployment Tool
By Adam Deutschmann
http://ajd-productions.com

This application is used for creating a schedule for shutting down Windows computers, and deploying the schedule and shutdown application to the local machine.

In other words, for a lab of computers, if you want them to shut down at specific times, simply specify the days and times of shutdown, then using the deployment tool, deploy the schedule and shutdown files to the local workstations.

Requirements

- Windows XP or Windows 7 (It will probably work on Vista, but it remains untested)
- Microsoft .NET Framework version 3.5 or greater

How to use it

1) You will have three files:
    a. ScheduledShutdownDeploymentTool.exe
        i. This file is used to create the schedules and deploy everything to the local workstation
    b. ScheduledShutdown.exe
        i. This file is copied to the local workstation and is responsible for displaying the countdown timer
    c. ScheduledShutdown_background.exe
        i. This file is copied to the local workstation and is responsible for shutting the computer down if the computer is at the login screen or if nobody is logged in.
2) Run the "ScheduledShutdownDeploymentTool.exe"
3) To Specify a domain, go to Settings > View Settings
4) Click "New Schedule", name it, and select days and times you would like computer(s) to be shut down.
5) There are various settings which can be changed
    a. **Countdown Time**: This determines how much time to give a user before shutdown is initiated. The countdown is displayed.
    b. **Cancel Button**: This determines whether or not a user can cancel the countdown/shutdown.
    c. **Extend Countdown**: This determines whether or not a user can delay a shutdown by a certain amount of time.
    d. **Force Shutdown**: This determines whether or not a shutdown will be initiated if user(s) are multiple users logged in and/or user(s) in the locked state (showing the login screen and not the desktop).

e. **Message**: The custom message displayed to users in the countdown window.
6) Click "Save", and the schedule will be added to the list.
7) To edit the schedule again, select it on the list, and click "edit/view". "Cancel" will discard any changes made.
8) To prevent the workstation from being shutdown while specific users are logged in (usually maintenance accounts and the like), go to Settings > Exclude Users From Schedule. Click "Close" when finished.
9) Finally, to deploy a schedule to a local workstation, select a schedule on the list and click "Deploy Selected Schedule". This may take a moment.

Removing a schedule from the local workstation

- To remove a schedule from the local workstation
  - Run the deployment tool and click "Remove Scheduled Shutdown Task". This will remove any/all tasks and files related to the shutdown script on the local workstation
- To remove schedules manually
  - Use the Windows Task Scheduler and delete the tasks listed as executing either of these files:
    - ScheduledShutdown.exe
    - ScheduledShutdown_background.exe
  - Delete these files found in "C:\Scripts":
    - shutdownconfig.xml
    - ScheduledShutdown.exe
    - ScheduledShutdown_background.exe

How does it work?
Settings are saved in the XML file *deploysettings.xml*

Upon deploying a schedule, a part of the XML file, the *ScheduledShutdown.exe* file and the *ScheduledShutdown_background.exe* file are copied to the local workstation to "C:\scripts".

Then, the deployment tool adds scheduled tasks in the Windows Task Scheduler, according to the times and days scheduled in the deployment tool. These tasks trigger the execution of the two shutdown executable files.

Additional Details

- When logged in as an exempted user, the computer will not shut down. Additional users can be added to the exemption list.

- If the "forced shutdown" option is enabled, Locked workstations will shutdown. If not, then the workstation will be exempt from shutdown.
- PCs in standby mode will be shut down (unless exempt for the above-mentioned reasons)
- At the scheduled times, PCs that do not have any users logged in will simply shutdown, rather than display a countdown timer on the login screen.
- When a countdown is in progress, logging out before the timer finishes will proceed to shutdown instead of log out (if there are no other users logged in. If there are users logged in and the "forced shutdown" option is enabled, it will shutdown; if not, it won't).
- To cancel a shutdown when the countdown window appears, either click the "cancel" button (if it's available as an option for the specific schedule), or use the hotkey combination CTRL+ALT+A.
- When the countdown first window appears, in will remain in the foreground for a few seconds before it can be dismissed, then again during the last 60 seconds.