

Software Review

Title: Toddler Keys

Manufacturer: An unidentified programmer

Website: <http://tk.ms11.net/>

License: Freeware

Cost: Free

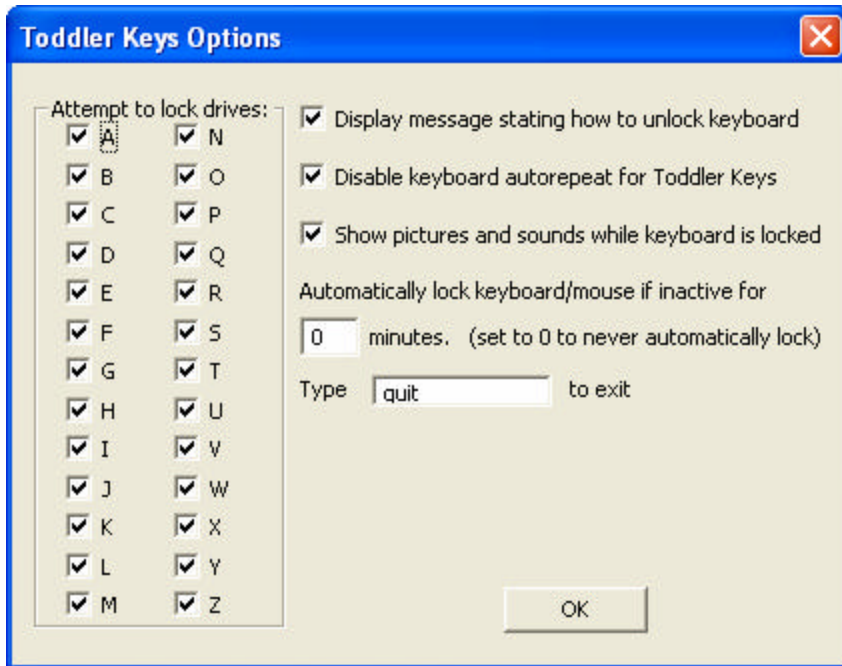
Download Source: <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/toddlerkeys.html>

Purpose: This software allows one to lock the keyboard, mouse, drive doors and power button (or any combination of these) on their PC to keep children or pets from using your PC while it is on.

User Review: This program was my answer for two cats that I have that have given me fits by walking / laying on the keyboard, causing all kinds of problems over the years. This was particularly a problem with my notebook, because the keyboard was always warm and inviting. I downloaded it and then ran the installation from the single saved executable file. The installation requires Windows Installer. There was an option to put an icon on the system tray, which I selected. If you are trying to block older children from using your PC, I would not recommend putting this icon there, since it gives the user easy access to the option settings. Otherwise, it is handy to have the icon within easy reach.

Once installed, you can set other options. One option dialog lets you add one of more image file links. If the third option (picture below) is checked, these will be used to show on the desktop when keys are pressed when the keyboard is locked, with the idea that this can entertain a toddler, while not affecting your PC. As keys are pressed, the images appear in different sizes and locations on the screen. Hey, it even entertained a 66 year old!!

Another option dialog, shown below, lets you determine which drives are to be locked when that option is set and how the system behaves when it is locked, but keys are pressed. It also lets you set an inactive period for automatic locking to take place (like when you leave for a break).



If you lock both the keyboard and the mouse, you will get a black screen. If you have selected the first option (above) to display a message stating how to unlock the keyboard, there will be a small text message in the upper left of the screen, reminding you how to unlock (what the password is). That's fine for cats and toddlers, but older children hopefully can read and therefore unlock the system easily. If you do not select this option, you get the black screen only and had better remember the password.

Before I installed this software, I ran a spyware check on my PC. And I ran it again, after the installation and running the program. I did not find any spyware, so I consider this software safe, from that perspective.

User rating: This program met my needs exactly, is easy to install and easy to use. I did forget my password once, and that was a pain, but not the fault of the software. I would recommend this software to anyone who has a need to lock out their PC from casual users, human or otherwise.