BootRacer – User Guide

Thank you!

Hello and thank you for trying BootRacer!

What is BootRacer?

BootRacer automatically tests how long Windows takes to start and saves it in a history database. You can analyze it to compare boot times, when you install a new program.
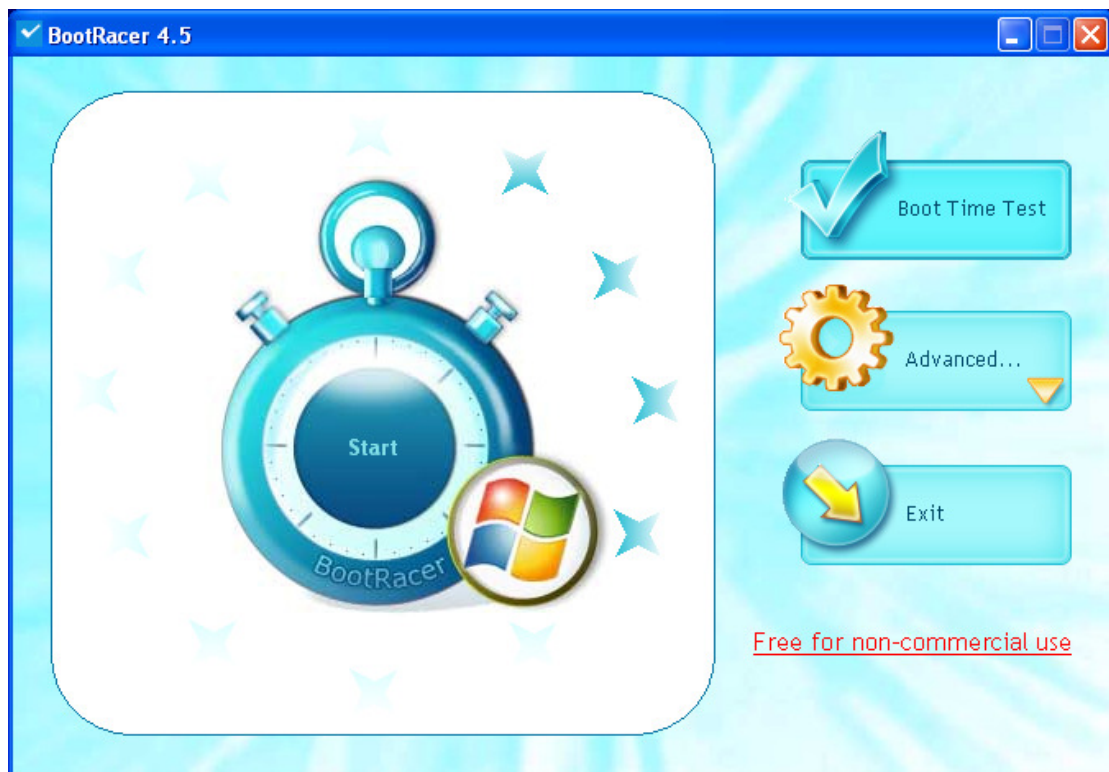
The cool feature of BootRacer is a realistic measurement of the time taken to get to the Windows desktop. The remaining time counter gets you know how soon your PC will be ready to use. BootRacer excludes a user password timeout from your result.

Using your result, you can send it directly from application to the boot speed contest on the BootRacer web site.

System Requirements

To use BootRacer you need:

· A personal computer with Windows 2000/XP/2003/Vista/2008/Seven/Windows8 (both 32 and 64 bit) or higher.
· The amount of disk space you need to install BootRacer is approximately 8 MB.
· The memory requirements for BootRacer are similar to those for your operating system.

Getting Started

1. Install BootRacer on your computer.
2. Click "Start" or "Boot Time Test" when the main window appears.
3. Restart your computer.

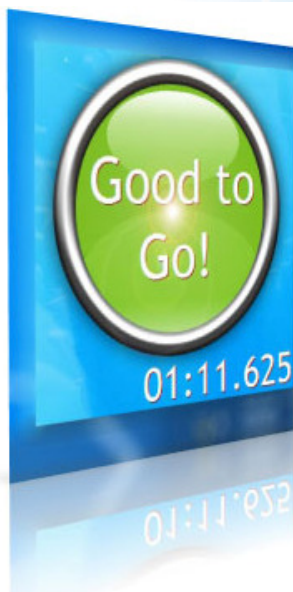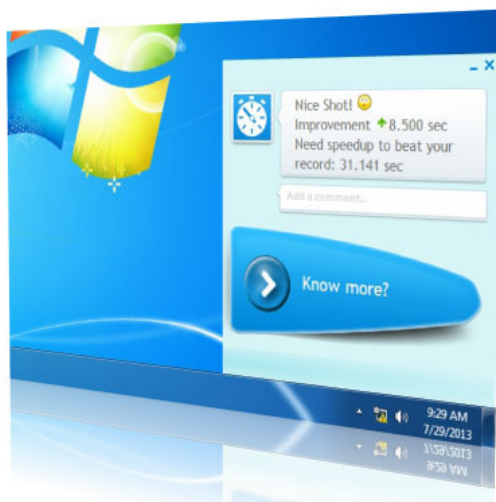The BootRacer time-counting window will be shown after user logon.

Note!

Please do pay attention to auto opening/closing of the Windows start menu and changing cursor position. It's normal and it's required for measuring desktop response time.

Usually it occurs only one time.

If you need to start your work before finishing the Windows boot time – you can do it as well. The BootRacer is able to continue its functioning at the same time. Also you can choose the Exit button.

Understanding Results

Time to logon – the number of seconds from the Windows start point (not from computer start point) until the display Windows logon screen (or welcome screen).

Password timeout - the number of seconds from "Time to logon" event until the user successful logon. Usually it's time for entering the user password. The password timeout can be very large, but if the Windows auto-logon is used it may be zero.

Logon to desktop - the number of seconds from the successful logon to a Desktop Ready event.

Boot Time - the number of seconds from Windows start point to the Desktop Ready event appearance.

Total time to desktop =Time to logon + Logon to desktop

BootRacer excludes a user password timeout from the Total Boot Time.

Open BootRacer and you will see the last boot results on the main screen.

Analyze your results

Choose "Show history" for analyzing your previous boot times.

Note!

The BootRacer displays only boot results, not logon after logoff measurements.

Right click on the history table to get the popup menu. Choose "Display Details" and you will see additional information.

You are able to export the history to the Microsoft Word DOC, Excel and to the CSV and HTML formats.

Choose "Advanced", "Options " for customizing BootRacer.

Benefits of using BootRacer

1. Easy installation and use.
2. Automatically calculates your Windows boot time.
3. Excludes a user password timeout from the Total Boot Time.
4. Minimum use of computer resources.
5. Runs under the non-administrator accounts.
6. BootRacer logs all the results to the history report and to the standard event log. You can check events using Windows Event Viewer.
7. BootRacer is free for non-commercial use.

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How it works? Technical information

BootRacer uses the BootRacer service for detecting user login. The BootRacer service must have the Automatic startup type.

If you use any antiviral software be sure that you allow the auto starting of the BootRacer Service (BootRacerServ.exe) and BootRace.exe.

The BootRacer creates the hidden files in the "All Users\Public\Documents" subfolder

Windows Vista or Seven: C:\Users\Public\Documents

Windows XP i: "C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\ Documents "

Bootracer.ini – a configuration file

Bootracer.log – a current session log file that is required for contacting support.

Bootracer.his – a history file. The file is automatically truncated after collecting 30 days of measure. It means that it contains information about the latest 30 days of measure, not for the last 30 days. Every new boot measure adds 4Kbytes to the history file.

Logons.txt – a text file with the information about logon events. Only for Windows Vista/Seven.

Known issue

BootRacer doesn't work if you use a non-standard Windows shell. BootRacer needs Windows Explorer.

Racing Options

1. You can measure Windows boot time every time or only once.
2. Displaying BootRacer time counting window during race. Suggested!
3. Writing results to the BootRacer event log. Suggested! You can always check your race statistics using Windows event viewer.

How to register this software?

Why should you register?

If you want to use BootRacer for business, please purchase a license and register your software.

Pricing and Ordering

The registration fee for the BootRacer Business License is $19.95 USD.

After registration, the unlock-code is e-mailed within one or two days, this enables the software to function beyond the 30 days evaluation period.

Payment can be done via the secure online registration services below; all major credit cards are accepted. We also support ordering by fax, phone, postal mail, wire transfer.

http://www.greatis.com/bootracer/buy.htm

The legal users of the program receive the right to technical support via e-mail, free-of-charge program fixes and upgrades to the new versions of the program.

Enterprise Edition

BootRacer Enterprise is the special version of BootRacer for using in the corporate environment.

Benefits:
• Detecting Boot Time

- Detecting Time to Logon (Welcome) screen
- Detecting Password Entering Delay
- Racing History
- Writing Results to own Events Journal
- Using for Commercial Purposes
- Works are hidden in the background without the user assistance
- Simple distribution using the Microsoft SMS server
- Detecting additional Windows boot events
- BIOS Delay, Desktop Appearance, Start menu, etc.
- Auto Exporting Results to a folder or a network share in the CSV format

- Collecting Results into the database (Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle)
- Collecting Computer System Information
- Including the system summary, Windows, installed software, network information
- The BootRacer modification for special needs

More information:
http://www.greatis.com/bootracer/buy.htm

Technical support

If you discover an error in the program, visit our support center:
http://www.greatis.com/support
Or send an e-mail to support@greatis.com or ateam@greatis.com.
In the letter specify your name, second name, e-mail.
Try to describe as accurately as possible all actions that you carried out leading up to the occurrence of the error.
Please provide us with your latest "bootracer.log " file.
After analysis of the report you will receive a reply with our recommendations for addressing the problem.

About Greatis Software

Greatis Software is a rapidly growing company based in Yaroslavl, Russia that specializes in system software development and programming components for developers.
You may contact us at:
http://greatis.com/support
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What's new?

Version 4.5

1) Displaying Time to Finish of Windows Boot as Countdown Timer.

2) Monitoring of Boot Time Degradation.

3) Analyzing the Windows Boot Time using an improved History Comparison Table

4) Improved calculating of a password timeout on the Windows Vista/Seven/8.

Version 4.0

1) Compatibility with Windows 8.

2) Measure Boot Time In Milliseconds.

3) User comments

4) Fixed bugs in Windows Seven.

Version 3.8

1) A contest for the fastest computer.
Any BootRacer user can take part in this contest.
The contest is held for each Windows version and the best 10 results, regardless of version, will be included in the top chart.

2) A function of collecting PC data has been added.

3) The ability to collect information on user computers and IP addresses into one database has been added into the Business and Enterprise versions.

4) Definition of logon time by the end of the password is improved.

5) All found mistakes are corrected.

Version 3.1

1) Fixed memory leak bug in the BootRacer service.

2) Fixed bug in the history report.

Version 3.0

1) New method of calculating "time to desktop" – Desktop Ready.
The method is based on the desktop response time. It is not CPU meter related. A user is able to start a program from the Windows desktop or from the start menu.

2) Measure of the user logon waiting time (logon timeout) under Windows Vista/Seven.

3) User login/logoff detection. User switching is supported.

4) Running under non-administrator accounts.

5) New design.
6) New history report with exporting ability to the HTML, DOC, Excel, CSV formats.
7) Added ability to collect the reports in the MySQL and Oracle databases – BootRacer Enterprise.

Version 2.3
1) Improved detection of "time to desktop" using "Explorer ready" method.
2) Automatic subtracting the time used for entering the password from "time to desktop".
3) Added auto clearing of the history report.
4) Fixed small bugs.

Version 2.2
1) The BootRacer Corporate Edition is able to collect logs from the computers to the SQL server.
2) A fixed bug with the logon/logoff event.

Version 2.1
1) Added "history report", useful for comparing everyday racing.
   The history report is available in the "Advanced" popup menu.
2) A fixed bug with signle time racing.

Version 2.0
1) Compatible with Windows 7 and Vista (32/64 bit).
2) The most accurate logon time detection.
3) Possibility to set a custom sensitivity level. Detection of the custom level during the Windows boot.
4) The BootRacer doesn't require administrative rights for its work.
5) The BootRacer Enterprise Edition is able to work fully hidden in the background.

Version 1.0
Start!