



sure bet program



PC Power Management Fact Sheet

PC Power Management allows both individual users and businesses to save on their energy usage and costs by enabling the computer's monitor to shut down when not in use. The idea is to use settings already built into most computer systems. By setting the monitor to shut down when not in use, customers can reduce their energy usage without affecting their work. When the computer is needed, touching either the mouse or keyboard will bring the monitor back online in a matter of seconds.

By enabling your monitor power management, you could save from 100 to 600 kWh per year depending on your computer use habits. These energy savings are equivalent to \$9 to \$54 a year saved at 9 cents per kWh. According to Energy Star, 11 billion kWh could be saved through monitor power management nationwide. These savings could represent \$935 million per year saved at 8.5 cents/kWh. This is equivalent to energy used in over one million homes in a year.

Another incentive is the positive publicity for helping reduce energy consumption. The Environmental Protection Agency (Energy Star) in their promotional material may recognize customers who use PC Power Management.

Free Power Management software is available through the Energy Star program. This software can be used to allow network managers to determine the settings for the computers on the network and implement changes on a network wide level. It is simple to use and provides quick energy savings at no or minimal cost. If assistance is needed to get started, please contact the Sure Bet team. The following two pages are frequently asked questions about this program and published by Energy Star. The Energy Star website regarding PC Power Management is:

www.energystar.gov/powermanagment

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about PC Power Management¹

What is Power Management?

Power management allows monitors and computers to enter a low-power "sleep" mode after a period of inactivity. Computers and monitors "awaken" when the mouse is moved or if a key is touched.

Why should I enable my computer for monitor power management?

Save energy, save money, and protect the environment at no cost. By enabling your monitor power management, you could save from 100 to 600 kWh per year depending on your computer use habits. These energy savings are equivalent to \$8.50 to \$51 a year saved at 8.5 cents per kWh. In terms of reducing CO₂, this is the equivalent of planting 1,000 to 6,000 square feet of trees or preventing 1 to 4 weeks worth of car emissions.

Why focus on monitor power management and turning the computer and monitor off rather than computer power management?

This effort focuses on providing the tools to enable monitor power management only. Computer power management enablement in the past has led to complications with Internet and network connections. However, if you have enabled computer power management successfully please continue to use it. Stand-alone machines, not connected to the Internet or networks, have been known to be good candidates for enabling computer power management.

How can I enable monitor power management?

The EPA and DOE have developed software tools and services that allow individuals to enable monitor power management quickly and easily. Please see [manual instructions](#) and the [EZ Wizard](#) software, a web based software tool that automatically enables your computer in seconds for monitor power management. Organizations can activate monitor power management throughout their organization all at once through using our [EZ Save](#) network software tool or by taking advantage of organization-wide migrations to [Windows 2000 or XP](#).

The Windows NT 4.0 Workstation operating system does not support power management. The software tools will not set monitor power management on a computer running Windows NT. See [Windows NT Options](#) for other possible solutions.

What are the ENERGY STAR requirements for computer and monitor power management capabilities?

ENERGY STAR qualified computers are required to power down to 15 percent of their maximum power use. ENERGY STAR qualified monitors are required to power down to 15 watts or less after 15 to 30 minutes of inactivity and down to 8 watts after 70 minutes of activity.

How can I tell if my monitor is enabled for power management?

In Windows 95, 98, Millennium Edition, 2000, and XP users can check monitor power management status directly by clicking on the Start button, then selecting *Settings, Control Panel, Display, Screen Saver, and Monitor Settings*. Another way to tell is if the screen goes blank after a period of inactivity, monitor power management is enabled.

How can I tell if my monitor is in an energy-saving low-power mode? How long do I have to wait for my monitor to recover? Some monitors signal low-power modes with an indicator light on their front. Newer monitors usually turn the power indicator light from green to amber when in a low-power mode. In general, 10 seconds or so are required for recovery.

Does monitor power management affect receipt of e-mail or downloading of files from the Internet?

Power management does not affect receipt of e-mail, Internet downloads, faxes, or phone calls.

Does power management affect the useful life of my computer or monitor?

When equipment powers down, it generates less heat, collects less dust, and reduces mechanical stress, promoting a longer and more reliable life for the computer and monitors.

Are computers and monitors with power management more expensive?

No. Computers and monitors with power management are not more expensive than equipment without power management capabilities.

Why does power management, enabled for my monitor, appear not to be working?

Some monitors, even after power management enablement, may not enter sleep mode because they may be incapable of power management. Screen savers can sometimes interfere with power management operation and should be set to come on before power management.

Do screen savers save energy?

Often including complex images and graphics, screen savers generally do not save energy. Screen savers were originally developed to prevent the permanent etching of a pattern on older monochrome monitors. Screen savers would prevent this by either blanking out the screen entirely or by displaying a constantly moving image. Modern display screens do not suffer so much from this problem so screen savers are mostly used for entertainment. If you want to use your screen saver in conjunction with monitor power management, set the screen saver "wait time" to less than the period of inactivity before the monitor shuts off automatically.

I use a Macintosh. Can I use power management?

OS 7.5 (and later) systems have 2 monitor energy-related control panels. Energy Saver 1.0 places an external ENERGY STAR qualified monitor into sleep mode. The screen

control panel can place an internal monitor into sleep mode. The user should check operating instructions for lists of compatible monitors.

I use Windows NT. Can I use power management?

Version 4.0 of Windows NT Workstation does not support ENERGY STAR features that can be activated through the Control Panel. See Windows NT Options for other possible solutions.

¹ FAQ taken from the Energy Star website.