

PRODUCT REVIEWS

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WinU is a Windows 95 security product that actually works

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Security software

WinU 4.0

Most of the security software I have seen that tries to provide access control for Windows 95 isn't worth the investment. Anyone who can boot Windows 95 in Safe Mode could defeat many of these alleged security programs. Bardon Data Systems' WinU 4.0, however, is a notable exception. If you are an administrator who wants to add some solid security to Windows 95, this product is worth trying out. WinU is not undefeatable, but it provides enough security for a system administrator to prevent typical users from accessing restricted programs.

Although you can set up WinU for no security or casual security, most administrators will choose "super security." With super security you create one or more desktops that replace the Windows 95 desktop. Within each desktop, you select the programs that you want an employee to use. You can set a maximum amount that a program is used, which is handy if you want to limit time spent on the Internet. You can also specify a time when no programs will run.

WinU can be configured to shut down programs, for instance, a self-extracting installation program that an employee might attempt

to install on the hard drive. Administrators will especially like the Event Log, which performs system tracking, and the optionally installable administrator kit, which aids remote desktop management.

There are a few things to be wary of when you use WinU. Set up your systems' CMOS to restrict booting from the A: drive and then password-protect the CMOS. Access to WinU and its setup is password-protected, but it is not bullet-proof. The protection can be penetrated by tracing with a system-level debugger such as NuMega Technologies' Soft-Ice.

- Bardon Data Systems, Albany, Calif.; (800) 922-2736; <http://www.bardon.com>; \$49.95.

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