Network Assistant: Monty Python's Pythonizer Screen Saver (8/96)

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TOPIC ---

The Network Assistant, part of the Apple Network Administrator Toolkit (ANAT),
seems to have a problem with Monty Python's Pythonizer Screen Saver. If a
workstation is setup to be administered by Network Assistant, the workstation's
status will show as 'Unavailable" when the screen saver is activated.

DISCUSSION --

Every 30 seconds, the Macintosh running the Network Assistant application will
poll the network to verify the availability of workstations configured under
Network Assistant. Any workstations that fail to answer this "are you there"
request will be marked unavailable. As the request is continually delivered,
correcting for the workstation's inability to respond will automatically make it
available again after a subsequent status request is answered.

It is possible (though uncommon) that an application may delay, prohibit, or
otherwise interfere with other background processes, such as the process that
allows the workstation to respond to this status request. Some applications
preempt these background processes in order to allow the application to perform
optimally for the user, though in such cases they will USUALLY provide
user-definable options to "allow background processes" or "monitor system
activity," and the like. Check with the manufacturer of your software to
confirm this possibility. Finally, it could certainly also be the case that the
software allows background processes, but is simply conflicts with the Network
Assistant.

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