



# SmarterPing 2.x

Help Documentation

## SmarterPing Help

Welcome to the SmarterPing Help System. On the left you can find various help topics that will help you use SmarterPing more effectively. Above, you can find links that will allow you to search the help, browse the knowledge base or visit the SmarterTools Community.

Note that because SmarterPing is an open-source project, some of the help topics contained in this site may differ from your specific implementation.

### Common Help Topics

- Installing SmarterPing
- What is SmarterPing?
- Using SmarterPing

## **General Information**

### **What is SmarterPing**

SmarterPing is an HTTP keep-alive utility. Since many of today's web sites rely on background processing, some developers have found it difficult to keep their sites running in shared or low-hit environments. In addition, low use and/or IIS restarts can clear the compiled web code from memory in an ASP.Net web site. SmarterPing helps to ensure that users will not have to wait for a long period of time while their web site compiles after an IIS reset.

### **The Problem**

In order to conserve system resources, web servers like IIS will unload less frequently hit websites. In most cases, this is the preferred action, but there are times that you may want to keep a website active:

- When a user first visits a site that has been unloaded, they are forced to wait for the site to load up, compile, and generate the page. This can take a considerable amount of time.
- Google and other search engines are starting to heavily weight page speed. If a page has to recompile or reload into memory, that makes your page speed worse.
- If you have background threads in your web application that process reports or send emails, those threads will stop until the site is reactivated.

### **How SmarterPing Helps**

SmarterPing runs as a Windows Service in the background. It can be run on a desktop or on the Windows-based server itself.

Once you configure SmarterPing with a list of web site URLs, it will run through those every 10 minutes (by default) and ensure that they are active.

This keeps those websites active and responsive, restarts any stopped background threads, and ensures that pages are in memory ready to serve.

### **Note about IIS 7.5**

IIS 7.5 adds settings that better control auto-startup of web applications. This can be used to enhance the performance of IIS, but setup is fairly complex, and even when this is setup, SmarterPing can be used to keep specific pages of a site compiled and ready to serve quickly. For more information refer to Microsoft's Information Regarding Application Pools .

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## Source Code

SmarterPing is available as a standalone application download or as source code that can be compiled and used.

All code is written in Microsoft.Net 4.0 using C# as the primary language. Visual Studio 2010 is recommended for editing / compiling the code.

The source code for SmarterPing is available for download from the SmarterPing KB Article . It is released under the GNU General Public License

# **Installation**

## **System Requirements**

The requirements of SmarterPing are minimal, so it can run well on any operating system supported.

### **Minimum Requirements**

- Windows Operating System
  - Windows 2003
  - Windows 2008
  - Windows 2008 R2
  - Windows XP
  - Windows Vista
  - Windows 7
- 450 Mhz Processor
- 64MB RAM
- 2 MB Hard Disk Space (not including the Microsoft .Net Framework)
- Microsoft.NET Framework 4.0 (with all applicable service paks and/or patches).

Microsoft.Net 4.0 is available for download from the Microsoft.Net Download Site .

## **Installing SmarterPing**

SmarterPing requires Microsoft.Net Framework 4.0 to operate correctly. It is available for download from the Microsoft.Net Download Site .

Once the Microsoft.Net Framework is installed, run the file Install.bat included with your SmarterPing installation. On newer operating systems, you may have to right-click the file and choose Run as Administrator to get it to properly install.

After the product is installed, run SmarterPing.exe to start the application configuration interface. For ease of use, you may wish to pin SmarterPing.exe to your start menu or task bar.

### **How to Uninstall**

To remove the application, run the file Uninstall.bat included with your SmarterPing installation. On newer operating systems, you may have to right-click the file and choose Run as Administrator to get it to uninstall properly.

## Overview

### Using SmarterPing

When SmarterPing first loads, it may ask you to install the Windows Service if it was not detected. If this box appears, in most cases you will want to choose to install the service to ensure proper operation of the program.

### Adding Sites

Any URL that you add to SmarterPing will be hit on a regular interval. To configure the list of sites, click on the Manage URLs button at the bottom of the main interface.

Enter the URLs, one per line, the same way you would type them into a web browser to hit the pages.

### Options

In the top menu, choose Tools -> Options to change the settings below and control the Windows Service.

- Ping Sites Every X Minutes: This controls how often the pages in your URL list get hit. In most cases, it is recommended to set this to 10 minutes.
- Startup Mode: In most cases, it is recommended to set this to Automatic.
- Current Status: Use these options to control the state of the SmarterPing service

Click on OK to save the settings.

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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