

Why Do Install Programs Ask Me to Close Everything Else?

SUMMARY: When installing software, here's why you should close down all running applications. When you install software on your machine, you are usually asked to close the other running programs while you install your software (a good practice to do even if you are not explicitly asked). Why?

- 1) Some install programs require you to reboot your operating system when the install is done. So, you would have to close the other programs down anyway.
- 2) Some install programs modify parts of the programs currently running, and may even modify part of your operating system. You may think, "hey, I'm running a word processor. Why should installing a spreadsheet require me to close my document?" Unfortunately, with today's world of programs consisting of dozens, perhaps hundreds of pieces, there may be code shared by your word processor and the spreadsheet that you are trying to install.
- 3) What if the install program crashes? Installer programs are notorious for modifying key operating system components. They might modify something that causes your system to crash, and any work you may have done in your currently open applications would be lost.

So play it safe - close down other applications before running installers.