

Running a script with iHook over the Login Window in OS X 10.5 (Leopard)

In OS X 10.5, Apple has changed the way applications are started through launchd. If you want to get an script running through iHook over the login window when the computer first starts, here's how to do it:

1. Install the latest version of iHook (version 1.1.1 is the latest as of the time of this writing, and the first version that plays nice with Leopard's login window)
2. You will need to create a Launch Agent script, and place it in /Library/LaunchAgents. Here's a sample:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>Label</key>
  <string>edu.umich.iHook.loginwindow</string>
  <key>LimitLoadToSessionType</key>
  <array>
    <string>LoginWindow</string>
  </array>
  <key>ProgramArguments</key>
  <array>
    <string>/Applications/Utilities/iHook.app/Contents/MacOS/iHook</string>
    <string>--no-titlebar</string>
    <string>--script=/path/to/your/script.hook</string>
  </array>
  <key>RunAtLoad</key>
```

```
<true/>
</dict>
</plist>
```

3. Change /Applications/Utilities to where ever you have iHook installed, and change /path/to/my/script.hook to the path to your script. Save your launch agent script as a plist file (mylauncher.plist or something similar) . If you want iHook to have a titlebar, remove the <string>--no-titlebar</string> line. Other arguments can be passed into iHook by adding new strings to the ProgramArguments array.
4. Change the ownership on the plist to root, and the group to wheel. Change the permissions to read and write for the owner, and read only for everyone else.

That's basically it. If you want to have your script do something other than just run at the system startup, you can check out the other options of the launchd plist here:

<http://developer.apple.com/documentation/Darwin/Reference/ManPages/man5/launchd.plist.5.html>

Andrew Mortensen has provided a sample launchd plist that runs a script periodically here:

<http://groups.google.com/group/radmind-users/msg/4b2c1c5ae0895b5e>

My launchd plist is a modification of his.

Good luck!

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